



אוניברסיטת בן-גוריון בנגב
הפקולטה למדעי הרוח והחברה

המחלקה ל ספרויות זרות ולבשנות 2023
שם הקורס: נשים, שירה, היסטוריה

מס' קורס:

שם המרצה: ד"ר זוהר ויימן-קלמן
שעות קבלה: יום ג' 11-12 בניין 74 חדר 525

Women, Poetry, History

Starting with the assumption that "poetry never stood a chance/of standing outside history," as lesbian poet Adrienne Rich wrote in 1983, this course will explore poetry written by women, considering its location within different historical and political moments. We will read the poetic fragments of Sappho, the nineteenth century poetry of Emily Dickenson, Frances Watkins Harper and Emma Lazarus, and twentieth century poetry from authors such as Elizabeth Bishop, Adrienne Rich and Audre Lorde.

Requirements:

1. Participation and presentations 10%
2. Online Forum 20%
3. Response paper 10%
4. Proposal + Seminar paper 60 %

Assignments:

*Each student must post a brief reflection of the text in the weekly Forum by 9 am on the day of class.

*During the semester you will submit a 1 page response paper about one of the texts (article or poem) to be submitted on the day we read the text you chose (that means you write the paper before we discuss the piece in class).

*Before the semester ends you need to have a draft of your paper proposal which we will meet and discuss, and by January 20th you must submit a final proposal for your seminar.

*At the end of the semester each student will present a creative presentation.

Attendance is required.

You must always bring the poetry readings printed out to each class.

Materials that are not in the reader are on moodle.

Course Schedule and Materials

1.

Introduction: Intersections of women/poetry/history
"One Art" Elizabeth Bishop

2.

Shira Wolosky Essay: "Gendered Voice" From *the Art of Poetry*

3.

Francis Watkins Harper: Biographical introduction, "Burry Me in a Free Land," "A Double Standard," "Learning to Read"

4.

"Introduction" and "The Fragments of Sappho" from *the Sappho companion*

5.

Sappho Poems: *If not Winter* [Full text on moodle. Select one poem to share in class]

6.

Adrienne Rich Essays:

"When we Dead Awaken: Writing as Re-Vision" From *On Lies, Secrets. And Silence Selected Prose 1966-1978*

"Blood, Bread and Poetry: the Location of the Poet," From *Blood, Bread and Poetry, Selected Prose 1979-1985*

7.

Adrienne Rich Poetry:

"Diving into the Wreck" + "Power," From *The Dream of A Common Language*
"For Julia in Nebraska" + "Heroines," from *A Wild Patience Has Taken me This Far*
"North American Time," from *Your Native Land, Your Life*

8.

Adrienne Rich Essay: "Vesuvius at Home: the Power of Emily Dickenson" From *Shakespeare's Sisters, Feminist Essays on Women Poets* [PRINT AND BRING]

9.

Emily Dickinson Guest Class

10.

Emma Lazarus Poems:

"Echoes," "The New Colossus" "Life and Art," "Venus in the Louvre," "Assurance"

11.

Kathryn Hellerstein Essay: "In Exile in the Mother Tongue"

12.

American Yiddish poetry (in English translation):

Rokhl Korn "a New Dress"

Kadia Molodowsky "Woman's Songs"

Anna Margolin "Once I was a boy"

13.

Celia Dropkin Selection [separate file on moodle, please pick one poem to focus on]

14.

Poetry of Irena Klepfisz:

Etlekhe Verter Oyf Mame Loshn/ A Few Words In the Mother Tongue [separate file on moodle, please pick one poem to focus on]

15.

Audre Lorde Essays:

"Uses of the Erotic," From *Uses of the Erotic: The Erotic as Power*

"Age, Race, Class, and Sex: Women Redefining Difference," From *Sister Outsider*

16.

Audre Lorde Poetry, From *the Collected Poems*:

"A Woman Speaks,"

"Litany for Survival"

"Love Poem"

"Never Dream of Spiders"

"Power"

17.

Claudia Rankin, *Citizen* [separate file on moodle, please pick one poem to focus on]

18.

Arab American Poetry and Essay: "Introduction" From *Food for our Grandmothers*

"Recognized Futures," Lisa Suhair Majaj

"Browner Shades of White," Laila Halaby

"Hairless in Gaza," Hoda M. Zaki Blood"

Naomi Shihab Nye "Blood"

+ Poems in reader:

“ABC Poem,” Pauline Kaldas
Naomi Shihab Nye “Arabic”

19.

Arab American Spoken Word, Suheir Hammad

20.

Essays from *Troubling the Line: Trans and Genderqueer Poetry and Poetics*:

Joy Ladin, “Transpoetic Manifesto”

Keri Edwards, “A Narrative of Resistance”

Ely Shipley “The Transformative and Queer Language of Poetry”

21.

Poetry Workshop

22.

Wrap up + Poetic responses