

Literature, Journalism, Writing, and Languages

LIT 3053: Diverse Women Writers

(3 Units)

Spring 2026

Professor: Dr. Kimberly Athans

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Office: Evans Hall (office hours by appointment- two in person meetings are expected)

PLNU Mission

To Teach ~ To Shape ~ To Send

Point Loma Nazarene University exists to provide higher education in a vital Christian community where minds are engaged and challenged, character is modeled and formed, and service is an expression of faith. Being of Wesleyan heritage, we strive to be a learning community where grace is foundational, truth is pursued, and holiness is a way of life.

Course Description

LIT 3053 Women Writers is an advanced study of selected works written by women; themes and genres studied may vary. The course focuses on questions related to gender, class, and race. Prerequisite(s): Fulfillment of the College Composition requirement, LIT 2000, and Junior or Senior standing. This course is part of PLNU's Foundational Explorations Program - IV. Exploring Arts and Culture "a survey of human endeavors from a historical, cultural, linguistic, and philosophical perspective, including developing critical appreciation of human expression—both artistic and literary" (Catalog: Foundational Explorations).

Course Learning Outcomes

1. Students will closely read and critically analyze texts. (FELO 1d, 2b, 2c)
2. Students will recall, identify, and use fundamental concepts of literary study to read texts: terms, modes/genres, element, periods (dates, writers, characteristics, developments). (FELO 1d, 2b)
3. Students will connect the literary works with their own lives and with the social, cultural, and historical contexts of the works and their authors. (FELO 1d, 2b, 2c)

Required Texts:

Bronte, Charlotte. *Jane Eyre*. 1847. Broadview Edition. 1999.

Cisneros, Sandra. *House on Mango Street*. 1984.

Dickinson, Emily. *Hope Is the Thing with Feathers: The Complete Poems of Emily Dickinson*. 2019.

Glaspell, Susan. *Trifles*-The Heath Anthology of American Literature Vol D. Ed. Paul Lauter, 2006.

***We will also be reading the following short stories:**

"A Good Man is Hard to Find" by Flannery O'Connor

Excerpts from *Mystery & Manners* by Flannery O'Connor

"The Chrysanthemums" by John Steinbeck

"Two Kinds" by Amy Tan

"The Flowers" by Alice Walker

Assessments

The following assignments will make up your grade in this course. Since this is an asynchronous course, all assignments will be submitted in Canvas:

Assignment	Percentage
Midterm essay on <i>Jane Eyre</i>	20%
Jane Eyre Quote Test	20%
Speculative Writings	20%
Discussion Questions	20%
Final Essay Exam	20%

Grading Scale

A	93-100%	C	73-76%
A-	90-92%	C-	70-72%
B+	87-89%	D+	67-69%
B	83-86%	D	63-66%
B-	80-82%	D-	60-62%
C+	77-79%	F	59% & below

Incompletes and Late Assignments

All assignments are to be submitted/turned in by the beginning of the class session when they are due—including assignments posted in Canvas. Class work may be made up only when prearranged between student and professor. Incompletes will only be assigned in extremely unusual circumstances.

PLNU Copyright Policy

Point Loma Nazarene University, as a non-profit educational institution, is entitled by law to use materials protected by the US Copyright Act for classroom education. Any use of those materials outside the class may violate the law.

Artificial Intelligence (AI) Policy

You are allowed to use Artificial Intelligence (AI) tools (e.g., ChatGPT, Gemini Pro 1.5, GrammarlyGo, Perplexity, etc) to generate ideas, but you are not allowed to use AI tools to generate content (text, video, audio, images) that will end up in any work submitted to be graded for this course. If you have any doubts about using AI, please gain permission from the instructor. ***A plagiarized paper or a paper found to be created with AI will receive a zero and may not be made up.**

Academic Honesty Policy

Students should demonstrate academic honesty by doing original work and by giving appropriate credit to the ideas of others. Academic dishonesty is the act of presenting information, ideas, and/or concepts as one's own when in reality they are the results of another person's creativity and effort. A faculty member who believes a situation involving academic dishonesty has been detected may assign a failing grade for that assignment or examination, or, depending on the seriousness of the offense, for the

course. See Academic Policies for definitions of kinds of academic dishonesty and for further policy information.

FERPA

In compliance with federal law, neither PLNU student ID nor social security number should be used in publicly posted grades or returned sets of assignments without student written permission. This class will meet the federal requirements by (each faculty member choose one strategy to use: distributing all grades and papers individually; requesting and filing written student permission; or assigning each student a unique class ID number not identifiable on the alphabetic roster). Also in compliance with FERPA, you will be the only person given information about your progress in this class unless you have designated others to receive it in the "Information Release" section of the student portal.

PLNU Attendance and Participation Policy: This class is designed to be interactive & engaging. As such, attendance is required. Regular and punctual attendance at all class sessions is considered essential to optimum academic achievement. If the student is absent for more than 10 percent of class sessions, the faculty member will issue a written warning of de-enrollment. If the absences exceed 20 percent, the student may be de-enrolled without notice until the university withdrawal date or, after that date, receive an "F" grade. Please communicate with me via e-mail in the case of an absence.

LJWL Department Policy on Plagiarism

The Department of Literature, Writing, and Languages deems intellectual and academic integrity to be critical to academic success and personal development; therefore, any unethical practice will be detrimental to the student's academic record and moral character. Students who present the work of others, which includes but is not limited to borrowing another student's work, buying a paper, or using the thoughts or ideas of others as if their own (using information in a paper without citation), commit plagiarism. Writing that has been edited and rewritten by anyone but the student in the class is considered to be plagiarized as well. Students will be held accountable for plagiarized material whether the material was plagiarized intentionally or unintentionally. **Plagiarized work will result in a failing grade for the assignment and possibly for the course.** In either event, a written report will be filed with the department chair and area dean. The dean will review the report and submit it to the provost and the vice president for student development. It will then be placed in the student's academic file.

Loma Writing Center

The Loma Writing Center exists to help all members of the PLNU community cultivate transferable writing skills to engage their academic, professional, personal, and spiritual communities. We work toward this goal by conducting one-on-one consultation sessions, supporting writing education across the PLNU community, and participating in ongoing writing center research.

Getting feedback from the Loma Writing Center while you're in the process of working on an assignment is a great way to improve the quality of your writing and develop as a writer. You are encouraged to talk with a trained writing consultant about getting started on an assignment, organizing your ideas, finding and citing sources, revising, editing for grammar and polishing final drafts, and more. For information about how to make in-person or online appointments, see [Loma Writing Center webpage](https://www.pointloma.edu/centers-institutes/loma-writing-center) or visit the Loma Writer Center on the first floor of the Ryan Library, room 221.

Website: <https://www.pointloma.edu/centers-institutes/loma-writing-center>

Spiritual Care

Please be aware PLNU strives to be a place where you grow as whole persons. To this end, we provide resources for our students to encounter God and grow in their Christian faith. If students have questions, a desire to meet with the chaplain or have prayer requests you can contact the Office of Spiritual Development.

Academic Writing & MLA Style

For all written work, please use MLA Style and follow all standards of academic writing taught to you in your college composition class. The MLA Style Guide includes the standard use of inclusive language. Points will be deducted from written assignments for MLA errors. Please see the following website for MLA help: <https://owl.purdue.edu/>

Diversity Statement

Point Loma Nazarene University is committed to diversity in the classroom, in its publications and in its various organizations and components. Faculty and staff recognize that the diverse backgrounds and perspectives of their colleagues and students are best served through respect toward gender, disability, age, socioeconomic status, ethnicity, race, culture and other personal characteristics. In addition, the department of Literature, Journalism, and Modern Languages is committed to taking a leadership position that calls for promoting a commitment to diversity in and out of the classroom and in the practices of writing, journalism and the study of literature.

PLNU Academic Accommodations Policy

PLNU is committed to providing equal opportunity for participation in all its programs, services, and activities in accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). Students with disabilities may request course-related accommodations by contacting the Educational Access Center (EAC), located in the Bond Academic Center (EAC@pointloma.edu or 619-849-2486). Once a student's eligibility for an accommodation has been determined, the EAC will work with the student to create an Accommodation Plan (AP) that outlines allowed accommodations. The EAC makes accommodations available to professors at the student's request.

PLNU highly recommends that students speak with their professors during the first two weeks of each semester/term about the implementation of their AP in that particular course. Accommodations are not retroactive so clarifying with the professor at the

outset is one of the best ways to promote positive academic outcomes. Students who need accommodations for a disability should contact the EAC as early as possible (i.e., ideally before the beginning of the semester) to assure appropriate accommodations can be provided. It is the student's responsibility to make the first contact with the EAC. Students cannot assume that because they had accommodations in the past, their eligibility at PLNU is automatic. All determinations at PLNU must go through the EAC process. This is to protect the privacy of students with disabilities who may not want to disclose this information and are not asking for any special accommodations.

Language and Belonging

Point Loma Nazarene University faculty are committed to helping create a safe and hospitable learning environment for all students. As Christian scholars we are keenly aware of the power of language and believe in treating others with dignity. As such, it is important that our language be equitable, inclusive, and prejudice free. Inclusive/Bias-free language is the standard outlined by all major academic style guides, and it is the expected norm in university-level work. Good writing and speaking do not use unsubstantiated or irrelevant generalizations about personal qualities such as age, disability, economic class, ethnicity, marital status, parentage, political or religious beliefs, race, gender, sex, or sexual orientation. Inclusive language also avoids using stereotypes or terminology that demeans persons or groups based on age, disability, class, ethnicity, gender, race, language, or national origin. Respectful use of language is particularly important when referring to those outside of the religious and lifestyle commitments of those in the PLNU community. By working toward precision and clarity of language, we mark ourselves as serious and respectful scholars, and we model the Christ-like quality of hospitality. If you have experienced a bias incident regarding language, you can find more information on reporting and resources at www.pointloma.edu/bias.

Sexual Misconduct and Discrimination

In support of a safe learning environment, if you have experienced any form of sexual discrimination or misconduct, including sexual assault, dating or domestic violence, or stalking, know that accommodations and resources are available through the Title IX Office at pointloma.edu/Title-IX. Please be aware that under Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, faculty and staff are required to disclose information about such misconduct to the Title IX Office. If you wish to speak to a confidential employee who does not have this reporting responsibility, you can contact Counseling Services at counselingservices@pointloma.edu or find a list of campus pastors at pointloma.edu/title-ix. If you (or someone you know) have experienced other forms of discrimination or bias, you can find more information on reporting and resources at www.pointloma.edu/bias. Title IX incidents- for all matters related to equitable access to education, discrimination based on sex, sexual violence or relationship violence, you can email or call Title IX Coordinator: Danielle Brown Friberg, (619) 849-2313; dfriberg@pointloma.edu