**COURSE OUTLINE**

**English 111**

**Women in Literature**

**I. Catalog Statement**

English 111 is a comparative study of the roles assigned to women in literature by both male and female authors. The course critically examines the literary and cultural stereotypes of women in the short story, novel, poetry, and drama.

Units - 3.0

Lecture Hours – 3.0

Recommended preparation: Eligibility for English 101

**II. Course Entry Expectations**

Skills Level Ranges: Reading 6; Writing 6; Listening/Speaking 6; Math 1

### Prior to enrolling in this course, the student should be able to:

1. organize and write thesis-based essays
2. use detailed examples, facts, logical explanations, and other appropriate support for thesis statements
3. critically analyze selected prose works dealing with important contemporary issues
4. summarize, analyze, and synthesize information, express and apply standards for judgment, compare and contrast, and evaluate evidence in order to form and state reasoned opinions
5. gather and organize information through library research

demonstrate a command of grammar, diction, syntax, and mechanics sufficient for college level work as specified by the English 120 rubric.

**III. Course Exit Standards**

Upon successful completion of the required coursework, the student will be able to:

1. explain literary images of women in written and oral discussions.
2. evaluate women’s social history in relation to literary images.
3. evaluate how stereotypes affect individual perceptions of and attitudes toward women.
4. critically examine literature and write analytical essays.
5. compare/contrast in both the essays and oral discussion the roles of men and women in literature as shown by both male and female writers.
6. analyze and distinguish facts from beliefs or opinions about women as revealed in modern society through literature.

**IV Course Content**

1. Historical Dispossession of Women 2 hours
2. Growing Up Female 2 hours
3. Stereotypes and Archetypes 10 hours
   1. The submissive: servant / wife
   2. The dominating: shrew / hag
   3. The pure: mother / virgin / good wife / woman on a pedestal
   4. The impure and the evil: whore / temptress / seductress / siren /

trash / sex object / betrayer / femme fatale

* 1. The supernatural and the wise: witch / goddess / heroine
  2. The liberated

1. Non-stereotypical Depictions of Women in Literature 4 hours
2. Silence and Voice 4 hours
3. Gender in Relation to Race, Ethnicity, Age, and Class 4 hours
4. Sexual Orientation 2 hours
5. Women and Family / Women and Marriage 6 hours
6. Women and Education / Women and Work 2 hours
7. Women and Nature / Women as Artists, Writers, Creators 6 hours
8. Social Expectations: The Woman’s Body / The Woman’s Mind 6 hours

**V. Methods of Presentation**

The following instructional methodologies may be used in the course:

1. classroom lecture and discussion
2. evaluation and analysis of selected short stories, poetry, plays, novels, and films
3. film and other audio-visual presentations
4. educational technologies including word processing, Internet, and electronic presentation.

**VI**. **Assignments and Methods of Evaluation**

1. writing Assignments: Essays and Essay Test Questions
2. reading Comprehension Quizzes
3. short answer Tests

**VII. Textbooks**

Ferguson, M.,Images of Women in Literature, 5th edition, 0395551161, Cengage Learning

Cahill, S., Women in Fiction , 0451528271, Signet Classics, 2002

Gilbert, S. M. and Gubar, S., Norton Anthology of Literature by Women, 3rd edition, 0393930149, Norton, 2007

DeShazer, M. K., Longman Anthology of Women's Literature, 1st edition, Pearson, 2000

1. **Student Learning Outcomes**

Upon successful completion, the student will be able to:

1. understand the development of literary images of women, from earliest Sumerian texts through 21st century representations. Trace the production of literary texts from the collective authors of myth, through the predominantly male author, to the late 18th century emergence of the female author. Examine the 19th century phenomenon of the thriving female novelists. Recognize the social and cultural developments which have influenced women’s roles and their representation
2. read critically in order to analyze and interpret archetypal and stereotypical images of women in literature, along with striking exceptions to those
3. write analytical, thesis-centered essays identifying female archetypes, historical and political influences upon women’s social and political realms of power, the causal links between literary texts and behavioral expectations in women, along with reactive texts written in response to these dicta