

**J. Sargeant Reynolds Community College
Course Content Summary**

Course Prefix and Number: ENG 273

Credits: 3

Course Title: Women in Literature I

Course Description (including lecture hours, lab hours, total contacts)

Examines literature by and about women prior to 1900 from a variety of countries and cultures. Involves critical reading and writing. ENG 273 has been designated as a "writing intensive" course according to standards developed by the English Department. Prerequisite: ENG 112 or approval by the English program head. Lecture 3 hours per week.

General Course Purpose

ENG 273 develops skills in critical literacy, provides opportunities for self-expression, and promotes understanding of literature written by women previous to the 20th century. As a writing intensive course, ENG 273 will provide specific instruction in writing, especially literary analysis, substantial written and oral feedback on formal writing, with the opportunity to revise at least one formal paper. Upon successful completion of the course, students will have produced at least 12–15 pages of formal writing, including academic essays and essay exam responses, and 12–15 pages of informal writing, including reading responses or journal entries.

Course Prerequisites/Corequisites (*Entry-level competencies **required** for enrollment*)

Prerequisite ENG 112 or divisional approval.

Course Objectives (Each item should complete the following sentence.)

Upon successful completion of the course, students will be able to:

- a) Develop through careful reading and focused discussion a clear and appreciative understanding of what women's contributions have been to pre-twentieth century literature and culture.
- b) Demonstrate the ability to examine a text closely by reading, writing, and speaking critically about literary texts.
- c) Develop through careful reading and focused discussion an understanding of the social values and attitudes of and about women as reflected in the texts.
- d) Understand the relationship between a work of literature and the culture that produces it.

Major Topics to be Included

- a) Reading of selected literary texts written by or about women prior to 1900, including fiction, poetry, drama, and non-fiction.
- b) Close reading of literary texts, as well as understanding the cultural and historical contexts for texts by women.
- c) Examination of the social, political, and cultural movements from which the literature emerges.
- d) Critical thinking about women's literature through informal writing and class discussion.
- e) Responding in writing to essays or essay exams on issues relevant to the texts.

Effective Date of Course Content Summary (Month, Date Year): February 13, 2009