

## Gabarit du cours

**Sigle du cours :** ANG 6720

**Titre du cours :** Women's Writing

**Trimestre :** Automne 2021 **Titulaire du**

**cours :** Caroline A. Brown

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### 1. Objectifs et contenu du cours :

Within the fictional text, mental illness serves as an especially resonant metaphor for the disruption caused by oppression and alienation—not only from the larger social structure but, most pervasively, from the very self. Thus, the deconstruction and/or transformation of narrative form mirrors deeper psychosocial schisms: of women (and men) on the verge, or in the midst, of psychic collapse; of societies that, constructed on inequality, buckle under the weight of injustice normalized as the status quo. This course, “Women Writing Madness,” interrogates madness as a site of political, cultural, and artistic resistance, particularly as embodied in experimental writing practices that undermine the logic and unity of the realistic text. Not only is “madness” what results from the experience of social and political injustice by individual characters, but it is a violent pedagogy, a form of textual engagement that robs the reader of the narrative certainty both allowed and enforced by the realistic tradition. While this process has grown out of the radical technical innovations of twentieth century literary modernism, its outcomes are diverse, influenced by intersecting yet distinctive aesthetic traditions and political histories, transnational movement, and cross-cultural pollination. Yet, what specifically do these forms reveal about the aestheticization of political protest? About the representation of gender, sex, and sexuality as an enactment of feminist consciousness? About identity as it intersects with the pursuit of social justice? In short, about how twentieth and twenty-first women writers rely on the past to engage the present and (re)claim the future?

### 2. Liste (provisoire) des textes à l'étude :

Erna Brodber	<i>Jane and Louisa Will Soon Come Home</i>
Akwaeke Emezi	<i>Freshwater</i>
Yaa Gyasi	<i>Homegoing</i>
Bessie Head	<i>A Question of Power</i>
Nalo Hopkinson	<i>Brown Girl in the Ring</i>
Marie-Elena John	<i>Unburnable</i>
Gayl Jones	<i>Corregidora</i>
Toni Morrison	<i>The Bluest Eye</i>
Helen Oyeyemi	<i>The Icarus Girl</i>

### 3. Organisation du cours (facultatif) :

### 4. Modalités d'évaluation prévues :

10%--Participation  
30%--Lead Seminar Session (4 page self-assessment)  
60%--Final Essay (15-20pp)