Course Description:
In this course, we will be studying fiction, poetry, and drama written by contemporary English and Irish women. Students will learn to write literary analyses that focus on such issues as gender, sexuality, social and individual agency, and geopolitics.

Students are expected to complete the reading designated for each class before we begin discussion. If I ascertain that you have not completed any required reading assignments, this will affect the course grade.

Grading and Assignments:
30% Eleven Responses: 7 as rough papers and 4 as writing exercises (a paragraph, 2 thesis statements with outlines, one workshop paper mark up). Response papers indicate that the student has completed the assigned reading and enable them to practice their own initial analyses of the works, using quotations and parenthetical citation method. These are 2-3 pages in length, typed, double-spaced, and must use quotes and details from the reading (these are not just gut responses, avoid using “I” more than once). Any of the responses may be used as a seed to a formal paper, as may the student’s own in-class presentation. That is, you may re-use any part of these when you write your formal paper. You may have one slightly late response, but otherwise these must all be turned in at the beginning of class the day they are due.
* You do not turn in a response the week you deliver a presentation. * So actually you each turn in 10 responses, skipping the one of your presentation. You may not skip others, without it affecting your response grade by a full letter drop (A to B, for example).

50% Two formal papers, 5-7 pages each. Students must also workshop and revise the first paper, although it should be turned in initially as a polished product. Each paper is worth 25%.

10% A short presentation (5 minutes) on one of the literary works. E-mail your topic to me and others presenting on that author, at least 48 hours before you present, or I will drop your grade. Please do not cancel the presentation at the last minute or postpone it. (Note: you can e-mail students and me through “communication” on blackboard. Names and dates are posted on the syllabus on blackboard, once these are set.)

10% Participation. If you do not participate in discussion, this grade will be quite low, so speak up! Part of learning analysis is interacting with group ideas here. Also, I have an absence policy. If you miss more than four classes, you may fail the course. Being more than 10 minutes late to class will count as a penalty that adds one “absence” to this number. So try to be on time.
Also be aware of plagiarism policies on this campus. Students can be expelled for using prominent ideas or language (sentences or paragraphs) that are not original to their own work and thoughts. I aim to teach you what is and isn’t fair use, however, so please feel free to check with me if you have questions about what constitutes plagiarism.

Required Texts:
* “on BB” means it is posted electronically under assignments in the “readings” folder, so you do not need to purchase the book

Angela Carter, *Burning Your Boats*
A. S. Byatt, *Little Black Book of Stories*
Jeanette Winterson, *The Passion*
Carol Churchill, *Plays 1*
-------------------, *Top Girls*
Marina Carr, *The Mai & By the Bog of Cats* (on BB or by book purchase)
Eavan Boland, *In A Time of Violence*
Mary Morrissy, *Mother of Pearl* (purchased via instructor: out of print)
*The White Pages* (Irish poetry)
Diana Hacker, *Pocket Style Manual*

Recommended Texts:
Diana Hacker, *A Writer’s Reference* or *The Bedford Handbook* (if you wish to keep a more thorough writing and grammar text in your library—these are more expensive but also more extensive than the pocket guide)

Schedule:

August 28\textsuperscript{th}:  Hellos, introductions, course overview. We’ll read and discuss 1-2 very short stories by Carter, “The Werewolf” and “The Snow Child.”

Sept. 2 Carter, *Burning Your Boats*, “A Souvenir of Japan,” “The Smile of Winter,” “Penetrating to the Heart of the Forest”
        4 Carter (Response #1), “The Bloody Chamber,” “The Company of Wolves,” “Wolf-Alice”; Carter Presentation #1

9 \textbf{Paragraph due (counts as response #2)}. Must be a cohesive paragraph, freshly written, on one of the Carter stories that we have discussed. Approximately 1 page (double-spaced, typed). In class paragraph workshop.
11 Carter Presentation #2; selected Carter stories (student choice).

16 Byatt, *Little Black Book of Stories*, (Response #3)
18 Byatt, Presentation #3

23 Byatt, Presentation #4
25 Winterson, *The Passion* (Response #4); Presentation #5
30 Winterson, Presentation #6; **Outline of Paper #1 due (as Response #5) must include main points, a thesis, and some key quotes/page #s. Also anticipate (write short notes on) transitions that take you from one paragraph/point to the next.**

Oct. 2 Winterson, Discussion of paper writing/expectations.

7 **First Paper due in class (5-7 pages);** introduction to Carol Churchill

9 Churchill, *Vinegar Tom* and *Top Girls* (Response #6); Presentation #7

14 Fall Break (no class)

16 Churchill, Presentation #8; Papers returned.

21 **Workshop Papers**—Bring your papers (just returned) to class, complete with my comments and the grading sheet. Response #7: you get graded on the comments you give on the paper you workshop, work done in class; Carr (Response #8)

23 Carr, Presentation #9

28 Carr, Presentation #10 **Revisions of Paper #1 due in class**

30 Morrissy, *Mother of Pearl* (Response #9)

Nov. 4 *Mother of Pearl*; Presentation #11

6 *Mother of Pearl*; Presentation #12

11 Boland, *In a Time of Violence* (Response #10); Presentation #13

13 *Mother Ireland* screening (documentary on the roles of women in Ireland). And library visit.

18 Boland, Presentation #14; video of her reading.

22 Mary Morrissy visit—moveable day

25 *The White Pages* (Poetry); Presentation #15

**Thesis + Outline + scholarly search due in class** (use MLA on-line search; you will not be using these critics in your final paper, but it is to give you experience using the MLA bibliography. So just hypothetical.) Counts as Response #11.

27 Thanksgiving (no class)

Dec. 2 *The White Pages*; Presentation #16

4 Class wrap up, discussion of final papers

**Final paper** due on date of the (non-existent) final exam, December 11 by 5 p.m., 5-7 pages.