Course Syllabus

**T CORE 114 A: Intro to the Humanities  
Warrior Women in Literature and Popular Culture  
Winter 2016**

Time: Mondays, Wednesdays, & Fridays 8:00 am - 9:20 am  
Location: ADMC GWP 101  
Instructor: Dr. Ariel Wetzel  
Email: [arielw@uw.edu](mailto:arielw@uw.edu)Office: GWP 412  
Office Hours: Tuesdays & Thursdays 12:30 - 1:30 pm, and by appointment  
Office Phone: 253-692-4978

**Course Description**A warrior, one who engages in combat, is typically conceived of as male. In fact, the Oxford English Dictionary defines a warrior as "a fighting man" and "a valiant or an experienced man of war." When a warrior breaks from this male default, she is not merely a warrior, but a woman warrior, a virago, an Amazon, or a G.I. Jane. Despite being thought of as uncommon, women have fought as long as there has been war, and legends of such warriors have been with us since antiquity. In this class, we will study how these women have been represented in literature and popular culture, considering myth, novels, short stories, film, epic poetry, opera, comics, and television. We will supplement this literature with nonfiction essays, historic documents, and documentary film. Unsurprisingly, we will approach these texts through the lens of gender and women's studies, meaning that we will both analyze the depiction of gender roles in these texts as well as put the histories and experiences of women in the center of our studies.  Sub-topics may include superhero(ine)s, sword maidens, amazons, female-separatist societies, cross-dressing, cyborg razor girls, Valkyries, women martyrs, and women in combat.

**Core**  
The Core program consists of a coordinated series of courses that represent the various disciplines in the university.  This course, along with the others in your cohort, fulfills one of the university’s general education requirements in each of the areas of knowledge plus composition.  The courses are designed to both support and challenge you to develop the critical thinking, writing, research, and analytical skills you’ll need at UWT while introducing you to relevant topics in the social sciences, humanities, and sciences.

Core Student Learning Goals

* inquiry & problem solving: collect, evaluate, and analyze information and resources to solve problems or answer questions.
* analysis: identify, analyze, and summarize/represent the key elements of a text.
* synthesis & context: make meaningful connections among assignments and readings in order to develop a sense of the ‘big picture.’
* global perspective: interact with concepts, ideas, and processes related to the interdependences between personal, local, and global relationships.
* diversity: think outside of cultural norms and values, including their own perspectives, to critically engage the larger world.

**Required Texts & Materials**

*Alanna: The First Adventure by Tamora Pierce  
Wonder Woman New 52 Volume 1*

You may purchase print copies of these books at the University Bookstore or borrow them from the course reserve desk at Tioga Library. You are welcome to use ebooks.

The remaining readings are electronic and available here on Canvas.  You must bring the electronic readings to class either printed-out or on a laptop or ebook reader.

Assigned readings for this course include films and television episodes you are required to watch at home unless otherwise noted.  You may rent these on iTunes, Google Play, or Amazon.  Some are available on Netflix, Hulu Plus, or Amazon Prime streaming.  If you do not wish to pay for rentals, most of the films and episodes will be on reserve in the library for you to borrow.

Some readings and viewings contain mature content.

**Assignments & Grading**

*Short Essays 30%*(10% each)

Analytical Summary  
Synthesis  
Keyword Essay

*Participation 10%*

Learning from each other and class discussion is a major component of our class, so I expect you to be an active, engaged class member.  You should come to class on time, having done that day’s assigned reading, and should speak up in large group discussions at least once per class period.  You should also be an active participant in small group discussions.

*Discussion Board Posts 10%*

To prepare for class each day, you are required to either post or respond to another student on our Canvas [discussion board](https://canvas.uw.edu/courses/1028653/discussion_topics).  The post will be on that day’s reading/viewing, and it is due **before class** (8:00 am at the latest).  I do not accept these late, but I allow you to miss one discussion board post without penalty.  Please see the [prompt](https://canvas.uw.edu/courses/1028653/pages/discussion-board-guidelines) for more information.

*Peer Review*5%

We will conduct peer review for some of your graded essays so that you may get additional feedback on your writing, and see how your classmates make sense of course materials.

*Peer Facilitation*15%

See: [Peer Facilitation Instructions](https://canvas.uw.edu/courses/1028653/pages/peer-facilitation-instructions)

*Final Portfolio* 30%

You will revise two out of three of your short essays, and turn them in as a portfolio with a cover letter.

**Office Hours**

If you are unable to make my scheduled office hours, you may make an appointment with me at a mutually agreeable time.  I am on campus every weekday.  Students who take advantage of office hours tend to write stronger papers than those who do not.  I am also happy to talk about the readings during office hours.

**Accommodations**

Please contact the DDS to request academic accommodations for a temporary or permanent disability: <http://www.tacoma.washington.edu/studentaffairs/SHW/dss_about.cfm> After you’ve made arrangements with DDS, please make an appointment with me to discuss how we can best support your learning in this class.  I am happy to work with you on accommodations, but I expect self-advocacy and I am unable to retroactively provide accommodations.

**Absences and Late Work Policies**

When you miss class, you miss learning opportunities that cannot be replicated at home.  If you miss class, you are responsible for getting notes from a classmate, and you are still accountable for the learning done that day.  Please take care that you do not schedule work or other commitments during our class periods.

Discussion board posts will not be accepted late.  Please turn them in early if you have a schedule conflict.  Peer review and peer facilitation cannot be made up.

I do accept essays late, at the penalty of 5% per day late.

If your childcare falls through, you may bring your children to class, so long as they aren't disruptive to the learning environment.

**Technology Policies**

I allow laptops, ebook readers, and tablets to be used during class for note-taking and referencing electronic materials *only*.  Cell phones must stay put away for the duration of class.  You may not use your cell phone as an ebook reader or to take pictures of notes.

As I find misuse of technology detracts from the classroom learning community, use of phones and misuse of computers in class may hurt your participation grade.

**Academic Honesty**

Plagiarism, or academic dishonesty, is presenting someone else's ideas or writing as your own. Even in your exams, you are encouraged to refer to other people's thoughts and writing, as long as you cite them. Students suspected of plagiarism will be reported to the University for review.

Note that plagiarism includes both a failure to cite sources *and*presenting someone else’s words as your own when you do include a citation.  You are responsible for understanding what constitutes plagiarism.

**Email & Grade Discussion**

I am happy to discuss a grade with you in person during office hours, but I legally cannot discuss grades with you over email.  Note that emails to teachers should be courteous, note which class you are in, and clearly state your purpose for writing.

**Teaching and Learning Center**

You are encouraged to meet with the Writing Consultants at the Teaching Learning Center for assistance on your essays. See<http://www.tacoma.washington.edu/tlc/>

**Library**

The library is where you can locate our course reserves, as well as all manner of books, music, DVDs, and academic journals.  In addition to Justin Wadland, our popular culture/media librarian, all library staff can help you with research, quiet study spaces, group study rooms, computers, and printers, etc.<http://www.tacoma.washington.edu/library/>

**Veteran and Military Services Services:** <http://www.tacoma.uw.edu/uwt/veteran-military-services>

**Inclement Weather Info**:<http://www.tacoma.washington.edu/security/alert/students.cfm>

**About Me**

I earned my doctoral degree in English literature at University of Washington in 2014, where I specialized science fiction, gender studies, and contemporary American literature.  At UW Seattle and other local colleges, I taught writing and literature courses on topics such as cyborgs, working class literature, warrior women, and gender & sexuality in science fiction.  When I am not working, my hobbies include watching science fiction television, practicing martial arts, and volunteering with a local parrot rescue.

**Calendar**

This calendar is subject to revision.  Readings and are due on the date assigned.  Episodes and films should be viewed at home before class unless otherwise noted.  You are responsible for accessing these texts by purchasing/renting your own copies, or using the library reserve copies.  That said, please do tell me if you have trouble accessing any reading/viewings, and I will do my best to help you.  However, I do not excuse missed work because you could not find the reading.

| **Date** | **Details** |
| --- | --- |
| **Mon Jan 4, 2016** | |  |  | | --- | --- | | [First Day](https://canvas.uw.edu/calendar?event_id=857659&include_contexts=course_1028653) | 12am | |
| **Wed Jan 6, 2016** | |  |  | | --- | --- | | [Athena’s Daughters “Introduction” pages 1-6 (Canvas) Women Warriors “Preface” by David Jones (Canvas)](https://canvas.uw.edu/calendar?event_id=857412&include_contexts=course_1028653) | 12am | | [**Wed. 1/6: Athena’s Daughters “Introduction” and Women Warriors “Preface” Discussion**](https://canvas.uw.edu/courses/1028653/assignments/3107402) | due by8am | |
| **Fri Jan 8, 2016** | |  |  | | --- | --- | | [Ambiguity and the Female Warrior](https://canvas.uw.edu/calendar?event_id=857380&include_contexts=course_1028653) | 12am | | [**Fri. 1/8: "Ambiguity and the Female Warrior" and The Aeneid Discussion**](https://canvas.uw.edu/courses/1028653/assignments/3108882) | due by 8am | | [**Sign-Up for Peer Facilitation**](https://canvas.uw.edu/courses/1028653/assignments/3128889) | due by 8am | |
| **Mon Jan 11, 2016** | |  |  | | --- | --- | | [“Penthesileia” from Posthomerica (The Trojan Epic) by Quintus of Smyrnaeus (Canvas) Critical Summary of The Trojan Epic by Alan James, pages 239-241 (Canvas)](https://canvas.uw.edu/calendar?event_id=857379&include_contexts=course_1028653) | 12am | | [**Mon. 1/11 Penthesileia Discussion**](https://canvas.uw.edu/courses/1028653/assignments/3109557) | due by8am | |
| **Wed Jan 13, 2016** | |  |  | | --- | --- | | [The Book of Judith, Judith by Cynewulf, “Feasting with Holofernes” by Heide Estes (Canvas)](https://canvas.uw.edu/calendar?event_id=857414&include_contexts=course_1028653) | 12am | |
| **Fri Jan 15, 2016** | |  |  | | --- | --- | | [Summary Essay Peer Review](https://canvas.uw.edu/calendar?event_id=860212&include_contexts=course_1028653) | 12am | |
| **Mon Jan 18, 2016** | |  |  | | --- | --- | | [No Class (Holiday)](https://canvas.uw.edu/calendar?event_id=857394&include_contexts=course_1028653) | 12am | | [**Essay #1: Critical Summary**](https://canvas.uw.edu/courses/1028653/assignments/3092107) | due by 11:59pm | |
| **Wed Jan 20, 2016** | |  |  | | --- | --- | | [Saint Joan by George Bernard Shaw (options: read the play, watch the film adaptation, or listen to the audio performance)](https://canvas.uw.edu/calendar?event_id=857420&include_contexts=course_1028653) | 12am | |
| **Fri Jan 22, 2016** | |  |  | | --- | --- | | [“The Black God’s Kiss” by C.L. Moore](https://canvas.uw.edu/calendar?event_id=857387&include_contexts=course_1028653) | 12am | |
| **Mon Jan 25, 2016** | |  |  | | --- | --- | | [The Life & Adventures of Mrs. Christian Davies](https://canvas.uw.edu/calendar?event_id=857421&include_contexts=course_1028653) | 12am | |
| **Wed Jan 27, 2016** | |  |  | | --- | --- | | [Maxine Hong Kingston “White Tigers” from The Woman Warrior](https://canvas.uw.edu/calendar?event_id=857382&include_contexts=course_1028653) | 12am | |
| **Fri Jan 29, 2016** | |  |  | | --- | --- | | [Read: “The Ballad of Mulan” Watch Mulan (outside of class)](https://canvas.uw.edu/calendar?event_id=857395&include_contexts=course_1028653) | 12am | |
| **Mon Feb 1, 2016** | |  |  | | --- | --- | | [Wonder Woman Day 1](https://canvas.uw.edu/calendar?event_id=857740&include_contexts=course_1028653) | 12am | |
| **Wed Feb 3, 2016** | |  |  | | --- | --- | | [Wonder Woman Day 2](https://canvas.uw.edu/calendar?event_id=857742&include_contexts=course_1028653) | 12am | |
| **Fri Feb 5, 2016** | |  |  | | --- | --- | | [Alien (1979)](https://canvas.uw.edu/calendar?event_id=860217&include_contexts=course_1028653) | 12am | |
| **Mon Feb 8, 2016** | |  |  | | --- | --- | | [Terminator 2](https://canvas.uw.edu/calendar?event_id=860216&include_contexts=course_1028653) | 12am | |
| **Wed Feb 10, 2016** | |  |  | | --- | --- | | [Xena: Warrior Princess “Callisto”](https://canvas.uw.edu/calendar?event_id=857411&include_contexts=course_1028653) | 12am | |
| **Fri Feb 12, 2016** | |  |  | | --- | --- | | [Synthesis Essay Peer Review](https://canvas.uw.edu/calendar?event_id=860213&include_contexts=course_1028653) | 12am | |
| **Mon Feb 15, 2016** | |  |  | | --- | --- | | [No Class (holiday)](https://canvas.uw.edu/calendar?event_id=857680&include_contexts=course_1028653) | 12am | | [**Synthesis Essay**](https://canvas.uw.edu/courses/1028653/assignments/3091036) | due by 11:59pm | |
| **Wed Feb 17, 2016** | |  |  | | --- | --- | | [Buffy the Vampire Slayer "Prophecy Girl" (watch at home)](https://canvas.uw.edu/calendar?event_id=857396&include_contexts=course_1028653) | 12am | |
| **Fri Feb 19, 2016** | |  |  | | --- | --- | | [Alanna: The First Adventure chapters 1-3](https://canvas.uw.edu/calendar?event_id=857388&include_contexts=course_1028653) | 12am | |
| **Mon Feb 22, 2016** | |  |  | | --- | --- | | [Alanna: The First Adventure chapters 4-5](https://canvas.uw.edu/calendar?event_id=857389&include_contexts=course_1028653) | 12am | |
| **Wed Feb 24, 2016** | |  |  | | --- | --- | | [Alanna: The First Adventure chapters 6-7](https://canvas.uw.edu/calendar?event_id=857390&include_contexts=course_1028653) | 12am | |
| **Fri Feb 26, 2016** | |  |  | | --- | --- | | [GI Jane](https://canvas.uw.edu/calendar?event_id=857745&include_contexts=course_1028653) | 12am | |
| **Mon Feb 29, 2016** | |  |  | | --- | --- | | [Ring Cycle Watched in Class](https://canvas.uw.edu/calendar?event_id=857377&include_contexts=course_1028653) | 12am | |
| **Wed Mar 2, 2016** | |  |  | | --- | --- | | [Ghost in the Shell (watch at home)](https://canvas.uw.edu/calendar?event_id=857381&include_contexts=course_1028653) | 12am | |
| **Fri Mar 4, 2016** | |  |  | | --- | --- | | [Keyword Essay Peer Review](https://canvas.uw.edu/calendar?event_id=857739&include_contexts=course_1028653) | 12am | |
| **Mon Mar 7, 2016** | |  |  | | --- | --- | | [Supergirl (watched in class)](https://canvas.uw.edu/calendar?event_id=860218&include_contexts=course_1028653) | 12am | | [**Keywords Essay**](https://canvas.uw.edu/courses/1028653/assignments/3091034) | due by 11:59pm | |
| **Wed Mar 9, 2016** | |  |  | | --- | --- | | [Mad Max: Fury Road](https://canvas.uw.edu/calendar?event_id=860215&include_contexts=course_1028653) | 12am | |
| **Fri Mar 11, 2016** | |  |  | | --- | --- | | [Cover Letter Peer Review](https://canvas.uw.edu/calendar?event_id=860214&include_contexts=course_1028653) | 12am | |
| **Wed Mar 16, 2016** | |  |  | | --- | --- | | [**Portfolio**](https://canvas.uw.edu/courses/1028653/assignments/3106844) | due by 11:59pm | |