Versions in Black: Genres of Black Women's Writing (ENGL2201)
Satisfies Core requirement for: Cultural Diversity
The phrase "Black Women's Writing" suggests that such writing is a fixed or homogeneous body of work that can be neatly defined and represented. Our course constitutes itself against this idea. By re-thinking these works, we also re-examine notions of literary canon, race, gender, sexuality, community, and history. Significantly, we "de-construct" common notions of Black Women's Writing by examining the varied genres these writers use to express their imaginings. Required readings come from the fields of science fiction (Octavia Butler), prose/experimental (Gayl Jones and Martha Southgate) novels, drama (Suzan-Lori Parks), poetry (Elizabeth Alexander), and autobiography/memoir (Toi Derricotte).
Professor Rhonda Frederick

The Single Girl in the 19th Century (ENGL3359)
This course will approach nineteenth-century literature and culture through the lens of one figure: the unmarried woman. By considering major works – fiction and non-fiction – that feature all types of single ladies, from fallen women to eligible bachelorettes, career girls to widows and old maids, this course will address questions of gender and occupation in both literature and history. Texts range from novels by George Eliot and Charles Dickens to poems by Alfred, Lord Tennyson and Elizabeth Barrett Browning, as well as relevant criticism and theory.
Professor Lauren Wilwerding

Contemporary American Women Writers (ENGL5510)
Focusing on literature written by American women from 1980 to the present, this course will explore issues of space, family dynamics, immigration, power, race, violence, grief, and embodiment, as well as gender. We will ask questions such as: How do these writers define space, and use literature to claim a space of their own? What is the relationship between gender and race or ethnicity, in a given text and in contemporary American culture? How do women writers represent the intangible dynamics of emotional connection and loss? How does fiction represent changing experiences of embodiment, including pregnancy, obesity, illness, and aging?
Professor Laura Tanner