

Engl 4/814 001

Womens Literature: 19th-Century American Womens's Writing

2:30-5:20 M Andr 022

Since the 1970s, feminist scholars have been engaged in the work of bringing writings by women back into the classroom and into literary history. To get a sense of the richness and breadth of women's writing during this period and in the American national tradition, we will range chronologically across the 19th century (also known as the 1800s) and across genres, and the authors whose works we read will represent the racial, class, and regional diversity of 19th-century American literary culture. We will also read selected scholarly essays reflecting on the work of feminist recovery. Authors may include Rebecca Rush, Catharine Sedgwick, Lydia Sigourney, Harriet Beecher Stowe, Frances Ellen Watkins Harper, Maria Amparo Ruiz de Burton, Louisa May Alcott, Elizabeth Stuart Phelps, Lucy Larcom, and Sarah Orne Jewett. All students will engage in some sort of discussion leading exercise and write shorter papers throughout the semester as well as a longer research-based critical project at the end of the semester. Precisely how I will structure this work will depend, in part, on the balance between graduate and undergraduate enrollment in the class.