

Preliminary Description: ENGL*6611 Topics in Women's Writing W 19

Focus in Trauma Studies

Instructor: Dr. Sandra Singer

This offering will include twentieth- and twenty-first-century trauma theory addressing material by women and postcolonial writers.

A primary focus will be Claire Messud's varied corpus that draws on her French Algerian and Canadian familial background. Currently professor of creative writing at Harvard, Messud, in addition to her nuanced representation of the legacy of French colonialism, has written about other related themes such as the experience of post-WWII Canadian immigrants or the response to 9/11 of Islamism in the US. Known as a novelist, her wide-ranging narrative style within fiction as well as her journalistic commentary and shorter fiction recommend her as a focus for the discussion of modes of trauma representation.

Though I focus in this preliminary description on Claire Messud's writing, the course will include *a range of fiction writers, and theorists* such as Cathy Caruth (*Literature in the Ashes of History*), Michael Rothberg (*Multidirectional Memory: Remembering the Holocaust in the Age of Decolonization*) and Laurie Vickroy (*Trauma and Survival in Contemporary Fiction*).