

Senior Seminar Fall 2009  
Dr. Kristin Jacobson

### About the Seminar

This seminar explored the genre of American domestic fiction—or novels focused on the home and homemaking. Students read contemporary novels and criticism related to this genre and the study of American domesticity. We discussed how genres are gendered and how genres are defined. Students focused on a novel or novels we read in class and/or a related text or texts from the nineteenth, twentieth, or twenty-first century that focuses on domesticity.

The research papers cover a wide range of topics: they analyze individual novels and their generic components and histories, they offer close character analysis—particularly of mothers and madness—and they also consider teaching applications and best practices. Students in the Creative Writing track had the option of writing their own domestic fiction and analyzing it. All the students researched and applied a critical lens in addition to demonstrating their close reading skills. The lenses students employed include: feminism, postcolonialism, psychoanalysis, cultural studies, and critical race theory.

Dr. J thanks her students for a fun, thought-provoking semester. She learned a lot from her students and thanks them for making her a better scholar and teacher as a result.

# SENIOR SEMINAR RESEARCH PRESENTATION PANELS

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## CONTEMPORARY AMERICAN DOMESTIC FICTION

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3:35-5:25PM  
HOUSING IV COMMONS

NOVEMBER 30  
DECEMBER 2  
DECEMBER 7

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The Literature Program

The Richard Stockton College of New Jersey

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# Presentation

## November 30, 2009 (3:35-5:25) Housing IV

### **Mad Women: Psychological Approaches to the Domestic Novel**

1. Michelle Elbersen, Contemporary American Domestic Fiction and its Sickly Women
2. Joanna Seremba, Mad Mothers in *The Poisonwood Bible* and *The Corrections*
3. Leanne Myers, Mind Over Matter

### **Character and Genre in Kingsolver's *The Poisonwood Bible***

4. Stephanie McKensie, "Can't Nobody Hold Me Down": Orleanna's Journey from Submissive Wife to Independent Woman
5. Krystle Morrill, Some Call it Allegory, Some Call it Satire: The Importance of Reading *The Poisonwood Bible* as Satire

## December 2, 2009 (3:35-5:25) Housing IV

### **Race, Ethnicity, and Nationality in the Study and Teaching of Domestic Fiction**

1. Elyse Mendicino, Teaching Two Cultures: Best Practices for *The House on Mango Street*
2. William Rozycki, How the Scapegoat was Captured: Race in *Home* and *The Poisonwood Bible*
3. R. Jason Truppa, Lessons at the Intersection of Postcolonialism and Domestic Fiction

December 2 presentations continued next page

# Schedule

## December 2, 2009 (3:35-5:25) Housing IV CONT.

### **Defining Domestic Fiction: Southern, Masculine, and Postmodern Approaches**

4. Leonard Crowther, Expanding the Definition of Domestic Fiction
5. Tara Dalglish, *Uncle Tom's Cabin*: Helping or Hurting Southern Domestic Fiction's Cause
6. Jamie Cordery, Is family in a PoMo world *A Gesture Life*?

## December 7, 2009 (3:35-5:25) Housing IV

### **Gender Roles and the Domestic Novel**

1. Briana Cristinzio, I Know Why the Caged Bird Writes Literature
2. Diana King, Changes in Sexual Attitudes and Gender Roles in our Society: Making Connections with *The Corrections* by Jonathan Franzen
3. Kelly Smart, A Long Way from Home
4. Allie Stern, How a Mother Looks: In the Media and the Books
5. Scott Stagliano, Franzen the Pomophobe

## Congratulations Graduating Seniors!

Please provide Dr. J with a reliable off campus email address so the LITT program can keep in touch with you.