

# CANG 9117 et CANG 9217

## Handmaids and Heroines in North-American Literature and Art

(C1+ ADVANCED LEVEL)

Teacher: Dr. Tessa NUNN

### Description

This course is an introduction to North-American literature and art focusing on the representation of women's situations and the development of feminist movements. Students will study a range of works from the nineteenth to the twenty-first century including novels, poems, short stories, documentaries, plays, and artwork. Culminating with an in-depth study of Margaret Atwood's 1985 novel *The Handmaid's Tale*, this course studies the history of women's social, financial, and political situations in North America, with a focus on the United States. Students will study literary and artistic works that address sexuality, marriage, motherhood, women's exclusion from cultural memory, and the medicalization of femininity. This course draws on works from the nineteenth and twentieth century to think critically about twenty-first-century debates regarding reproductive rights, feminisms, and representations of women.

**This course is designed for advanced learners of English (C1 level).**

### Objectives

- Students will understand the relationship between key moments in American history and women's situations.
- Students will reflect on the role of religion in American debates on reproduction from the seventeenth-century to today.
- Students will understand the history of diverse feminist movements.
- Students will be able to discuss literature, art, and history through critical lenses.
- Students will enrich their vocabulary through reading, speaking, and writing.
- Students will improve their written and oral English skills through in-class discussions, oral presentations, and written assignments.

### Assessment

This course is assessed through coursework (50%) and a final exam (50%). The coursework includes two essays and one oral presentation. The final exam will require students to answer essay questions using examples from the works studied in class.

