Course Overview:

This course offers an introduction to the interdisciplinary study of emotions, with particular attention to women’s anger. We will read novels, poems and essays by women writers from the 1960s to the present that deal with women’s anger in some way. Adrienne Rich, Audre Lorde, Ana Castillo, Ruth Ozeki, Margaret Atwood, Louise Erdrich, Toni Morrison, Gloria Steinem, and Marjane Satrapi are some of the writers we may read. Secondary material from the interdisciplinary fields of emotions and affect studies will offer other perspectives on gender and anger (from philosophy, nursing, sociology, cultural studies, gender studies, feminist theory, and psychology). How should women express their anger? At what? When? To whom? And which women? How do age, race, class, or sexuality, for example, affect the expression of anger and whether it is legitimate or valued? We’ll address these and other questions that arise during the semester.

Students will have opportunities to refine their critical thinking and writing skills. The primary goal of the course is to offer students an overview of interdisciplinary scholarship on emotions, specifically women’s anger, and a body of questions, theories, and issues that they can bring to their own areas of interest.

Course Requirements:

Several close reading responses (1 page), two short papers, and a final conference length paper to be presented to the class. Daily preparation and participation in discussion are essential as we work through the readings together.