

Mamma Mia! Mothers and Monsters in Western Culture

English 387: Topics in Women's Literature, Spring 2021

Professor Francus

Tuesdays and Thursdays, 2:30-3:45



Motherhood is one of the most contested roles in modern society. In English 387 we will discuss the myths and realities about the biology, psychology and sociology of motherhood in the West: murderous mothers and loving mothers; fertile mothers and mothers who have problems conceiving; virgin mothers, and men who become mothers; stepmothers and surrogate mothers.

Course Texts:

Atwood, *The Handmaid's Tale*; The Bible (selections); Curtiz, *Mildred Pierce*; Disney, *Snow White*; Euripides, *Medea*; Lloyd, *Mamma Mia!*; Morrison, *Beloved*; Shelley, *Frankenstein*; Swift, "A Modest Proposal."

English 387 fulfills the elective requirements for the English major and minor, and for the Women's Studies major and minor.