

# The Damsel Saves Herself: Misogyny and the #MeToo Movement

IDH2930 Section 26389

Time: Mondays 10<sup>th</sup> period (5:10-6:00 PM)

Location: Virtual

Fall 2020

## Instructor

Instructor: Shelby Boehm

Pronouns: she/her/hers

Email: [sboehm@ufl.edu](mailto:sboehm@ufl.edu)

Office hours: by appointment over Zoom, schedule via email

## Course Description

The course will use *Damsel* by Elana K. Arnold to consider how misogyny affects women and the physical and emotional violence they endure. The novel begins like many other classic fairy tales: there is a dragon to be slain, a damsel to be saved, and a brave prince who must complete these tasks in order to become the king. For generations in the kingdom of Harding, this progression has always been the hero's journey. Yet, Ama wakes up in the arms of Prince Emory with no recollection of her past and instead is told she needed rescuing. The damsel doesn't know herself to be helpless, Ama is told she is powerless verbally and physically through her interactions with Prince Emory and others in the kingdom. As they attempt to tame Ama for life as queen, she questions why she needed to be saved anyways. We will read *Damsel* alongside discussions of the #MeToo movement and feminist philosopher Kate Manne's concepts of "himpathy" and "herasure" to further unmask the socio-political environment that marginalizes women through misogyny as a systemic force. Our end goal will be to contemplate how we can continue to challenge and critique misogyny in order to be socially proactive citizens. This course is particularly important for undergraduates as they navigate how their identity further develops within a diverse campus community where they can use their voice as a positive asset for social reform.

## Required Text

*Damsel* by Elana K. Arnold\* ISBN: 0062742337

\*Any format (hardcover, paperback, eBook, audiobook, etc.) is acceptable.

## Course Calendar

The calendar below lists readings and assignments that are due that day. Any changes to the calendar will be announced in class and posted to Canvas.

Week	Date	Due	Canvas Discussion Post due Sunday at 11:59 PM
1	August 31		
September 7 – No Class, Labor Day			
2	September 14	<i>Damsel</i> Part 1 pgs. 1-37	September 13
3	September 21	<i>Damsel</i> Part 2 pgs. 41-75	September 20
4	September 28	<i>Damsel</i> Part 3 pgs. 79-119	September 27
5	October 5	<i>Damsel</i> Part 4 pgs. 123-143	October 4
6	October 12	<i>Damsel</i> Part 4 pgs. 144-167	October 11
7	October 19	<i>Damsel</i> Part 5 pgs. 171-197	October 18
8	October 26	<i>Damsel</i> Part 5 pgs. 198-217	October 25

<b>Week</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Due</b>	<b>Canvas Discussion Post due Sunday at 11:59 PM</b>
9	November 2	<i>Damsel</i> Part 6 pgs. 221-247	November 1
10	November 9	<i>Damsel</i> Part 6 pgs. 248-272	November 8
11	November 16	<i>Damsel</i> Part 7 pgs. 275-309	November 15
November 23 – No Class, Thanksgiving Week			
12	November 30		
13	December 7	Final Project and Presentation	

### Course Assignments and Grading Criteria

#### Grading Breakdown and Assignment Descriptions

##### Community Participation: 50% of final grade

- Each week, you will be responsible for posting one or two questions related to the readings or course concepts to Canvas by Sunday at 11:59 PM. I will integrate your questions into next day's activities. You can (and should!) raise your questions during our class sessions.
- Your participation will be evaluated based on how prepared you are to discuss the reading and how respectfully you engage in collaborative conversations in class. Attendance of course sessions is expected. Please inform me immediately if you need to miss class. See below for the course attendance and makeup policy.

##### Final Project and Presentation: 50% of final grade

- You will create an Exploration and Reflection Project displaying your understanding of how misogyny operates as a system of power through our study of *Damsel* and other supplemental resources which will be discussed throughout the seminar course. You can create a project to present using either various digital mediums (Google Slides, Infographics from Piktochart, Prezi, etc.) or traditional, non-digital methods that can be shared via our Zoom meeting. Students will present their project to the group and draw further connections and wonderings about how misogyny affects individuals as a systemic and marginalizing force. More details to come!

#### Grading Scale

A = 93-100      A- = 90-92      B+ = 87-89      B = 83-86      B- = 80-82      C+ = 77-79  
 C = 73-76      C- = 70-72      D+ = 67-69      D = 63-66      D- = 60-62      E = 59 and below

More information on grades and grading policies can be found by viewing [the university grades and grading policies](#).

### University and Course Policies

#### Name and Pronoun Policy

You have a right to be referred to as the name and [pronouns](#) you are most comfortable with. If the name listed on my roster is not the name you would like to be called, please let me know in addition to your pronouns. I do my best to know student names, and I will call you by your name often. If at any point, I am mispronouncing your name or using incorrect pronouns, please correct me.

#### Course Attendance and Makeup Policy

Due to the nature of course content and privacy concerns, **class sessions will not be recorded**. You should do your best to attend class, but I also recognize that sometimes attendance will not be possible. Please communicate with me as soon as possible if you won't be able to attend class—a reason as to

why you cannot attend is not necessary, just an email that you won't be attending will suffice. Requirements for class attendance and assignments in this course are consistent with university policies. [Click here to read the university attendance policies.](#)

### **Class Demeanor**

Regarding class demeanor expectations, we will draft a policy together on the first day of class. At minimum, students are expected to arrive to class sessions on time and be respectful towards others in the class.

### **Social and Emotional Wellbeing**

It's crucial that you prioritize and continuously develop your social and emotional wellbeing so that you can be the best version of yourself. Please utilize the below resources and contact me if I can support you in any way.

- *U Matter, We Care:* If you or someone you know is in distress, please contact [umatter@ufl.edu](mailto:umatter@ufl.edu), 352-392-1575, or visit [U Matter, We Care website](#) to refer or report a concern and a team member will reach out to the student in distress.
- *Counseling and Wellness Center:* [Visit the Counseling and Wellness Center website](#) or call 352-392-1575 for information on crisis services as well as non-crisis services.
- *Student Health Care Center:* Call 352-392-1161 for 24/7 information to help you find the care you need, or [visit the Student Health Care Center website](#).
- *University Police Department:* [Visit UF Police Department website](#) or call 352-392-1111 (or 9-1-1 for emergencies).
- *UF Health Shands Emergency Room / Trauma Center:* For immediate medical care call 352-733-0111 or go to the emergency room at 1515 SW Archer Road,
- Gainesville, FL 32608; [Visit the UF Health Emergency Room and Trauma Center website](#).

### **Students Requiring Accommodations**

Students with disabilities who experience learning barriers and would like to request academic accommodations should connect with the disability Resource Center. [Click here to get started with the Disability Resource Center](#). It is important for students to share their accommodation letter with their instructor and discuss their access needs, as early as possible in the semester.

### **Course Evaluations**

Students are expected to provide professional and respectful feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing course evaluations online via GatorEvals. [Click here for guidance on how to give feedback in a professional and respectful manner](#). Students will be notified when the evaluation period opens, and can complete evaluations through the email they receive from GatorEvals, in their Canvas course menu under GatorEvals, or via [ufl.bluera.com/ufl/](http://ufl.bluera.com/ufl/). [Summaries of course evaluation results are available to students here](#).