Women around the globe have faced and continue to face beliefs and living conditions that challenge, undermine, or compromise their independence, intellectual pursuits, and even their humanity. Mary Wollstonecraft’s revolutionary 18th-century plea for improved education for women to make them better wives and mothers hardly seems radical to us today. And yet even in our 21st-century world, many countries around the globe still forbid girls and women the right to an education. In our course’s journey of over 150 years of women in literature and film, we will consider the literal, aesthetic, political, and cultural constructions of women’s independence and mobility on the one hand and incarceration and stasis on the other. We will think about how these texts and their female characters resist boundaries of class, classification, and other modes of ordering that would exclude them from or confine them to all kinds of spaces—from the classroom to the workplace to the home. **No prerequisite required; fulfills Division II Requirement!**

**Possible Texts**
- Charlotte Brontë, *Jane Eyre*
- Jean Rhys, *Wide Sargasso Sea*
- Octavia Butler, *Kindred*
- Amy Tan, *The Joy Luck Club*
- Malika Mokeddem, *The Forbidden Woman*
- Jhumpa Lahiri, *Interpreter of Maladies*
- Ingrid de Kok, *Seasonal Fires: New and Selected Poems*

**Possible Films**
- *Inch’Allah Dimanche* (2001)
- *Girl Rising* (2013)

*****Questions?? Contact Prof. Way, wayea@wfu.edu*****