Course Title: The Brontë Sisters: *Jane Eyre* and *Wuthering Heights*
Course Code: Lit 52
Instructor: Dr. Rebecca (Becky) Richardson

Course Summary:

In this course we will read the two most famous novels by the Brontës: Charlotte Brontë’s *Jane Eyre* and Emily Brontë’s *Wuthering Heights*. Each week we will put these groundbreaking and enduring novels in context, considering how the Brontës were responding to their historical and cultural moment while also creating narratives that still speak to our own. Class will generally involve a 50-minute lecture, a 5-minute break, and a 50-minute discussion.

*Please see course page for full description and additional details.*

Grade Options and Requirements:

- **No Grade Requested (NGR)**
  This is the default option. No work will be required; no credit shall be received; no proof of attendance can be provided.
- **Credit/No Credit (CR/NC)**
  Students must attend at least 80% of class sessions (at least 5 of 6 classes).
- **Letter Grade (A, B, C, D, No Pass)**
  Students must attend at least 80% of class sessions (at least 5 of 6 classes) and submit a 1-2 page reading response for each session beyond the first day (5 responses in total).

*Please Note: If you require proof that you completed a Continuing Studies course for any reason (for example, employer reimbursement), you must choose either the Letter Grade or Credit/No Credit option. Courses taken for NGR will not appear on official transcripts or grade reports.*

Tentative Weekly Outline:

**Week 1: Introductions and Contexts**

Overview of the Brontë family, the historical and literary context of the novels we’ll read in this course, and an introduction to the themes to watch for as we start reading.

*Note: No reading required for Week 1, although if you’d like to get a head start you might begin *Jane Eyre*.***
Week 2: The first volume of Jane Eyre (Chs. 1 through 15)
Themes for the week: the Bildungsroman or novel of development, education, the figure of the governess in the Victorian era.

Week 3: The second volume of Jane Eyre (Chs. 16 through 26)
Themes for the week: the romance plot, the Gothic, and the British empire.

Week 4: The third volume of Jane Eyre (Chs. 27 to end)
Themes for the week: the romance and career plots, family and inheritance, money and agency.
Conclusions: what made this novel scandalous in its time and enduringly important to our own?

Week 5: The first volume of Wuthering Heights (Chs. 1 through 14)
Themes for the week: setting the scene and the figure of the moors, socio-economics and marriage, violence and love.

Week 6: The second volume of Wuthering Heights (Chs. 15 to end)
Themes for the week: the intergenerational plot, family, and inheritance; the natural and the supernatural.
Conclusions: what shocked Victorian readers about Wuthering Heights and the many afterlives of this haunting novel.