

Banha University - Faculty of Arts  
English Department

MA Program

Women Literature  
Lecture 2

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# Women Literature



# Women Literature

Throughout history, there have been several examples of formal

recognitions with the purpose of empowering women, but sadly, most of the time very few of these legal reforms actually really worked for the simple fact that most of the people, who make up society don't actually really believe in the idea that they are forced to respect by law. As a result, even in the Western world, we find a multitude of episodes of violence, abuse, and other problems.

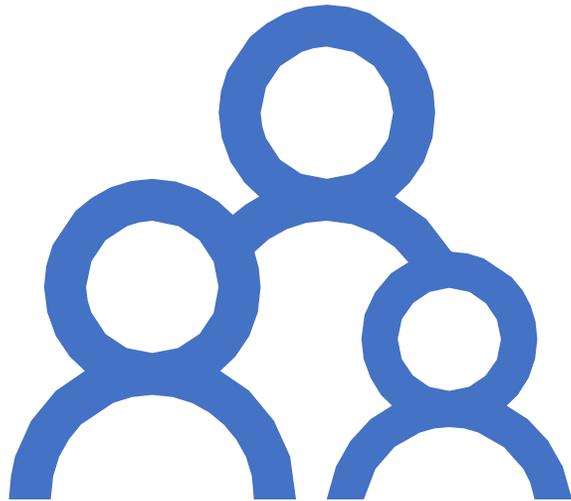
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The concept of empowerment is strictly connected with the concept of equality, freedom, justice, and well-being. No matter where you come from, no matter your religion, no matter your ethnicity, and no matter your political ideas, you have the right to pursue a happy, safe, and prosperous life, just like any other single individual alive on the planet right now. Sex, race, ideologies, and beliefs should not be considered "separators", but they should represent the rich cultural diversity of mankind. This publication will take you throughout the journey, exploring many different aspects of the story of women empowerment. From the condition of society in ancient times, to the first revolutions, the first feminist movements up to the current situation in many areas of the world we live in.

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The world we are experiencing today is dramatically different from the world our parents experienced, let alone the world that our grandparents experienced. I am talking about our parents' and our grandparents' generations just to point out the fact that the time when they were younger was actually not a lot of time ago, yet society, everywhere in the world has experienced major changes.

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In ancient times, the main social groups of early mankind and early

civilizations used to favor a matriarchal setting of their society. This means that women were literally on the forefront; they were at the center of society and made up a dominant role from different perspectives and points of view. In the ancient world, women were politicians, spiritual and religious leaders, warriors, and respectable icons, symbols of fertility and prosperity.

For thousands of years, our society has been dominated by males; culturally and historically speaking. Most anthropologists hold that there are no known societies that are unambiguously matriarchal (Goldberg, 1973).

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It is undeniable that society is undergoing constant progress. Global

problems such as racism, homophobia, ethnic and religious discrimination are still present to this day in many countries of the world (if not in all countries of the world), but mankind as a whole is slowly "getting there". As time goes by and we become more used to interacting with different people and different ideas, we also become more tolerant and we embrace change. One of the greatest examples of this is the situation of women throughout the world.