

This syllabus has been provided as a reference tool for students considering this course. It has been modified to follow Senate regulations. Current students enrolled in any undergraduate course must obtain the most recent syllabus from their course instructor or from their course website. This is not the latest version.



Department of English & Writing Studies

Understanding Literature Today **English 1020E (004)** Fall/Winter 2013-14

Instructor: Dr. Alison Conway

Date/Time: Tuesday & Thursday 10:30am-11:30am

Location: University College 30

Prerequisites

Grade 12U English or permission of the Department. For part time students who have been admitted without the OSSD, this permission will be granted as a matter of course.

Antirequisite(s): English 1022E, 1035E.

Unless you have either the requisites for this course or written special permission from your Dean to enroll in it, you may be removed from this course and it will be deleted from your record. This decision may not be appealed. You will receive no adjustment to your fees in the event that you are dropped from a course for failing to have the necessary prerequisites.

Course Description

This course invites students to consider what it means to read literature today. How does literature help us to understand the realities governing our lives in the early twenty-first century? We will consider literature's engagement in history and politics and our role, as readers of literature, in conversations that shape the worlds in which we live. Through readings of prose, poetry, and drama primarily (but not exclusively) from the twentieth century, we will interrogate how the trauma of war, the advent of civil rights movements, and the legacy of colonial and post-colonial governance have shaped British, American, and Canadian literatures. We will also consider, more specifically, aesthetic questions, such as: What is literature? How do literary texts speak to one another? How do the formal properties of a text engage its thematic preoccupations? Finally, students will engage intensively in the development of their own writing skills through a series of assignments.

This class meets twice a week for a one-hour lecture and once a week for a tutorial. We will read prose, poetry, and drama primarily, but not exclusively, from the twentieth- and early twenty-first century.

Objectives:

Successful students who complete the course will be better able to:

- Develop a critical reading of a text, and write essays that have an effective thesis and a logical argument supported by evidence from the text(s);
- Engage in research and properly document their essays using the MLA guidelines;
- Engage in the language of the discipline, using literary terms and concepts, both in written and oral forms.

Course Materials

Required Texts:

The Norton Introduction to Literature, Portable Tenth Edition-bundled with Nicole Krauss, Great House

Matt Duggan, *Cherry Electra*

Tim O'Brien, *The Things They Carried* (Mariner)

Tomson Highway, *The Rez Sisters* (Fifth House)

Rules for Writers (Bedford)

Methods of Evaluation

Essay 1 (passage analysis: 500 words)	5%
Essay 2 "pre-paper" (700 words)	5%
Essay 2 (1800 words)	10%
Essay 3 (1800 words)	10%
Annotated Bibliography (essay 3)	5%
Sentence/paragraph assignments	5%
Two in-class essays	10%
Participation/Tutorial grade	15%
Final exam	35%

A student must receive a passing grade for both term work and the final examination in order to receive a passing grade for the course. This applies to all courses in all programs offered by the department. Students whose term and final exam grades average 50% or above, even though one of the two is a failure, shall receive a default grade of 48%. **Please note:** The department of English & Writing Studies does not release final grades. All undergraduate grade reports will be available online from the Office of the Registrar.

Students are fully responsible for looking at and being familiar with the information posted on the department website at <http://www.uwo.ca/english/undergraduate/info%20for%20students.html#grade>.

Timetable:

Tu. Sept. 10: What is art? Understanding literature today.

Th. Sept. 12: Why write essays? Why write essays about literature? What is close reading and why do I care?

Tutorial: diagnostic writing assignment

Sentences due on Tumblr: A-M-by Mon. at 4pm; N-Z-by Wed. at 4 pm

Tu. Sept. 17: Duggan, *Cherry Electra*

Th. Sept. 19: Duggan, *Cherry Electra*

Tutorial: How to read a passage closely

Sentences due on Tumblr: A-M: by Mon. at 4 pm; N-Z, by Wed. at 4 pm

Tu. Sept. 24: Duggan, *Cherry Electra*

Th. Sept. 26: Duggan, *Cherry Electra*; Duggan, class visit

Tutorial: sentences

Tu. Oct. 1: Gilman, "The Yellow Wallpaper"

Th. Oct. 3: Hemingway, "Hills Like White Elephants" **ESSAY ONE due IN CLASS**

Tutorial: Paragraphs

Paragraphs due on Tumblr: A-M by Mon. at 4 pm

Tu. Oct. 8: O'Connor, "A Good Man is Hard to Find"

Th. Oct. 10: Melville, "Bartleby, the Scrivener"

Tutorial: what is a thesis?

Paragraphs due on Tumblr: N-Z by Mon. at 4 pm

Tu. Oct. 15: Marquez, "A Very Old Man with Enormous Wings"

Th. Oct. 17: in-class essay: short fiction (passage analysis)

Tutorial: class visit to Carol Wainio exhibit at the McIntosh Gallery

Tu. Oct. 22: intro. to poetry

Th. Oct. 24: Milton, "When I Consider How my Light is Spent"

Tutorial: choosing your Poet Companion/brainstorming poetry

Tu. Oct. 29: Shakespeare, "Like as the Waves"; Dickinson, "My Life Had Stood a Loaded Gun"

Th. Oct. 31: Donne, "The Flea"; Gunn, "In Time of Plague"

Tutorial: evidence

Tu. Nov. 6: Marvell, "To His Coy Mistress"; Olds, "Sex Without Love"

Th. Nov. 8: The Essay: from High School to University Writing

Tutorial: how to cite poetry

Tu. Nov. 12: Donne, "The Good-Morrow," Plath, "Morning Song"

Th. Nov. 14: Hopkins, "Spring and Fall"; Bishop, "Sestina"

Tutorial: discussion

Tu. Nov. 19: Browning, "My Last Duchess"

Th. Nov. 21: Auden, "Musee des Beaux Arts"

Tutorial: introductions and conclusions

Tu. Nov. 28: Lawrence, "I am Like a Rose"; Parker, "One Single Rose"

Th. Nov. 30: Rich, "Diving into the Wreck"

Tutorial: **peer-editing, essay 2**

Tu. Dec. 3: lyrics: Regina Spektor, "Samson"

Th. Dec. 5: review: ESSAY TWO due IN CLASS

Tu. Jan. 7: research methods (two library sessions this week, during tutorial hours); plagiarism

Th. Jan. 9: introduction to *Great House*

Tutorial: library sessions/meeting with students

Tu. Jan. 14: Krauss, *Great House*

Th. Jan. 16: Krauss, *Great House*

Tutorial: how to write a comparative essay

Tu. Jan. 21: Krauss, *Great House*

Th. Jan. 23: Krauss, *Great House*

Tutorial: Preparing a List of Works Cited

Tu. Jan. 28: podcast class: **ESSAY THREE due IN CLASS**

Th. Jan. 30: intro. to *The Things They Carried*

Tutorial: podcast prep.

Tu. Feb. 4: O'Brien, *The Things They Carried*
Th. Feb. 6: O'Brien, *The Things They Carried*
Tutorial: discussion

Tu. Feb. 11: O'Brien, *The Things They Carried*
Th. Feb. 13: **in-class essay: O'Brien/Krauss**
Podcasts due by 4 pm, Friday, Feb. 14

Feb. 17-21: reading week

Tu. Feb. 25: Sophocles, *Antigone*
Th. Feb. 27: Sophocles, *Antigone*
Tutorial: discussion

Tu. Mar. 4: Sophocles, *Antigone*
Th. Mar. 6: Sophocles, *Antigone*
Tutorial: discussion; **Preliminary bibliographies due (and provisional thesis)**

Tu. Mar. 11: Hansberry, *A Raisin in the Sun*
Th. Mar. 13: Hansberry, *A Raisin in the Sun*
Tutorial: discussion; return bibliographies

Tu. Mar. 18: Hansberry, *A Raisin in the Sun*
Th. Mar. 20: lecture cancelled (I am away at a conference)
Tutorial: **peer-editing, Essay 4**

Tu. Mar. 25: Highway, *Rez Sisters*
Th. Mar. 27: Highway, *Rez Sisters* **Essay 3 due IN CLASS**
Tutorial: discussion

Apr. 2: Highway, *Rez Sisters*
Apr. 4: review
Tutorial: discussion

Apr. 6: review

Participation: This grade gauges attendance, and a student's preparedness for class, in-class writing assignments, engagement in class discussion, and responsiveness to and respect for other students' opinions.

Late Papers: If no arrangements have been made for an extension before the due date of the essay, late papers will have one third of a grade (3%) deducted for each day that they are late. No papers will be accepted more than a week after the due date. Please note NO extensions will be granted for Essay #1 without documentation from the Academic Counseling office from your home faculty.

Email: This is not a distance studies class. We want to meet with you to discuss ideas during office hours. If our hours conflict with other classes, please make an appointment to see us at another time. Email should be used only to set up appointments and to notify us of anticipated absences. All email correspondence should respect the rules of style and grammar valued by English instructors.

Laptops: I do not permit the use of laptops in the classrooms (lecture and tutorials). Students may tape-record lectures if they have difficulty taking notes by hand. (Phone use in class is also prohibited. Please turn off your phones before class begins.)

Attendance: Students who miss more than 15% of classes (8 for the year) may, according to university regulations, be barred from the final exam.

Accommodation

Students seeking academic accommodation on medical grounds for any missed tests, exams, participation components and/or assignments worth 10% or more of their final grade must apply to the Academic Counselling office of their home Faculty and provide documentation. Academic accommodation cannot be granted by the instructor or department. Documentation shall be submitted, as soon as possible, to the Office of the Dean of the student's Faculty of registration, together with a request for relief specifying the nature of the accommodation being requested. The UWO Policy on Accommodation for Medical Illness and further information regarding this policy can be found at http://uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/accommodation_medical.pdf.

Downloadable Student Medical Certificate (SMC):

http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/medicalform.pdf

Academic Offences

Scholastic offences are taken seriously and students are directed to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitutes a Scholastic Offence, at http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/scholastic_discipline_undergrad.pdf

Plagiarism:

Students must write their essays and assignments in their own words. Whenever students take an idea or passage from another author, they must acknowledge their debt both by using quotation marks where appropriate and by proper referencing such as footnotes or citations. Plagiarism is a major academic offence.

Plagiarism Checking:

All required papers may be subject to submission for textual similarity review to the commercial plagiarism detection software under license to the University for the detection of plagiarism. All papers submitted for such checking will be included as source documents in the reference database for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of papers subsequently submitted to the system. Use of the service is subject to the licensing agreement, currently between The University of Western Ontario and Turnitin.com <http://www.turnitin.com>.

Support Services

Registrarial Services <http://www.registrar.uwo.ca>

Student Support Services <https://student.uwo.ca/psp/heprdweb/?cmd=login>

Services provided by the USC <http://westernusc.ca/services/>

Student Development Centre <http://www.sdc.uwo.ca/>

Students who are in emotional/mental distress should refer to MentalHealth@Western: <http://www.uwo.ca/uwocom/mentalhealth/> for a complete list of options about how to obtain help.