

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

Speculative Fiction: Fantasy **English 2072G (001)** Winter 2014

Instructor: Dr. John Kelly

Date/Time: Monday 7:00pm-10:00pm

Location: University Community Centre 56

Antirequisite(s): The former English 134E.

Course Description

This course presents a study of the purposes and historical origins of fantasy, and modern developments in fantasy: alternate worlds, horror or ghost stories, sword and sorcery, and heroic romance

Objectives:

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

- Write an essay about a work of literature, containing an effective thesis supported by adequate evidence from the original text;
- Organize and present ideas clearly and effectively.

Course Materials

J. R. R. Tolkien, *Lord of the Rings*, including *The Fellowship of the Ring*, *The Two Towers*, and *The Return of the King*.

J. K. Rowling, *Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone*.

Peter S. Beagle, *The Last Unicorn* (ironic fantasy).

John Gardner, *Grendel* (fantasy retelling).

Dan Simmons, *A Song for Kali* (horror).

Philip k. Dick, *The Man in the High Castle* (alternate history).

J. G. Ballard, *Crash* (postmodern fantasy).

Fantastic Worlds: Myths, Tales, and Stories, ed. Eric S. Rabkin (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1979).

Methods of Evaluation

Learning Cell - on <i>Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone</i>	15%
Midterm Exam - In Class Essay	10%
Critical Paragraph - on Beagle's novel <i>The Last Unicorn</i>	10%
Essay (6 pages - 1500 words)	30%
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>.

Late papers will be penalized one point per day.

Timetable:

Mon. Jan. 6: Introduction.

Mon. Jan. 13: Genesis," Shepherd, "Paul Bunyon on the Columbia," Thurber, "The Secret Life of Walter Mitty," Barthelme, "The Piano Player," and Morris, "Golden Wings." Tolkien, *The Lord of the Rings*.

Mon. Jan. 20: Tolkien.

Mon. Jan. 27: Tolkien.

Mon. Feb. 3: Learning Cell on *Harry Potter*, Discussion, and Lecture on *Harry Potter*.

Mon. Feb. 10: *Harry Potter*, Kafka, "The Judgement," Shultz, "Cockroaches," & Gardner, *Grendel*.

Mon. Feb. 24: *Grendel*, & "Cortazar, "Axototl" and Landolfi, "Pastoral."

Mon. Mar. 3: Midterm-In Class Essay: Focusing upon three texts, discuss how fantasy texts provide a vision of a hidden world or offer a revision of and challenge to the world.

Readings - Grimm, "Little Red Cap." "The Sleeping Beauty," and "Hansel and Gretel" & Beagle, *The Last Unicorn*.

Mon. Mar. 10: Critical Paragraph Due. Topic: How is Beagle's novel *The Last Unicorn* different from traditional fairy tales? Discussion. Beagle cont., & Borges, "Pierre Menard," "Bishsel, "There is No Place as America."

Mon. Mar. 17: Movie Night: "Pan's Labyrinth."

Mon. Mar. 24: Dick, *The Man in the High Castle*. Coover. "The Marker," Hoffmann. "The Sandman," Poe "The Black Cat" and "The Facts in the Case of M. Valdemar," & Simmons, *The Song of Kaii*.

Mon. Mar. 31: Simmons cont., & Ballard, *Crash*. **Essay Due.**

Mon. April 7: *Crash* cont. Conclusion: Brautigan, "Homage to the ...," Holst, "The Zebra Storyteller." Final Exam Review.

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.