

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

The Many Faces of Harry Potter **English 2092G (001)** Winter 2014

Instructor: Dr. Gabrielle Ceraldi

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

Location: Spencer Engineering Building 1200

Course Description

The wildly successful Harry Potter series has been noted for its capacity to cross traditional boundaries. Conventional wisdom claims that young girls won't read a book with a male protagonist and young boys won't read a book by a female author, yet Harry Potter has found an enthusiastic readership among children of both sexes. Age boundaries have proven to be equally elastic; the popularity of the series among adults has even prompted the creation of an adult-friendly edition of the series with dark cover art suitable for reading on public transportation. The flexibility of the series may relate to its roots in a wide variety of genres including the gothic novel, detective fiction, fantasy, adventure, and even the dystopian novel. This course will examine the Harry Potter series in relation to all these genres. We will read all seven books alongside other novels and short stories that illustrate the generic conventions Rowling is working with. There will also be opportunity to consider the translation of the series into film.

Objectives:

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

- Recognize how the Harry Potter series employs conventions from a variety of genres;
- Identify and analyze the basic elements of literature such as plot, character, point of view, theme, setting, imagery, and diction;
- Understand the political, religious, moral, and philosophical underpinnings of the texts on the course;
- Write an essay about a work of literature containing an effective thesis supported by adequate evidence from the original text;
- Offer independent insights, beyond those outlined in class;
- Organize and present ideas clearly and effectively;
- Document essays using MLA format.

Course Materials

Required Texts:

J.K. Rowling, *Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone*, Bloomsbury
Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets, Bloomsbury
Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban, Bloomsbury
Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire, Bloomsbury
Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix, Bloomsbury
Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince, Bloomsbury
Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows, Bloomsbury
The Tales of Beedle the Bard, Bloomsbury

Markus Zusak, *The Book Thief*, Knopf

George Orwell, *Nineteen Eighty Four*, Penguin

Suzanne Collins, *Mockingjay*, Scholastic

CS. Lewis, *The Silver Chair*, Harper Collins

Methods of Evaluation

Introductory Paragraph (250 words, due Feb. 11)	5%
Test (Mar. 11)	15%
Essay (2500 words, due Mar. 25)	30%
Attendance and Participation	10%
Final Exam	40%

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:

Jan. 7: Introduction

The Actively Detecting Reader

Jan. 14 Edgar Allan Poe, "The Purloined Letter" (on OWL)
Arthur Conan Doyle, "A Scandal in Bohemia" (on OWL)
"The Wizard and the Hopping Pot" (from *The Tales of Beedle the Bard*)
Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone

Uncovering the Past: The Gothic

Jan. 21: Elizabeth Gaskell, "The Old Nurse's Story"
Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets
Jan. 28: *Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban*

Nazis and Death Eaters

Feb 4: Markus Zusak, *The Book Thief*
Feb 11: *Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire*
Feb. 17: **Reading Week (no class)**

Dystopia

- Feb. 25: George Orwell, *Nineteen Eighty Four*
Mar. 4: *Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban*
Mar. 11: **Test**
Suzanne Collins, *Mockingjay*
Mar. 18: *Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince*

Fairy Tale and Allegory

- Mar. 25: C. S. Lewis, *The Silver Chair*
Apr. 1: Geoffrey Chaucer, "The Pardoner's Tale" (on OWL)
"The Tale of the Three Brothers" (from *The Tales of Beedle the Bard*)
Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows
Apr. 8: *Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows* (cont'd) / review

Assignments:

Essays are due in class on the dates specified above, but each student will be allowed a total of FIVE grace days to be used during the term at his/her discretion. Two percent per day (including weekends) will be deducted from late essays once the 5 grace days have been used up. No paper will be accepted later than three weeks after the due date.

All essays should be double-spaced and typewritten or printed in a standard font. Please follow MLA format (see attached guidelines). Essays should be handed in during class or dropped off in the Department of English Essay Drop-Off Boxes (UC 173). Do not leave essays under office doors.

Attendance:

The Attendance and Participation Grade will reflect not only your presence in class but also your engagement in the course, which may take the form of vocal participation in class discussions and/or participation in the Forums board on the OWL. The Forums board is a place where students can post questions about the course material as well as answer questions posted by other students. These questions can involve seeking clarification of lecture material, or they may explore the meaning of particular features of the texts, especially those not discussed in lecture. You are welcome to post as often as you wish, but each student should post at least one question over the course of the term.

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.