

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

History of Theory and Criticism English 2200G (001) Winter 2014

Instructor: Prof. M.H. McMurrin

Date/Time: Monday 2:30pm-3:20pm
Wednesday 2:30pm-4:20pm

Location: University College 142

Prerequisites

At least 60% in 1.0 of English 1020E or 1022E or 1024E or 1035E or 1036E or both English 1027F/G and 1028F/G, or permission of the Department.

Antirequisite(s): English 2235A/B.

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 introduces you to the most influential ideas in the arts beginning with Plato and concluding with Matthew Arnold in the Victorian period. We aim to understand crucial and contentious issues such as the charge that literature is a "lie"; the question of beauty; the role of the poet; the importance of literary "tradition" and more. We will analyze the arguments made by the authors and put these authors and their works in their social and historical contexts.

Objectives:

A course on theory and criticism requires a different kind of reading than a course on literary works. Instead of reading for character, theme and style, and then setting works in historical contexts, as you would with a poem, play, or novel, we will be analyzing philosophical arguments which requires breaking down and teasing out the authors' suppositions and implications. In written work, you will be asked to look closely at how claims are made and what purchase they have.

We will do a number of exercises to help build your critical thinking skills including: small groups discussion that help consider the issues and ideas in the texts either by extrapolating or through exercises in close reading; individual written exercises; large group discussion.

Course Materials

Required Texts:

The Norton Anthology of Theory & Criticism. 2nd ed. Vincent B. Leitch et al, eds. New York: Norton, 2010.

Sophocles 1 Ed. Grene and Lattimore Chicago: University of Chicago, 1991

Methods of Evaluation

In class writing: Jan. 22nd	15%
NO make-up on in-class writing in case of absence even with accommodation.	
In class writing March; take home in class draft, type, revise, and polish	20%
Midterm test	25%
Final examination [take-home 20 % + in class 15%]	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:

Jan 6	Introduction
Jan 8	Plato, <i>The Republic</i> (read selections from Book III and Book X)
Jan 13	Sophocles, <i>Oedipus the King</i> in <i>Sophocles I</i>
Jan 15	Sophocles, <i>Oedipus the King</i> in <i>Sophocles I</i> Aristotle, <i>Poetics</i>
Jan 20	Aristotle, <i>Poetics</i> (cont'd) Applying Aristotle to <i>Sophocles</i>
Jan 22	In class writing: Aristotle's <i>Poetics</i> and <i>Oedipus</i>
Jan 27	Horace, <i>Ars Poetica</i>
Jan 29	Sir Philip Sidney, <i>The Defence of Poesy</i>
Feb 3	Longinus, from <i>On Sublimity</i> Small group session: Interpreting the Sappho fragment in Longinus
Feb 5	David Hume, "Of the Standard of Taste"
Feb 10	David Hume, "Of the Standard of Taste" cont'd Immanuel Kant, from <i>The Critique of the Power of Judgement</i> Read pp 411-418; pp 442-444
Feb 12	Immanuel Kant, from <i>The Critique of the Power of Judgement</i> Read pp 418-430
READING WEEK	
Feb 24	Friedrich Von Schiller, on the Aesthetic Education of Man
Feb 26	Mid Term Test (2 hr class)
Mar 3	William Wordsworth, Preface to <i>Lyrical Ballads</i>
Mar 5	Samuel Taylor Coleridge, <i>Biographia Literaria</i> and "Kubla Khan"
Mar 10	Charles Baudelaire, read all selections
Mar 12	Charles Baudelaire and visual art (slides)
Mar 17	in class writing: Romanticism

Mar 19	in class writing; share, revise
Mar 24	G. W. F. Hegel, from Phenomenology of Spirit
Mar 26	Friedrich Nietzsche, from The Birth of Tragedy
Mar 31	Karl Marx and Friedrich Engels, read all selections
Apr 2	Marx and Engels cont'd Discuss take-home portion of exam
Apr 7	Matthew Arnold, Culture and Anarchy Review for in-class final exam

Final Examination Two parts:

Part One: take home essay exam to be distributed on April 2 and due April 14

Part Two: regular exam during examination period; terms test only

Assignments:

The written work consists of two in-class writing assignments, a midterm test and a two-part final examination. We will discuss guidelines and criteria for each in class.

Attendance:

Your final grade, as a whole, will be adversely affected by more than three absences.

In order to do well, you must do all the reading. Any student who, after due warning via email or in person has missed a significant number of classes, may be asked not to take the final examination.

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.