

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

Topics in Nineteenth-Century Literature: Charles Darwin English 3446F Fall 2013

Instructor: Dr. George Donaldson

Date/Time: Monday 11:30am-1:10pm
Wednesday 11:30am-12:20pm

Location: University College 286

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 3445E.

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

The course examines some nineteenth-century texts through the metaphors and models derived from Charles Darwin's evolutionary biology. Darwin's influence was pervasive and radical. His work obliged thinkers to reconsider many basic questions about human identity, human specialness. The narratives through which human beings created meanings and values had to be re-examined and often fundamentally revised in the light of Darwin's discoveries.

Objectives:

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

- Understand some of the principles of evolutionary biology;
- Understand the broad sense of the influence of Darwin's ideas across nineteenth-century culture;
- Apply Darwin's model to literature.

Course Materials

Mark Ridley (ed), *The Darwin Reader* (Norton)
Elizabeth Gaskell, *Cousin Phillis* (Penguin)
George Eliot, *Middlemarch* (Broadview)
Thomas Hardy, *Jude the Obscure* [Broadview)
H.G. Wells, *The Time Machine* (Broadview)

Methods of Evaluation

In Class Essay	October 21th	20%
Essay (2500 words)	November 25th	35%
Participation		10%
Exam	December	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:

September

9th.	Course Introduction
11th.	Introduction to the Ideas and Influence of Charles Darwin
16th.	Introduction to the Ideas and Influence of Charles Darwin
18th.	Introduction to the Ideas and Influence of Charles Darwin
23rd.	Introduction to the Ideas and Influence of Charles Darwin
25th.	Elizabeth Gaskell, <i>Cousin Phillis</i> (1863-1864)
30th.	Elizabeth Gaskell, <i>Cousin Phillis</i> (1863-1864)

October

2nd.	Elizabeth Gaskell, <i>Cousin Phillis</i> (1863-1864)
7th.	Selected Poems by Matthew Arnold, Alfred, Lord Tennyson and Thomas Hardy
9th.	Selected Poems by Matthew Arnold, Alfred, Lord Tennyson and Thomas Hardy
14th.	THANKSGIVING
16th.	Selected Poems by Matthew Arnold, Alfred, Lord Tennyson and Thomas Hardy
21st.	IN CLASS ESSAY
23rd.	George Eliot, <i>Middlemarch</i> [1871-1872]
28th.	George Eliot, <i>Middlemarch</i> (1871-1872)
30th.	George Eliot, <i>Middlemarch</i> [1871-1872]

November

4th.	George Eliot, <i>Middlemarch</i> (1871-1872)
6th.	Thomas Hardy, <i>Jude the Obscure</i> [1895]
11th.	Thomas Hardy, <i>Jude the Obscure</i> (1895)
13th.	Thomas Hardy, <i>Jude the Obscure</i> {1895}
18th.	Thomas Hardy, <i>Jude the Obscure</i> (1895)
20th.	Thomas Henry Huxley, "The Struggle for Existence in Human Society" [1888]
25th.	H.G. Wells, <i>The Time Machine</i> [1895]
27th.	H.G. Wells, <i>The Time Machine</i> (1895)

December

2nd.	H.G. Wells, <i>The Time Machine</i> [1895]
4th.	Review

In addition, scientific and cultural essays, usually from the period, will be assigned for each literary text.

Assignments:

Essays are due on the date specified above. Late essays will be penalized 3% per diem (including weekends). Essays submitted more than seven (7) days after the deadline will not be accepted and will receive a grade of zero. To be considered for relief from these penalties students require a letter from a physician stating that you were ill on the day in question.

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.