

**Department of English and Writing Studies
Western University**

**English 1020E
2015-16**

Professor Jan Plug
(519) 661-2111, ext. 84705
Office hours: Mondays 1-4

Somerville House 2347
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I will also often be in my office on Wednesdays 1-4, and at other times. It's best to speak to me after class or to set up a meeting time by email if you would like to see me outside my regular office hours.

Teaching Assistants

Hanji Lee
International and Graduate Affairs oNo6
Office Hours: Wed. 12:30-2:30
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Christine Penhale
Arts & Humanities 2G28Q
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Course Description

In his monumental literary autobiography, Samuel Taylor Coleridge described the purpose of art as “awakening the mind's attention from the lethargy of custom, and directing it to the loveliness and the wonders of the world before us; an inexhaustible treasure, but for which in consequence of the film of familiarity and selfish solicitude we have eyes, yet see not, ears that hear not, and hearts that neither feel nor understand.” A decade later, the great Russian critic Viktor Shklovsky would similarly state that “art exists that one may recover the sensation of life, it exists to make one feel things, to make the stone *stoney*.”

This course will explore the question of what literature *is*, what it *does*, and how it does what it does to be what it is. We will read a variety of literary forms (short prose fiction, novellas, novels, poetry, and drama) as closely and carefully as possible in order to explore how the language of literature functions, whether it is different from other forms of language, and to consider some of its forms and themes.

Course Objectives

Students who complete the course successfully will improve their writing and research skills; they will learn how properly to document a research essay; they will have a greater sense of some of the major forms of literature; they will improve their critical reading. Perhaps most of all, we can hope, they will have a increased appreciation of literature and the role it can have in their lives.

Required Texts

Available at the Western Bookstore

The Norton Introduction to Literature, Portable Eleventh Edition

Mary Shelley, *Frankenstein* 1818 text (Oxford World's Classics)

Samuel Beckett, *Endgame*

George Saunders, *Civilwarland in Bad Decline*

Rules for Writers, ed Dianna Hacker and Nancy Sommers

Laptop/Tablet/Cellphone Use

During class, I would like all of our attention to be focused on the texts and on our discussion of them. Unless you have a documented need for a laptop, **no laptop or tablet use** will be allowed during class. Please shut your cell phone **off** before entering class.

Academic Accommodation

Students seeking academic accommodation on medical or compassionate grounds for any missed tests, exams, participation components and/or assignments worth (either alone or in combination) 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 Student Medical Certificate (SMC) can be found at http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/medicalform.pdf.

The full policy is set out in the handbook:

http://uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/accommodation_medical.pdf

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.

Attendance

Excessive absenteeism is grounds for debarring a student from taking the final examination. The 2014 Academic Calendar states: "Any student who, in the opinion of the instructor, is absent too frequently from class or laboratory periods in any course, will be reported to the Dean of the Faculty offering the course (after due warning has been given). On the recommendation of the department concerned, and with the permission of the Dean of that Faculty, the student will be debarred from taking the regular examination in the course" (p. 35).

Plagiarism (See 2014 U.W.O. Calendar, pp. 19-21.)

Plagiarism (the unacknowledged use of another person's work) is one of the most serious academic offences, since it involves fraud and misrepresentation. In plagiarizing, one is in effect claiming another person's words or ideas or data as one's own work, and thus misrepresenting material subject to academic evaluation. It is necessary, therefore, that plagiarism carry appropriate penalties. These are within the discretion of the Chair of Undergraduate Studies, but may include failure of a course or a grade of zero on an assignment, without the privilege of resubmitting it.

STUDENTS FOUND GUILTY OF A SECOND SERIOUS OFFENCE WILL BE EXPELLED FROM DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH COURSES. FURTHER ACTION MAY BE TAKEN BY THE DEAN'S OFFICE.

Students must acknowledge each printed or electronic source (**including study guides such as *Cole's Notes* and Internet materials**) by author, title, date and place of publication, and page number if: (a) they quote from it directly; (b) they paraphrase its ideas; (c) they are conscious of any influence its ideas may have had on their own work. **Every source (including websites) that students have consulted (whether they refer to it directly or not) must be included in a bibliography (Works Cited).** Some instructors may require that students provide copies of material downloaded from the Internet.

It is not always possible to identify the sources of inspiration of one's own ideas with total accuracy. A reasonable and conscientious effort is all that is required. **However, it is entirely the student's responsibility to be aware of the nature of plagiarism.** If students have any questions about plagiarism, they should ask their instructor. If students have any doubts about the documentation of their own essays, they should see the instructor before the essays are due. Information about correct forms of documentation may be found in the *MLA HANDBOOK For Writers of Research Papers* (New York: Modern Language Association, 2009), available in the Reference section at Weldon (LB 2369.M57).

Students found to have submitted the work of another person as their own work **will automatically fail the course.** Any students who know their own work has been used improperly have a responsibility to inform the Department of that fact; otherwise they will be considered collaborators.

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>).

Grade Distribution

Essay 1 (500 words)	7.5%
Essay 2 (1000 words)	12.5%
Essay 3 (1500 words)	20%
Annotated Bibliography	5%
In-Class Test	10%
Tutorial	10%
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. 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 does not release final grades. All undergraduate grade reports will be available online from the office of the registrar.

Late Assignments

Late essays will be penalized 2% per day late. I will not accept essays more than one week late without consultation. Please note that **University Senate policy prohibits me from accepting any assignment after the last day of classes.**

Schedule of Classes

September 14: Introduction to the course
September 16: What is literature? And what is it for?

Prose

September 21: Melville, "Bartleby, the Scrivener"
September 23: Melville, "Bartleby, the Scrivener"

September 28: O'Connor, "A Good Man is Hard to Find"
September 30: Hemingway, "Hills Like White Elephants"

October 5: Hawthorne, "The Birth-Mark"
October 7: Hawthorne, "The Birth-Mark"

October 12: **Thanksgiving. No Class.**
October 14: Marquez, "A Very Old Man With Enormous Wings"

October 19: Gilman, "The Yellow Wallpaper"
October 21: Gilman, "The Yellow Wallpaper"

Poetry: Forms and Figures

October 26: Introduction. Donne, "The Flea"; Herbert, "Easter Wings"
October 28: Blake, "The Rose"; Parker, "One Perfect Rose"
Essay 1 Due in Class

Lyric 1 (What's Love Got to Do With It?)

November 2: Marvell, "To His Coy Mistress"; Shakespeare, "My Mistress' Eyes Are Nothing Like the Sun" (with a guest appearance by Sting)
November 4: Van Morrison, "Moondance"; Cohen, "For Anne"; Olds, "Sex Without Love"

Lyric 2 (Voice and Consciousness)

November 9: Coleridge, "Frost at Midnight"
November 11: Coleridge, "Frost at Midnight"

(... and Art)

November 16: Keats, "Ode on a Grecian Urn"
November 18: Browning, "My Last Duchess"

November 23: Eliot, "The Love Song of J. Alfred Prufrock"
November 25: Eliot, "The Love Song of J. Alfred Prufrock"

November 30: ***In Class Test: Passage Analysis***
December 2: Auden, "Musée des beaux arts"

December 7:
December 9:

This is the End

January 4: Sophocles, *Antigone*
January 6: Sophocles, *Antigone*

January 11: Sophocles, *Antigone*
January 13: Sophocles, *Antigone*

January 19: Beckett, *Endgame*
January 21: Beckett, *Endgame*

January 26: Beckett, *Endgame*
January 28: Beckett, *Endgame*
Essay 2 Due

February 1: Donne, "Valediction: Forbidding Mourning"
February 3: Dickinson, "Because I could not stop for death"; "I heard a fly buzz when I died"

February 8: Thomas, "Do Not Go Gentle"

February 10: Auden, "Stop all the clocks, cut off the telephone"

February 15: **Reading Week. No Class.**

February 17: **Reading Week. No Class.**

Human, All Too Human

February 22: Mary Shelley, *Frankenstein*

February 24: Mary Shelley, *Frankenstein*

February 29: Mary Shelley, *Frankenstein*

March 2: Mary Shelley, *Frankenstein*

March 7: Kafka, "A Report to an Academy"

March 9: Kafka, *Metamorphosis*

March 14: Kafka, *Metamorphosis*

Annotated Bibliography Due

March 16: Kafka, "A Hunger Artist"

March 21: Saunders, *Civilwarland in Bad Decline*

March 23: Saunders, *Civilwarland in Bad Decline*

March 28: Saunders, *Civilwarland in Bad Decline*

March 30: Saunders, *Civilwarland in Bad Decline*

Essay 3 Due

April 4:

April 6: Conclusions, Review
