

Department of English & Writing Studies

Understanding English Literature Today
English 1020E (002)
Fall/Winter 2016-17

Instructor: Dr. Anne Schuurman
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519.661.2111 x85814
Office Hours: Tuesdays 1:30-2:30 or by appt

Location: Arts & Humanities Building 2B04

Date/Time: Tuesday and Thursday
10:30am-11:30am

Teaching Assistants:

Jeremy Colangelo (jcolang2@uwo.ca)
Jaclyn Reed (jreed48@uwo.ca)

Antirequisite(s): English 1022E, 1035E.

Prerequisite(s): Grade 12U English or permission of the Department. For part time students who have been admitted without the OSSD, this permission will be granted as a matter of course.

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

Literature illuminates the best of human nature and exposes the worst. It can articulate the finest and most intimate feeling; it can diagnose complex social ills and imagine their cures. Literature makes bridges of intelligibility and meaning between the self and the other, and between the past and the present. Historians will tell you that tyrants have always imprisoned writers and artists first, for good literature and good art do not preach or condemn, but give voice to every perspective, even the villain's: literature, as Azar Nafisi contends, is the greatest threat to tyranny because it is "the oxygen of democracy." Literature is a means, a tool that can be used to ennoble, to teach, to provoke, or to subvert; but it is also an end in itself, an aesthetic object that invites appreciation and enjoyment, even love.

This course introduces students to the study of English literature at the university level. Reading short fiction, poetry, drama, novels, and essays, we will seek, first, to understand how literary language works, and, second, to understand our current global, social, and political world more clearly and deeply through the powerful lenses of literature. The course will consist of weekly lectures and tutorials, in-class writing and student discussion, formal writing assignments, and a final exam.

Course Objectives:

Upon successful completion of the course, students will be able to:

- Describe and explain the literary and aesthetic expectations of a variety of genres, including short fiction, poetry, drama, novels, and essays;
- Define and analyze the structure of a variety of poetic forms;
- Define and analyze a variety of rhetorical figures and tropes, and use some of them effectively in the written presentation of their own arguments;
- Construct and present a complex argument about one or more literary texts, demonstrating knowledge of genre, form, language, and style, and engaging with relevant historical, cultural, and political contexts.

Course Materials

Required Texts:

Chalykoff, Lisa, Neta Gordon, and Paul Lumsden, eds. *The Broadview Introduction to Literature*, Peterborough, ON: Broadview, 2013.

Hacker, Diana and Nancy Sommers. *Rules for Writers*, 8th Ed. New York: Bedford/St Martin's, 2016.

Martel, Yann. *Life of Pi*. Toronto: Vintage-Random House, 2001, 2011.

Krauss, Nicole. *Great House*. New York: W.W. Norton, 2011.

Simpson, Anne. *Light Falls Through You*. Toronto: McClelland & Stewart, 2000.

English 1020 Custom Courseware

Methods of Evaluation

Grade Distribution:

Final Exam:	35%
Tutorial and Responses:	15%
In-class analysis:	10%
Paragraph assignment:	5%
Library assignment:	5%
Essay 1:	10%
Essay 2:	20%
	<hr/>
	100%

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>.

Course Requirements:

To earn a passing tutorial grade, you must attend tutorials regularly, listen attentively, and come prepared to discuss the assigned reading. Beyond this, credit will also be given for thoughtful questions and comments, and, in general, demonstration of active engagement with the course material in class. Attendance will be recorded on a sign-in sheet every class and every tutorial to help ensure that your tutorial grade is fair and objective. Read actively, **take responsibility for your own learning**: take notes, formulate questions, try to make connections between texts and ideas on your own.

Students are required to submit weekly reading responses, which will be assessed on a pass/fail basis, and will count significantly towards your overall tutorial grade. If you fail, or fail to hand in, more than 3 responses, you will lose 10 out of the possible 12 percentage points of your tutorial grade. Responses must be brought both to class and to tutorial and must be handed in to your TA at the end of each tutorial. The purpose of the reading responses is fourfold: 1. to give you an opportunity to record your responses to the texts in preparation for writing your essays; 2. to organize your thoughts before coming to class; 3. to work on strengthening your writing muscles throughout the whole year; 4. to give me a way to track your progress and your engagement with course material.

Detailed instructions and topics for all assignments will be distributed in class.

Attendance:

Students who miss more than 15% of classes (4 for the year) may, according to university regulations, be barred from the final exam.

Class Conduct:

All students are expected to conduct themselves according to high standards of respect and civility in the classroom. To that end, students are asked to respect the following guidelines:

1. Frame questions and differences of opinion in a constructive and professional manner.
2. Respect the rights of each student and of the instructor to speak without having to talk over other voices.
3. Laptops and other electronic devices are not allowed in class. Turn off cell-phones and headsets before the start of class, and for the duration of the class. Note: this means no texting during class.
4. Refrain from reading newspapers/magazines/books and from doing work for other classes.

Email Conduct:

Please **address** and **sign** all email correspondence appropriately. Typically, emails will be answered within 48 hours, although I do not always answer emails in the evening or on weekends. If you have not heard from me after 48 hours, please re-send your message: do not assume that I have received your email if you do not receive a reply.

Schedule of Readings (subject to change):

Sept 8: Welcome and introductions

Sept 13: *Conversations About Writing*, pp. 1-14

Sept 15: James Joyce, "Araby" (BIL, p. 67-72)

Sept 20: Flannery O'Connor, "A Good Man is Hard to Find" (BIL, pp.112-125)

Sept 22: Alice Munro, "Friend of My Youth" (BIL, pp.150-167)

Sept 27: Munro cont'd

Sept 29: Madeleine Thien, "Simple Recipes" (BIL, pp. 338-346)

Oct 4: Emma Donoghue, "Seven Pictures Not Taken" (BIL, pp.316-320)

Oct 6: Ali Smith, "True Short Story" (BIL, pp. 246-254)

Oct 11: Michel de Montaigne, "Of Cannibals" (BIL, pp. 1377-1390)

Oct 13: George Orwell, "Shooting an Elephant" (BIL, pp. 1426-1432)

Oct 18: David Foster Wallace, "Consider the Lobster" (BIL, pp. 1455-1471)

Oct 20: Yann Martel, *Life of Pi*

Oct 25: *Life of Pi*

Oct 27: *Life of Pi*; **Paragraphs due**

Nov 1: *Life of Pi*

Nov 3: Don McKay, "Baler Twine" (PDF on OWL)

Nov 8: **In-class analysis**

Nov 10: Don McKay; Ezra Pound; William Carlos Williams (BIL, pp. 1071-1075; 1204-1206)

Nov 15: William Shakespeare (BIL, pp. 895-897)

Nov 17: John Donne (BIL, pp. 900-903)

Nov 22: William Blake, from *Songs of Experience*; William Wordsworth, "The world is too much with us"; John Keats, "To Autumn" (BIL, pp. 962-964; 970; 988)

Nov 24: Walt Whitman (BIL, pp. 1020-1021)

Nov 29: Emily Dickinson (BIL, pp. 1024-1028)

Dec 1: Documentation and formatting review (*Rules for Writers*, pp. 458-513)

Dec 6: **Essays due**

(Winter Break. There is no mid-term exam in this course.)

Jan 5: William Butler Yeats (BIL, pp. 1060-1062)

Jan 10: Marianne Moore (BIL, pp. 1076-1077)

Jan 12: T.S. Eliot (BIL, pp.1078-1083)

Jan 17: Eliot cont'd

Jan 19: Library session

Jan 24: Tom Stoppard, *Arcadia*

Jan 26: *Arcadia*

Jan 31: *Arcadia*

Feb 2: *Arcadia*; Library assignment due

Feb 7: Hannah Moscovitch, *Essay*

Feb 9: *Essay*

Feb 14: *Essay*

Feb 16: Nicole Krauss, *Great House*

Feb 21: **READING WEEK**

Feb 23: **READING WEEK**

Feb 28: *Great House*

Mar 2: *Great House*

Mar 7: *Great House*

Mar 9: Krauss interview

Mar 14: *Conversations About Writing*, pp. 29-47

Mar 16: *Conversations About Writing*, pp. 47-52

Mar 21: Anne Simpson, *Light Falls Through You*

Mar 23: Simpson cont'd

Mar 28: Simpson cont'd; Essays due

Mar 30: Simpson cont'd

Apr 4: Final exam review

Apr 6: Course wrap-up

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:

Plagiarism is a major academic offense: see the Scholastic Offense Policy in the Academic Calendar. In sum, plagiarism includes the possession and use of unauthorized materials in examinations, giving to or obtaining from other students in an examination information, representing another student or having oneself represented by another student at an examination, submitting in one course a paper in whole or part already submitted for credit in another course, submitting a paper containing a statement of fact known by the student to be false, submitting a paper in which a reference or source has been fabricated, submitting a paper in which a quotation from another source or a borrowed idea is presented as one's own.

Borrowed ideas and ideas inspired from external sources, not just quotations, must be appropriately acknowledged. This includes borrowings from Internet sources just as it does Library sources. The documentation of your sources is an essential part of writing for university. Plagiarism charges are easy to avoid: put quotations in quotation marks and document the sources of all quotations and borrowed ideas. If you have any doubt about a particular case, I encourage you to ask me for help.

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>.

All instances of plagiarism will be reported to the Chair of Undergraduate Studies. Proven cases of plagiarism will result in a grade of zero for the assignment. Subsequent offences will result in failure for the course.

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.