

Department of English & Writing Studies

The Many Faces of Harry Potter
English 2092F (001)
Fall 2017

Instructor: Dr. Gabrielle Ceraldi
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Course Location: Somerville House 3345

Course Date/Time: Tuesday 6:30-9:30 pm

Office Hours: Tues/Thurs 2:30-3:30 pm

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 using.

Learning Objectives:

By the end of the course, the successful student will be 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.

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

Methods of Evaluation

Close Reading (750 words, due Oct. 3)	15%
Comparison Assignment 1 (750 words, due Oct. 24)	15%
Comparison Assignment 2 (750 words, due Nov. 21)	15%
Film Discussion (300 words, due Nov. 28)	10%
Attendance and Participation	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. 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/Student%20Information.html>.

Timetable:

Sept. 12: Introduction

The Actively Detecting Reader

Sept. 19: 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

Sept. 26: Elizabeth Gaskell, "The Old Nurse's Story" (on OWL)
Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets

Oct. 3: *Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban*

Close Reading Assignment Due

Oct. 10: FALL READING WEEK (no class)

Nazis and Death Eaters

Oct. 17: Markus Zusak, *The Book Thief*

Oct. 24: *Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire*

Comparison Assignment #1 Due

Dystopia

Oct. 31: George Orwell, *Nineteen Eighty-Four*

Nov. 7: *Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix*

Film

Nov. 14: *Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince*

Nov. 21: film screening (*Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince*)

Comparison Assignment #2 Due

Fairy Tale and Allegory

Nov. 28: 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

Film Discussion Due

Dec. 5: *Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows* (cont'd.) / Review

General Information:

1. Regular attendance at lectures is essential. Absenteeism can result in debarment from writing the final examination, which results in failure of the course.
2. All written assignments should be double-spaced and printed in a standard font such as 12-pt Times Roman. Please follow MLA format (see attached guidelines). Essays can be handed in during class or dropped off in the Department of English Essay Drop-Off Boxes (across from AHB 2G02). Do not leave essays under office doors. Two percent per day (including weekends) will be deducted from late essays. Extensions will be approved only with a recommendation for accommodation from an academic counsellor. No paper will be accepted after the last day of classes (Dec. 7).
3. Film Discussions: This assignment asks you to compare the film *Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince* to the book, examining the significance of a single change. The purpose is not to review the movie or assess its entertainment value, but rather to consider the meaning of one element of the story (a character, perhaps, or a single scene) and how that meaning changes in the translation from text to film.
4. 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. On the Forums board, students can post questions about the course material and/or answer questions posted by other students. Those who participate every week, either vocally or online, will achieve the highest results in this portion of the course.
5. All grades, once assigned and/or posted, are final. While formal appeal processes do exist in the Department of English and Writing Studies, grades will not be changed after the fact in response to emailed requests and/or GPA requirements, nor will the weighting of assignments be altered for individual students.

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>.

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.

Grading Rubric:

THESIS

- Is there a unifying idea in this paper?
- Is this idea specific, original, and argumentative?
- Is this idea explained clearly near the beginning of the paper?

ARGUMENT

- Does the material in this paper go beyond description to explore the implications and meaning of the text(s)?
- Have opposing ideas been acknowledged and given a convincing response?

ORGANIZATION

- Do paragraph breaks reflect a meaningful shift in topic?
- Does the opening sentence of each paragraph identify the central idea of that paragraph and its relationship to the thesis?

USE OF SOURCES

- Is there textual evidence to back up each claim in the paper?
- Is there an attention to detail (word choice, imagery, etc.) that adds intricacy to the argument?
- Are quotations integrated smoothly and cited correctly?

STYLE

- Is the writing style clear, concise, and readable, so that the focus falls on the ideas in the paper?
- Are sentences punctuated correctly?

A+ (90-100) = Excellent ("Yes, absolutely!" in all categories)

A (80-89) = Very Good ("Yes" in almost all categories)

B (70-79) = Good ("Yes" or "Somewhat" in all categories)

C (60-69) = Satisfactory ("Somewhat" in most categories OR "No" in one category)

D (50-59) = Poor ("No" in several categories)

F (49 or below) = Unsatisfactory (does not meet the requirements for the assignment)

MLA Format:

Surname 1

Your Name

Name of T.A./House

English 2092G

February 11, 2014

Wit and Wizardry

The Armchair Detective in Edgar Allan Poe's "The Purloined Letter" and
J.K. Rowling's *Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone*

If you have a snappy, attention-grabbing title, follow it with an informative subtitle that indicates your topic as well as the works you will be discussing. Titles of books should be *italicized*. Titles of articles and short stories should be put in "Quotation Marks." Introduce quotations in your own words, identifying the speaker and context: EXAMPLE: As Hermione points out, "A lot of the greatest wizards haven't got an ounce of logic" (207). Use ellipses to indicate where you have omitted words from the quotation, and put any changes in brackets: EXAMPLE: Draco opposes the admission of Muggle-borns to Hogwarts: "I really don't think they should let [Muggle-borns] in, do you? ... I think they should keep it in the old wizarding families" (61).

If the quotation is longer than four lines, do not use quotations marks; instead, indent the passage ten spaces from the left and continue to double space.

EXAMPLE: Harry sees his family for the first time in the Mirror of Erised:

They just looked at him, smiling. And slowly, Harry looked into the faces of the other people in the mirror and saw other pairs of green eyes like his, other noses like his, even a little old man who looked as though he had Harry's knobby knees – Harry was looking at his family, for the first time in his life. (153)

At the end of the essay, list all the works you have discussed or used in the preparation of your paper. Staple the top left hand corner.

Works Cited

Rowling, J.K. *Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone*. Vancouver: Raincoast Books, 1997. Print.