

Department of English & Writing Studies

**Special Topics in Popular Literature - Winter is Coming: *A Game of Thrones***  
**English 2096F (001)**  
Fall/Winter 2017

**Instructor:** John Leonard

**Course Date/Time:** Tuesday 1.30-2.20 pm,  
Thursday 1.30-3.20 pm

**Course Location:** SEB 2200

**Objectives:**

By the end of the course, successful students will be able to:

- Develop an appreciation of George R. R. Martin's fantasy fiction. Emphasis will be placed on close reading and interpretative issues and to some extent also on historical sources.
- Hone analytical and critical skills in both oral and written work.
- Develop confidence and competence in research practice.

Course Materials

**Texts (all required):** George R. R. Martin, *A Game of Thrones*, *A Clash of Kings*, *A Storm of Swords* (first THREE volumes). Buy the large editions in the bookstore since lectures will make frequent reference to page numbers

Methods of Evaluation

This class meets twice a week. Students should come to lecture prepared to participate in group discussion: read the assigned portions of the text in advance of class, and always bring the right text(s) to class.

The grade for the course will be arrived at as follows:

**ASSIGNMENTS**

In class quizzes, best 3 of 4: 5% each for total of:		15%
Short position paper (1,000 words)	DUE 24 Oct	15%
Long position paper (1,500-1,750 words)	DUE 23 Nov	25%
Class 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:**

Thursday 7 Sept. Introduction

Tuesday 12 Sept. Some Real Life Medieval Murder Mysteries

Thursday 14 Sept. A Game of Thrones as Murder Mystery

Tuesday 19 Sept. Madness, Innocence, Childhood (Viserys, Dany, Bran, Sansa, Arya)

Thursday 21 Sept. Macchiavellian Intrigue. "When you play the game of thrones, you win or you die"

Tuesday 26 Sept. Macchiavelli continued. Varys, Illyrio, Littlefinger

Thursday 28 Sept.  $R + L = J$

Tuesday 3 October. In Class Quiz followed by class discussion on A Game of Thrones

Thursday 5 October. "The Chosen One" I: Daenerys Targaryen

**STUDY WEEK**

Tuesday 17 October. "Passive" Women (Catelyn, Sansa, Lysa)

Thursday 19 October. "The Chosen One" II: Bran

Tuesday 24 October. Fathers and Sons I (Balon and Theon) **SHORT ESSAY DUE**

Thursday 26 October. King's Landing (the Court and Flea Bottom). The Hound. Bronn. Tyrion as Hand.

Tuesday 31 October. Warfare (especially Battle of Blackwater)

Thursday 2 November. Arya's Wanderings. Outlaws, Sellswords, Wildlings

Tuesday 7 November. Jon Snow and the Night's Watch—and Ygritte

Thursday 9 November. Jaime. "There are no men like me. There's only me"

Tuesday 14 November. The Red Wedding

Thursday 16 November. Daenerys and the East

Tuesday 21 November. The Purple Wedding

Thursday 23 November. Disability and heroism **LONG ESSAY DUE**

Tuesday 28 November. Religions of Westeros (and Essos)

Thursday 30 November. Fathers and Sons II (Tywin and Tyrion).  $A + J = T?$

Tuesday 5 December. Who will sit on the Iron Throne?

Thursday 7 December. Who will sit on the Iron Throne? (continued) Conclusions

Additional Information

Regular attendance is expected and will inevitably have an influence on participation grades (since if you do not attend class, it will be very difficult to participate). Participation grades can also be enhanced by contributing messages to the OWL forum (once I have set it up). Laptops are permitted if there is an academic need for them (they can be useful for quickly accessing material relevant to the course), but Facebook and texting in class will not be tolerated. Sorry to have to say this. It should never need to be said, but I have learned from experience that it does sometimes need to be said.

**Late Paper Policy:**

Late assignments. If you submit a paper after the due date but within two weeks of it, the paper will be counted as late and the following procedures will apply:

- The paper will not be read until all the assignments handed in on time have been read and returned (all papers are read in order of receipt).
- The paper will be read and a grade given, but NO COMMENTS OR CORRECTIONS will be made on it.
- The grade will be reduced by a penalty of two marks (2%) for each calendar day that it is late.

Note that when a paper is late, every day counts (including weekends); however the arrangements for date-stamping essays in the Department of English essay box are accepted for late essays.

PAPERS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED IF SUBMITTED MORE THAN TWO WEEKS AFTER THE DUE DATE UNLESS PRIOR ARRANGEMENTS HAVE BEEN MADE.

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](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](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](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.