

Department of English & Writing Studies  
**The Storyteller's Art II: Topics in Narrative**  
**English 1028G (001)**  
Winter 2019

**Instructor:** Dr. Gabrielle Ceraldi  
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**Office Hours:** Tues./Thurs. | 1:30-2:30 pm

**Course Date/Time:** Tuesdays and  
Thursdays: 12:30-1:30 pm

**Course Location:** [See Master Timetable](#)

**Antirequisite(s):** English 1024E, English 1036E.

**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

Since the time of Jane Austen, literary excellence has been associated with realism. The nomination lists for major literary awards are often dominated by texts characterized by realistic settings, complex characters, and an attention to the small details that make up the fabric of ordinary life. This cultural bias towards realism can be seen even in the Academy Awards, which usually honour serious dramas while overlooking blockbuster fantasies like *The Lord of the Rings*. Nevertheless, in recent years the cultural landscape has come to be dominated by the fantasy genre: ranging from the *Harry Potter* series to the post-apocalyptic fantasy *The Road*, fantasy novels have become increasingly central to the way we tell our stories, examine our politics, and think about our future. This course will examine the dominance of realism by looking not only at realist novels but also at texts that feature characters who are themselves authors (or artists) struggling with the demands of realism. What are the inner motivations – and outward pressures – that drive an author to write in the realist mode? We will also examine the appeal of fantasy by looking at texts that foreground their reasons for rejecting the restrictions of realism.

#### **Learning Objectives:**

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

- Recognize how the conventions of storytelling operate across a variety of genres including short stories, the gothic novel, the realist novel, and dystopian fiction;
- Identify and analyze the basic elements of literature such as plot, character, point of view, theme, setting, imagery, diction, tone, and figures of speech;
- 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;
- Document essays using MLA format.

### Course Materials

#### **Required Texts:**

Jane Austen. *Northanger Abbey*. Oxford. ISBN-10: 019953554X

Charlotte Brontë. *Jane Eyre*. Oxford. ISBN-10: 0199535590

Dodie Smith. *I Capture the Castle*. St. Martin's Griffin. ISBN-10: 0312201656

Ian McEwan. *Atonement*. Vintage. ISBN 0676974562

Cormac McCarthy. *The Road*. Vintage. ISBN 978-0307387899

Aldous Huxley. *Brave New World*. Vintage. ISBN 9780307356543.

Cherie Dimaline. *The Marrow Thieves*. Cormorant Books. ISBN-13: 978-1-77086-486-3

Headrick, Paul. *A Method for Writing Essays about Literature*. Nelson. ISBN-13: 978-0176508609

### Methods of Evaluation

Essay #1 (1000 words, due Feb. 14)	25%
Essay #2 (1500 words, due Mar. 21)	30%
Tutorial Grade	10%
Final Exam	35%

### **General Information**

1. All essays should be double-spaced and typewritten or printed in a standard font. Please follow MLA format (see attached guidelines). Essays should be handed in during class or dropped off in the Department of English Essay Drop-Off Boxes (UC TBA). Do not leave essays under office doors.
2. 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.
3. The Tutorial Grade, which will be assigned by your tutorial leader, will reflect your presence at tutorial and your participation in discussions and exercises.

### **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)

**Sample of MLA Format:**

Surname 1

Your Name

Name of Tutorial Leader

English 1028G

October 26, 2011

Romance Conventions in Jane Austen's *Pride and Prejudice*

If you have a snappy, attention-grabbing title, follow it with an informative subtitle that indicates your topic as well as the work(s) you will be discussing (EXAMPLE: Passion and Propriety: Romance Conventions in Jane Austen's *Pride and Prejudice*). 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: According to Miss Bingley, "Miss Eliza Bennet ... despises cards. She is a great reader and has no pleasure in anything else" (32). Use ellipses to indicate where you have omitted material. Put any changes in brackets: EXAMPLE: Elizabeth replies by claiming that she "ha[s] pleasure in many things" (32).

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: Austen is careful to inform readers of her characters' income and position:

Mr. Bennet's property consisted almost entirely in an estate of two thousand a year, which, unfortunately for his daughters, was entailed in default of heirs male, on a distant relation; and their mother's fortune, though ample for her situation in life, could but ill supply the deficiency of his. (23)

Note that the end punctuation goes **after** the parentheses in short quotations and **before** the parentheses in long quotations. Do not use abbreviations such as p. or pp. 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

Austen, Jane. *Pride and Prejudice*. Oxford UP, 1998.

### Timetable

Jan. 8: Introduction  
Jan. 10: Robert Browning, "Fra Lippo Lippi" (on OWL)

### **Gothic, Fairy Tale, Realism**

Jan. 15, 17: Jane Austen, *Northanger Abbey*  
Jan. 22, 24, 29, 31: Charlotte Brontë, *Jane Eyre*  
Feb. 5: Charlotte Perkins Gilman, "The Yellow Wallpaper" (in *A Method for Writing Essays about Literature*)

### **The Writer**

Feb. 7, 12, 14: Dodie Smith, *I Capture the Castle*  
Feb. 18-22: **Reading Week (no classes)**  
Feb. 26, 28, Mar. 5, 7: Ian McEwan, *Atonement*

### **Dystopia**

Mar. 12, 14, 19, 21: Aldous Huxley, *Brave New World*  
Mar. 26, 28: Cormac McCarthy, *The Road*  
Apr. 2, 4: Cherie Dimaline, *The Marrow Thieves*  
Apr. 9: review

### 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.