

Department of English & Writing Studies

History of Theory & Criticism

English 2200F (001)

Fall 2019

Instructor: Prof. M.H. McMurrin

Course Date/Time: M 2:30-4:30/W 2:30-3:30

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

Antirequisites: [English 2235A/B](#) (Huron)

Prerequisites: At least 60% in 1.0 of English 1020-1999 or permission of the Department.

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

This course introduces you to some of the most influential ideas in the arts from antiquity to the nineteenth century. We aim to understand crucial and contentious issues such as the charge that literature is a "lie"; the question of beauty; the role of the poet; the importance of literary "tradition" and more. We will analyze the arguments made by the authors and put these authors and their works in their social and historical contexts.

Objectives:

By the end of the course, successful students will:

- Acquire or develop critical thinking skills: we will be analyzing philosophical arguments including the main points, as well as suppositions and implications; look closely at how claims are made and what purchase they have.
- apply theoretical approaches to primary texts or examples
- situate one's own ideas within the context of an existing critical discussion
- engage in class discussions, respond to peers and lecture, and draw on textual evidence to support points while speaking

Course Materials

No required texts. Copies will be provided.

Methods of Evaluation

All tests will be essay format. You will be graded on the quality of your ideas and expression.	
Midterm test 1 (take home)	30%
Midterm test 2 (in class, open book)	35%
Final examination during exam period	35%

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>.

Additional Information

Attendance Policy:

Your final grade, as a whole, will be adversely affected by more than three absences per term (two 2-hour classes and one 1-hour class).

In order to do well, you must do all the reading. Any student who, after due warning via email or in person has missed a significant number of classes, may be asked not to take the final examination. You must have a passing grade on the term work in order to take the final. You must pass the term work and the final exam to pass the course.

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.

Timetable

(subject to revision)

Sept. 9/11	Introduction; Plato, <i>The Republic</i> (from Book III and Book X)
Sept. 16/18	Aristotle, <i>Poetics</i>
Sept. 23/25	Horace, <i>Ars Poetica</i> ; Sir Philip Sidney, <i>The Defence of Poesy</i>
Sept. 30/Oct. 2	Longinus, from <i>On Sublimity</i> ; Joseph Addison, <i>Spectator</i> 412 [On the Sublime] Small group session: Interpreting Sappho fragment
Oct. 7/9	Test Review; David Hume, "Of the Standard of Taste"
Oct. 14/16	Thanksgiving 10/14; David Hume, "Of the Standard of Taste" (cont'd)
Take-home test due Oct. 18 Submit to OWL by 11:55 pm	
Oct. 21/23	Immanuel Kant, from <i>The Critique of the Power of Judgement</i>
Oct. 28/30	Immanuel Kant, from <i>The Critique of the Power of Judgement</i> (cont'd)
Nov. 4/6	Fall Reading Week
Nov. 11/13	Test Review; William Wordsworth, Preface to <i>Lyrical Ballads</i> ; Percy Shelley "Defense of Poetry"
Nov. 18/20	Nov 18 Midterm 2 (in class, open book); no make-up tests; Friedrich Von Schiller, <i>On the Aesthetic Education of Man</i>
Nov. 25/27	Charles Baudelaire, from <i>Modern Painter</i>
Dec. 2/4	Friedrich Nietzsche, from <i>The Birth of Tragedy</i>

Final Examination (TBA during Exam Period December 8-19)

Land Acknowledgment: Western University is situated on the traditional territories of the Anishinaabeg, Haudenosaunee, Lunaapeewak and Attawandaron peoples, who have longstanding relationships to the land and region of southwestern Ontario and the City of London. The local First Nation communities of this area include Chippewas of the Thames First Nation, Oneida Nation of the Thames, and Munsee Delaware Nation. In the region, there are eleven First Nation communities and a growing Indigenous urban population. Western values the significant historical and contemporary contributions of local and regional First Nations and all of the Original peoples of Turtle Island (North America).