

Department of English & Writing Studies  
**Understanding Literature Today: Isolation and Desire**  
**English 1020E (002)**  
Fall/Winter 2020-21

**Instructor:** Dr. Jo Devereux  
[jdevereu@uwo.ca](mailto:jdevereu@uwo.ca)  
UC 4433  
Office Hours: TBA

**Delivery Type:** Online

Lectures will be delivered online via Zoom.  
Some tutorials will be live in person and  
some live via Zoom.

**Antirequisites:** English 1022E, English 1035E.

**Prerequisites:** 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.



\*The picture is *Still Life with Books in a Niche*, fragment of the left wing of the *Aix Annunciation Triptych*, c. 1442 – 1445, by Barthelmy d'Eyk (fl. 1444-1469), courtesy Wikimedia Commons.

### Course Description

This course will focus on English literature's relationship to the ideas of isolation and desire. With this focus on mind, we will analyze works that deal extensively with human beings in circumstances of isolation from others in the world and that express desire for connection, community, and affirmation. The outcast, the lonely, the frustrated, the alienated, and the exiled will figure in the readings we examine. We will begin the course by looking at versification and various forms and genres of poetry and then move on to drama and fiction, so that we can trace articulations of isolation and desire over several centuries and in many different forms of English literature. In class and tutorials, we will cover research skills, including how to research and write effective MLA undergraduate essays in English. Most importantly, students will learn how to construct persuasive arguments about the texts we will be reading together.

**Objectives:**

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

- Develop an appreciation of literature that unites historical observation and literary analysis;
- Build a critical reading of a text and write essays that have an effective thesis and a logical argument supported by evidence from the text(s);
- Engage in research and properly document their essays using the MLA guidelines;
- Converse in the language of the discipline, using literary terms and concepts, both in written and oral forms.

Course Materials (all Broadview books are Digital PDFs, available at Western Bookstore)

Austen, Jane. *Persuasion* (1817) Broadview

Bronte, Charlotte. *Jane Eyre* (1847) Broadview

*The Broadview Anthology of British Literature: One-Volume Compact Edition* (2015) Broadview

Douglass, Frederick. *Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass, an American Slave* (1845) Broadview

Hall, Radclyffe. *The Well of Loneliness* (1928) Online through Western libraries

Assignments and Exams (Instructions tbd):

Essay1: 10%

Essay 2: 10%

Essay 3: 20%

Essay 4: 25%

Final Exam: 35%

Students are fully responsible for looking at and being familiar with the information posted on the department website at <https://www.uwo.ca/english/undergraduate/Student%20Information.html>.

General Information

**Attendance:**

Regular attendance is expected for all classes. Absenteeism may result in debarment from the final exam and, thus, failure of the course.

**Essay Policy:**

All overdue essays will receive a penalty of 1% per day late, including weekends and holidays.

Essays must follow current MLA format (MLA 8) and must include a list of Works Cited at the end (see *MLA formatting* under Resources on OWL for details).

Essays must be on works studied in this section of the course.  
Submit your essays as an attachment in Word on OWL.

### Academic Consideration for Missed Work

Students who are temporarily unable to meet academic requirements (e.g. attending lectures or labs, writing tests or midterm exams, completing and submitting assignments, participating in presentations) may submit a self-reported absence form online (available on your Student Center) provided that the absence is 48 hours or less and the other conditions specified in the Senate policy are met. Students can self-report only two absences per academic year. See policy here:

[https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic\\_policies/appeals/Academic\\_Consideration\\_for\\_absences.pdf](https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/Academic_Consideration_for_absences.pdf).

Students whose absences are expected to last longer than 48 hours, or where the other conditions detailed in the policy are not met (e.g., work is worth more than 30% of the final grade, the student has already used 2 self-reported absences, the absence is during the final exam period), may receive academic consideration by submitting a Student Medical Certificate (for illness) or other appropriate documentation (for compassionate grounds) to Academic Counselling. Academic accommodation cannot be granted by the instructor or department. The Student Medical Certificate is available online at [https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic\\_policies/appeals/medicalform.pdf](https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/medicalform.pdf).

All students pursuing academic consideration, regardless of type, must contact their instructors no less than 24 hours following the end of the period of absence to clarify how they will be expected to fulfill the academic responsibilities missed during their absence. Students are reminded that they should consider carefully the implications of postponing tests or midterm exams or delaying submission of work, and are encouraged to make appropriate decisions based on their specific circumstances.

Students who have conditions for which academic accommodation is appropriate, such as disabilities or ongoing or chronic health conditions, should work with Accessible Education Services to determine appropriate forms of accommodation.

### 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.

#### Timetable

Week beginning / Readings (BA = *Broadview Anthology*; BE = Broadview Edition; R = linked in Resources)

#### **Fall term 2020**

- |         |                                                                                             |
|---------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Sept.9  | Introduction (no readings yet)                                                              |
| Sept.14 | Versification: the sonnet (BA)                                                              |
| Sept.21 | More sonnets and elegies (BA)                                                               |
| Sept.28 | Narrative poem: <i>Sir Gawain and the Green Knight</i> (late 14 <sup>th</sup> century) (BA) |
| Oct.5   | Medieval drama: <i>Everyman</i> (late 15 <sup>th</sup> century) (BA)                        |
| Oct.12  | Early modern drama: <i>Dr. Faustus</i> (A Text) (first printed 1604) (BA)                   |
| Oct.19  | Early modern drama: <i>Dr. Faustus</i> (A Text) (BA); <b>Essay 1 Due</b>                    |
| Oct.26  | Shakespearean drama: <i>Twelfth Night</i> (written c. 1601) (BA) (R)                        |
| Nov.2   | FALL READING WEEK: NO CLASS                                                                 |
| Nov.9   | Shakespearean drama: <i>Twelfth Night</i> (BA) (R)                                          |
| Nov.16  | Donne, "The Flea," "A Valediction: Forbidding Mourning" (1633) (BA)                         |
| Nov.23  | Phillips, "A Married State" (1646); Smith, Elegiac Sonnets 44, 70, 74 (1784) (BA)           |
| Nov.30  | Romantics: Blake, <i>Songs of Innocence and of Experience</i> (1789) (BA)                   |
| Dec.7   | Review; <b>Essay 2 Due</b>                                                                  |

**Winter Term 2021**

|         |                                                                                   |
|---------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Jan.4   | Wordsworth, "Tintern Abbey" (1798); "The Solitary Reaper" (1807) (BA)             |
| Jan. 11 | Austen, <i>Persuasion</i> (1817) (BE)                                             |
| Jan.18  | Austen, <i>Persuasion</i> (1817) (BE)                                             |
| Jan.25  | Keats, "Ode on a Grecian Urn," "To Autumn," "Ode to a Nightingale" (1819) (BA)    |
| Feb.1   | Tennyson, "Mariana," "Lady of Shalott," "Ulysses" (1830) (BA); <b>Essay 3 Due</b> |
| Feb.8   | Bronte, <i>Jane Eyre</i> (1847) (BE)                                              |
| Feb.15  | READING WEEK                                                                      |
| Feb.22  | Bronte, <i>Jane Eyre</i> (1847) (BE)                                              |
| Mar.1   | Douglass, <i>Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass</i> (1845) (BE)          |
| Mar.8   | Douglass, <i>Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass</i> (1845) (BE)          |
| Mar.15  | Frances Harper, poems (1854) (R); C. Rossetti, poems (1847-1881) (BA)             |
| Mar.22  | Mansfield, "The Garden Party" (1921) (BA)                                         |
| Mar.29  | Hall, <i>The Well of Loneliness</i> (1928) (R); <b>Essay 4 Due</b>                |
| Apr.5   | Post Modern Poetry: Atwood poems (BA)                                             |

We acknowledge that Western University is located on the traditional lands of the Anishinaabek, Haudenosaunee, Lūnaapéewak and Attawandaron peoples, on lands connected with the London Township and Sombra Treaties of 1796 and the Dish with One Spoon Covenant Wampum. We respect the longstanding relationships that Indigenous Nations have to this land, as they are the original caretakers.