



Western Arts & Humanities

Department of English and Writing Studies English 1020E: Understanding Literature Today

Course outline for 2020/2021



Although this academic year might be different, Western University is committed to a **thriving campus**. We encourage you to check out the [Digital Student Experience](#) website to manage your academics and well-being. Additionally, the following link provides available resources to support students on and off campus: <https://www.uwo.ca/health/>.

1. Technical Requirements Suggested:



Stable internet connection



Laptop or computer



Working microphone



Working webcam

Students can call into Collaborate and Zoom sessions if they are experiencing technical difficulties.

2. Course Overview and Important Dates:



Delivery Mode	Dates	Time
While some class material will be online, please be available for class lectures on OWL via Collaborate and Zoom on Tuesdays.	T. Class Collaborate/ Zoom discussions	5:30-7:15
	Tutorials – in class or on Zoom	7:30-8:20PM
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*Details about design and delivery of the course are listed below in Section 4

Classes Start	Reading Weeks	Classes End	Study day(s)	Exam Period
September 9	November 2 - 8	December 9	December 10	December 11 - 22
January 4	February 13 - 21	April 5	April 6 and 7	April 8 - 30

*November 30, 2020: Last day to drop a full course and full-year half course without penalty

3. Contact Information



Course Instructor	Contact Information
Dr. Michelle Hartley	mhartley@uwo.ca Zoom office hours address found below

Sign into the Read Me First file on OWL for more information!

4. Course Description:

This course takes you on a journey through the genres, historical periods, and critical approaches to English literature. In online lectures and online discussions, you will study major works of poetry, prose, and drama with attention to their use of literary form and the cultural contexts in which they were written. The written assignments for the course will provide you with training in literary analysis, logical and rhetorical argumentation, and strong skills in grammar and composition.

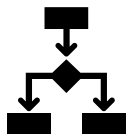
This course is recommended to students who may be considering either a Major or Minor in English Language and Literature, and who are interested in reading poetry, prose, and drama.

Prerequisite: Grade 12U English or permission of the Department.

Course Delivery:

Students need to read the primary material listed in the timetable each week in time for the delivery of synchronous lecture/assignment/tutorials on Tuesdays. Synchronous lectures and group discussions on Tuesdays that will be held on OWL via Zoom and Collaborate. Students should read ahead during weeks with light reading as some novels like *Northanger Abbey* tend to take far more time.

Mode	Dates	Time	Frequency
Online synchronous	Tuesdays	5:30-7:15	weekly
Online or in-person synchronous tutorials	Tuesdays	7:30-8:20	weekly
Virtual asynchronous	N/A	At least 5-6 hours	weekly



- Asynchronous pre-work should be completed prior to synchronous sessions. Reading the course texts, novels, plays, and shorter works is vital to participation and knowledge of the course material. We will be discussing and analyzing the texts assuming that you have read the material so that story synopsis will not be given.
- Participation and engagement at synchronous lecture sessions is highly recommended. Participation and engagement in tutorial is mandatory. Naturally, if you're ill, stay home, and catch up via Discussion forums, etc. Contact your Tutorial Leader in case of absence.
- Missed work should be completed within 48 hours. Missed lectures can be reviewed from powerpoint/word files; then answer questions on the forums. Forum discussion should demonstrate good knowledge of the texts and include pertinent quotations as evidence.
- A recording or powerpoint/word file lecture notes will be provided for synchronous sessions, but this does not take the place of participation.

All course material will be posted to OWL: <http://owl.uwo.ca>. Any changes to the syllabus will be indicated on the OWL site and announced to the class. Please ensure that you are forwarding announcements from OWL to your regular email. I will frequently update the class and send reminders using this method.

If students need assistance, they can seek support on the [OWL Help page](#). Alternatively, they can contact the [Western Technology Services Helpdesk](#). They can be contacted by phone at 519-661-3800 or ext. 83800.

[Google Chrome](#) or [Mozilla Firefox](#) are the preferred browsers to optimally use OWL; update your browsers frequently. Students interested in evaluating their internet speed, please click [here](#).

5. Learning Outcomes

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

- Identify and analyze basic elements of literature, such as plot, character, point of view, theme, setting, imagery, diction, tone, figures of speech, syntax, and rhythm
- Recognize connections between course texts
- Write an essay about a work (or works) of literature, containing a clear and effective thesis supported by adequate evidence from the original text(s)
- Research critical commentary on literary works
- Evaluate the relevance, reliability, and usefulness of research sources, especially those obtained through the Internet
- Integrate outside research materials and references to the original text(s) into an essay through the use of quotations and paraphrases
- Organize and present ideas clearly and effectively in writing
- Document essays using MLA format



6. How to Be Successful in this Class:

Students enrolled in this class should understand the level of autonomy and self-discipline required to be successful.

1. Invest in a planner or application to keep track of your courses. Falling behind will put more pressure on you, so try to stay on top of course readings.
2. Make it a daily habit to log onto OWL to ensure you have seen everything posted to help you succeed in this class. Be sure to check announcements. Be sure to post to forums before the end of the week. The forums are for the class, not just the individual, so late posts will only receive partial marks.
3. Take notes as you go through the lesson material. Treat this course as you would a face-to-face course. Keeping handwritten notes or even notes on a regular Word document will help you learn more effectively than just reading or watching the videos.
4. Connect with others. Try forming an online study group and try meeting on a weekly basis for study and peer support.
5. Do not be afraid to ask questions. If you are struggling with a topic, check the online discussion boards or contact me. That's what my office hours and your TAs are for!



7. Online Participation and Engagement



- Students are expected to participate and engage with content as much as possible
- Students can participate during live sessions or post on the OWL forums after reading/viewing course material in case of occasional absences

8. Course Content and Schedule * (also found in Lectures by Week on OWL)

Week	Dates	Topic – Tentative schedule there could be changes.
1	Sept 15	Introduction to the course Margaret Laurence, " Where the World Began " and the difference between fiction, fact, and truth
2	Sept 22	Milton, Paradise Lost from Book 4 Approaching poetry
3	Sept 29	Frost, " Design " and " Birches ", Page, " Planet Earth ": Discussion of prosody and poetry's "Music"
4	Oct 6	Wordsworth, " Tintern Abbey ", Thomas, " The Force that through the Green Fuse Drives the Flower " (OWL)
5	Oct 13	Austen, Northanger Abbey ; "Plot and Character" – Tutorial: Paragraphs and Evidence
6	Oct 20	Austen, Northanger Abbey cont'd
7	Oct 27	Keats, " Ode on a Grecian Urn " and Rossetti, " In an Artist's Studio "
8	Nov 3	Art and Life: Avison, " Snow ", Walker, " Everyday Use " (OWL); "Themes"
	Nov 10	Reading Week
9	Nov 17	Blake, " London ", Lampman, " The City of the End of Things " and TBA
10	Nov 24	LeGuin, "The Ones Who Walk Away from Omelas" and Page, "Unless the Eye Catch Fire" (OWL)
11	Dec 1	Midterm from 5:30-6:30 – no tutorials begin to study Shakespeare's "A Midsummer Night's Dream" via the lecture posted on OWL the midterm
12	Dec 8	Shakespeare, "A Midsummer Night's Dream" cont'd
13	Jan 5	Shakespeare, " Sonnet 18 ," " Sonnet 73 ," and " Sonnet 130 "; Millay, " I Being Born a Woman and Distressed "
14	Jan 12	Burns, "My Love is Like a Red, Red Rose," Atwood, "Variations on the Word Love," and Faulkner, "A Rose for Emily" (OWL)
15	Jan 19	Browning, " My Last Duchess " and Eliot, " The Love Song of J. Alfred Prufrock "
16	Jan 26	Donne, " A Valediction: Forbidding Mourning " and " The Flea ", Thomas, " Do Not Go Gentle into that Good Night ," Yeats, " When You Are Old "
17	Feb 2	Larsen, <i>Passing</i> – see bookstore.uwo.ca
18	Feb 9	<i>Passing</i> cont'd
	Feb 16	Reading Week
19	Feb 23	Gilman, "The Yellow Wallpaper" (OWL)
20	Mar 2	Heaney, "Digging," "Punishment" and "Bog Queen" (OWL)
21	Mar 9	Barnes, excerpt from <i>A History of the World in 10 ½ Chapters</i> (OWL)
22	Mar 16	King, <i>Green Grass, Running Water</i> – see bookstore.uwo.ca
23	Mar 23	<i>Green Grass, Running Water</i> cont'd
24	Mar 30	Catch-up and Review

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9. Office Hours:



My office hours will be held remotely using Zoom at the following address: <https://westernuniversity.zoom.us/j/3504723635?pwd=Q0tLc1BkOTc4U3I6YmRWSnlORTIxUT09>

I will send out an invite via OWL announcement/email in the first week. I will be available Thursdays 9:30-11:30AM or by appointment.

I will be happy to answer questions about the readings, the assignments, and course content in

those hours. Schedule a more private session for more individual issues.

10. Evaluation

Below is the evaluation breakdown for the course. Any deviations will be communicated.

COMPONENT	WEIGHT	DUE DATE	Details
Tutorial grade	15%	Weekly attendance and participation	as per TA instructions
Essay 1	15%	Oct 27	1000 words
Midterm Test	10%	Dec 1	1 hour
MLA Research Bibliography	5%	March 2	Brief annotations for each academic source
Essay 2	20%	March 16	2000 words
Understanding Literature Reflection	5%	March 30	500 words
Final Exam	30%	TBA	3 hours



- All assignments are due at 7:30 pm EST in time for tutorials unless otherwise specified
- Written assignments will be submitted to Turnitin (statement in policies below)
- Read assignment sheets carefully and submit any questions to the Forum
- After an assessment is returned, students should wait 24 hours to digest feedback before contacting TAs or me; to ensure a timely response, reach out within 7 days

The table below outlines the University-wide grade descriptors.

A+	90-100	One could scarcely expect better from a student at this level
A	80-89	Superior work which is clearly above average
B	70-79	Good work, meeting all requirements, and eminently satisfactory
C	60-69	Competent work, meeting requirements
D	50-59	Fair work, minimally acceptable
F	below 50	Fail

Information about late or missed evaluations:

- Late assessments without illness self-reports will be subject to a late penalty 1%/day
- Late assessments with illness self-reports should be submitted within 24 hours of submission of the last illness self-report
- An assessment cannot be submitted after it has been returned to the class; an alternate assessment will be assigned OR the weight will be transferred to the final research paper depending upon circumstance. Shorter assignments are designed to prepare students for later assignments.

11. Communication:



- Students should check the OWL site every 24 – 48 hours
- A weekly update will be provided on the OWL announcements on Mondays
- Students should email me for non-course related questions that cannot be answered by your TA at mhartley@uwo.ca
- I will try to respond to email in 24 – 48 hours during the week
- This course will use the OWL forum for post-lecture and assignment discussions
- Students should post all course-related content on the discussion forum so that everyone can access answers to questions
- The discussion forums will be monitored daily during the week, but my “participation” tends to take the form of prodding questions, so the majority of the discussion is peer-driven unless you send a specific query to me. Post questions to the question forum. Students will need to finish posting to the forums before the following lecture, Tuesdays at 4PM to receive credit for missed participation.

12. Resources



- As a literature class, there are many required texts. I have linked to free online editions where possible as you will see in the underlined hyperlinks in the schedule above. Please buy the more recent texts as soon as possible via bookstore.uwo.ca or ascertain their availability at your local library.
- While I will post writing resources on your MLA and Writing sites tab on OWL, buying a writing handbook with up to date MLA guidelines, etc. is advised. I like *The Little Seagull Handbook*.
- Lecture material may include links to websites. If there is a problem with a link, please let me know immediately.

13. Professionalism & Privacy:



Western students are expected to follow the [Student Code of Conduct](#). Additionally, the following expectations and professional conduct apply to this course:

- Students are expected to follow online etiquette expectations provided on OWL
- All course materials created by the instructor(s) are copyrighted and cannot be sold/shared
- Recordings are not permitted (audio or video) without explicit permission
- Permitted recordings are not to be distributed
- All recorded sessions will remain within the course site or unlisted if streamed, and I will warn the class before I begin recording.