

Department of English & Writing Studies

**Understanding Literature Today**  
**English 1020E (650)**  
Summer 2022

**Instructor:** Dr. Kate Stanley

**Contact:** [kstanle4@uwo.ca](mailto:kstanle4@uwo.ca) (See Communication & Appointments below)

**Office Hours:** <https://calendly.com/kate-stanley>

Course Description

This course takes you on a journey through various 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.

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

**Objectives:**

Students who complete the course successfully 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 secondary research materials and references to the original text(s) into an essay;
- Organize and present ideas clearly and effectively in writing;
- Document essays using MLA Style.

## Course Materials

I recommend using the following editions of each book so that we all have the same page numbers (available at the Western Bookstore):

[https://bookstore.uwo.ca/textbook-search?campus=UWO&term=B2022&courses%5B0%5D=650\\_UW/ENG1020E](https://bookstore.uwo.ca/textbook-search?campus=UWO&term=B2022&courses%5B0%5D=650_UW/ENG1020E)

1. Austen, Jane. *Northanger Abbey*. Ed. Claire Grogan. Peterborough: Broadview, 2002.
2. Larsen, Nella. *Passing*. New York: Modern Library-Random House, 2002.
3. Martel, Yann. *Life of Pi*. Toronto: Vintage, 2002.
4. Shakespeare, William. *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. New York: Simon & Schuster, 2016. (other editions from reputable publishers such as Penguin or Pelican are fine)
5. Custom Course Pack - available for order from the UWO Bookstore:  
**SKU: M10049**
6. A current writing handbook is strongly recommended, such as *The Little Seagull Handbook*. The online version has interactive exercises that provide immediate feedback for students and target problem areas. They are useful for those wishing to improve their writing.

## Methods of Evaluation

COMPONENT	WEIGHT	DUE DATE	LENGTH
Academic Integrity Unit	Mandatory	May 20	90 minutes
Discussion Forum Participation	15%	2 discussion posts per unit (see "Timetable")	100-250 words per post
Essay 1	15%	June 3	1000 words
Online Midterm Test	10%	June 21-22	1 hour – completed through OWL
Essay 2	25%	July 22	2000 words
Discussion Reflection	5%	June 30	500 words
Online Final Exam	30%	TBA - within Exam Period: August 2-5	3 hours – completed through OWL

## **Class Format**

Each week you will be responsible for reading the assigned text(s), the associated lecture, and the discussion postings of your peers (under "Forum" tab). You are expected to contribute to the class Forum at least twice a week.

***Detailed guidelines for all course components (including essays, exams, Discussion Forum Participation, and Academic Integrity Unit) will be posted under the "Assignments" tab.***

## **Communication & Appointments**

Check the “Announcements” tab on OWL regularly and look out for course emails. To ask questions or to discuss issues that may arise, contact me through the “Messages” tab by sending an email to “Instructor Role.” ***Remember to tick the box next to “Send a copy of this message to recipients’ email address(es).”***

I try to respond to emails within 24 hours during the week, 48 hours on weekends or holidays. Answers to many administrative questions can be found in this Syllabus, “Assignment” tab, and in the “Learner Resources” tab. Please check there first.

Email is best for short questions; if your questions require more involved responses please sign up for a Zoom appointment using the following link:  
<https://calendly.com/kate-stanley>

## **Academic Integrity Unit**

All students are required to enroll in and complete the Centre for Teaching and Learning’s Academic Integrity Tutorial. To access the tutorial, please use the link provided in “Learner Resources” > “Academic Resources” in the course OWL site. Once the tutorial has been completed, you will receive a downloadable certificate. You must upload the certificate and submit it through the OWL “Assignments” tab in order to complete this assignment. The tutorial must be completed by Friday in the second week of term. (May 20<sup>th</sup>) This tutorial is mandatory in order for you to complete and pass the course. See instructions for where to find the unit, and where to upload your certificate on the OWL “Assignments” tab.

## **Essays**

Essays must comply with MLA (Modern Languages Association) citation style guidelines. The UWO Library explains the basics of MLA formatting (drawing on the 7<sup>th</sup> edition of the MLA Style Guide. You can also use the 8<sup>th</sup> edition guidelines):  
<http://www.lib.uwo.ca/files/styleguides/MLA.pdf>

You will find a link to this document in the “Academic Resources” folder through the “Learner Resources” tab. You will see why when you have completed the Academic Integrity Tutorial (see “Assignments”).

This helpful interactive introduction to research at Western Libraries is worth exploring in preparation for your essays:  
<https://storymaps.arcgis.com/collections/48c0ba0ea5d84e468c26d16ae84f5c4e>

Essay topics and guidelines will be posted under the “Assignments” tab, where you will also upload your assignments for grading. To submit your essay upload an attachment via OWL. It is your responsibility to ensure your paper has been uploaded properly.

You’ll find extra help on specific aspects of essay writing and tons of handouts through the Writing Support Centre site:  
[http://www.sdc.uwo.ca/writing/online\\_writing\\_lab/writing\\_resources.html](http://www.sdc.uwo.ca/writing/online_writing_lab/writing_resources.html)

## **Late Policy**

Essays and other assignments are to be submitted via the OWL "Assignments" tab by the due dates listed above (and on the course Timetable). Assignments sent as email attachments will not be accepted.

Papers handed in late without prior permission will be deducted 5% per day late, including weekends. Essays submitted more than one week after the due date has passed will not be accepted without academic accommodation. Late essays will forfeit instructor feedback.

## **University Policies & Resources**

***Please note that instructors cannot grant accommodation or extensions.*** If you have a medical or personal emergency please see the "Academic Accommodation" section below. Extensions will not be granted for computer or upload problems. For English Department regulations governing term work, faculty office hours, academic relief (appeals, petitions, complaints), and other matters, please consult the "Undergraduate Student Information" section on the English Department website at: <https://www.uwo.ca/english/undergraduate/Student%20Information.html>

### 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.

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 Western and 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 for a complete list of options about how to obtain help:

<http://www.uwo.ca/uwocom/mentalhealth/>

## ENG 1020 Timetable

We will be covering one full unit per week (which means we move through a year-long course in 12 weeks).

\*OR = "OWL Readings" located under "Course Content" tab

\*CP = Course Pack: these readings are under "OWL Readings" as well, but those of you who prefer to read on paper (which can be preferable for highlighting and taking notes) can also purchase a hard copy as a course pack from the Western Bookstore.

\*EL = *Elements of Literature*: In past summers this course used a textbook called *Elements of Literature*, which has now been discontinued. Scanned pdfs of excerpts from this text are under "OWL Readings."

### UNIT 1: CREATION STORIES

---

#### **1.1: May 9-11**

Laurence, "Where the World Began" (OWL Readings/Course Pack)  
*Elements of Literature*: "Fiction, Fact, and Truth" (OR)  
Discussion 1.1

#### **1.2: May 12-14**

Milton, *Paradise Lost*, from Book 4 (OR/CP)  
EL: "Approaching a Poem" (OR)  
Discussion 1.2

\*Discussion forum for Unit 1 locks on **Monday, May 16 at 12:00 pm EST**

### UNIT 2: THE NATURAL WORLD

---

#### **2.1: May 16-18**

Frost, "Design" and "Birches" (OR),  
Page, "Planet Earth" (OR/CP)  
EL: "Reading Poetry: Music" (OR)  
Discussion 2.1

#### **2.2: May 19-21**

Wordsworth, "Tintern Abbey" (OR)  
Thomas, "The Force that through the Green Fuse Drives the Flower" (OR)  
EL: "Description and Meditation" (OR)  
Discussion 2.2

\*Discussion forum for Unit 2 locks on **Monday, May 23 at 12:00 pm EST**

### **UNIT 3: THE READING SELF**

---

#### **3.1: May 23-25**

Austen, *Northanger Abbey*

EL: "Plot and Character" (OR)

Discussion 3.1

#### **3.2: May 26-28**

Austen, *Northanger Abbey*

Discussion 3.2

\*Discussion forum for Unit 3 locks on **Monday, May 31 at 12:00 pm EST**

### **UNIT 4: ART & LIFE**

---

#### **4.1: May 31-June 1**

Keats, "Ode on a Grecian Urn" (OR),

Rossetti, "In an Artist's Studio" (OR/CP)

Discussion 4.1

#### **4.2: June 2-4**

Avison, "Snow" (OR)

Walker, "Everyday Use" (OR/CP)

EL: "Themes" (OR)

Discussion 4.2

\*Discussion forum for Unit 4 locks on **Monday, June 6 at 12:00 pm EST**

**\*ESSAY 1 DUE: June 3<sup>rd</sup> by 11:55PM EST\***

### **UNIT 5: DREAMS & NIGHTMARES**

---

#### **5.1: June 6-8**

Blake, "London" (OR)

Lampman, "The City of the End of Things" (OR)

T.S. Eliot, "The Hollow Men" (OR)

Discussion 5.1

#### **5.2: June 9-11**

LeGuin, "The Ones Who Walk Away from Omelas" (OR/CP);

Page, "Unless the Eye Catch Fire" (OR/CP)

Discussion 5.2

\*Discussion forum for Unit 5 locks on **Monday, June 13 at 12:00 pm EST**

## **UNIT 6: LOVE & LOSS (Part I)**

---

### **6.1: June 13-15**

Shakespeare, "A Midsummer Night's Dream"

EL: "Elements of Drama" (OR)

Discussion 6.1

### **6.2: June 16-18**

Shakespeare, "A Midsummer Night's Dream"

Discussion 6.2

\*Discussion forum for Unit 6 locks on **Monday, June 20 at 12: 00pm EST**

## **UNIT 7: LOVE & LOSS (Part II)**

---

### **7.1: June 20-22**

Donne, "Holy Sonnets" (OR)

Discussion 7.1

### **\*ONLINE MIDTERM TEST (June 21-22)\***

### **7.2: June 23-25**

Shakespeare, "Sonnet 18, "Sonnet 73" and "Sonnet 130" (OR)

Millay, "I Being Born a Woman and Distressed" (OR/CP)

Discussion 7.2

\*Discussion forum for Unit 7 locks on **Monday, June 27 at 12:00 pm EST**

## **UNIT 8: LOVE & LOSS (Part III)**

---

### **8.1: June 27-29**

Burns, "My Love is Like a Red, Red Rose" (OR/CP)

Atwood, "Variations on the Word Love" (OR)

Faulkner, "A Rose for Emily" (OR)

Discussion 8.1

### **8.2: June 30-July 2**

Thomas, "Do Not Go Gentle into That Good Night" (OR)

Yeats, "When You Are Old" (OR/CP);

Auden, "Funeral Blues" (OR/CP)

**No Discussion 8.2: Happy Canada Day!**

\*Discussion forum for Unit 8 locks on **Monday, July 4 at 12:00 pm EST**

**\*DISCUSSION REFLECTION DUE: June 30<sup>th</sup> by 11:55 pm EST \***



## **UNIT 9: PUBLIC & PRIVATE SELVES (Part I)**

---

### **9.1: July 4-6**

Larsen, *Passing*  
Discussion 9.1

### **9.2: July 7-9**

Larsen, *Passing*  
Discussion 9.2

\*Discussion forum for Unit 9 locks on **Monday, July 11 at 12:00 pm EST**

## **UNIT 10: PUBLIC & PRIVATE SELVES (Part II)**

---

### **10.1: July 11-13**

Gilman, "The Yellow Wallpaper" (OR)  
EL: "Point of View: Perspective and Language" (OR)  
Discussion 10.1

### **10.2: July 14-16**

Munro, "Family Furnishings" (OR)  
Heaney, "Digging" (OR/CP)  
Discussion 10.2

\*Discussion forum for Unit 10 locks on **Monday, July 18 at 12:00 pm EST**

## **UNIT 11: STORYTELLING (Part I)**

---

### **11.1: Storytelling (July 18-20)**

Barnes, excerpt from *A History of the World in 10 1/2 Chapters* (OR/CP)  
Discussion 11.1

### **Unit 11.2: Storytelling (July 21-23)**

Browning, "My Last Duchess" (OR)  
Eliot, "The Love Song of J. Alfred Prufrock" (OR)  
Discussion 11.2

\*Discussion forum for Unit 11 locks on **Monday, July 25 at 12:00 pm EST**

**\*ESSAY 2 DUE: July 22<sup>nd</sup> by 11:55 pm EST\***

## **UNIT 12: STORYTELLING (Part I)**

---

### **Unit 12.1: Storytelling (July 25-27)**

Martel, *Life of Pi*  
EL: "The Spectrum of Fiction"  
Discussion 12.1

**Unit 12.2: Storytelling (July 28-29)**

Martel, *Life of Pi*

Discussion 12.2

\*Discussion forum for Unit 12 locks on **Monday, July 29 at 12:00 pm EST**

**\*ONLINE FINAL EXAM - TBA (sometime in exam period: August 2-5)\***