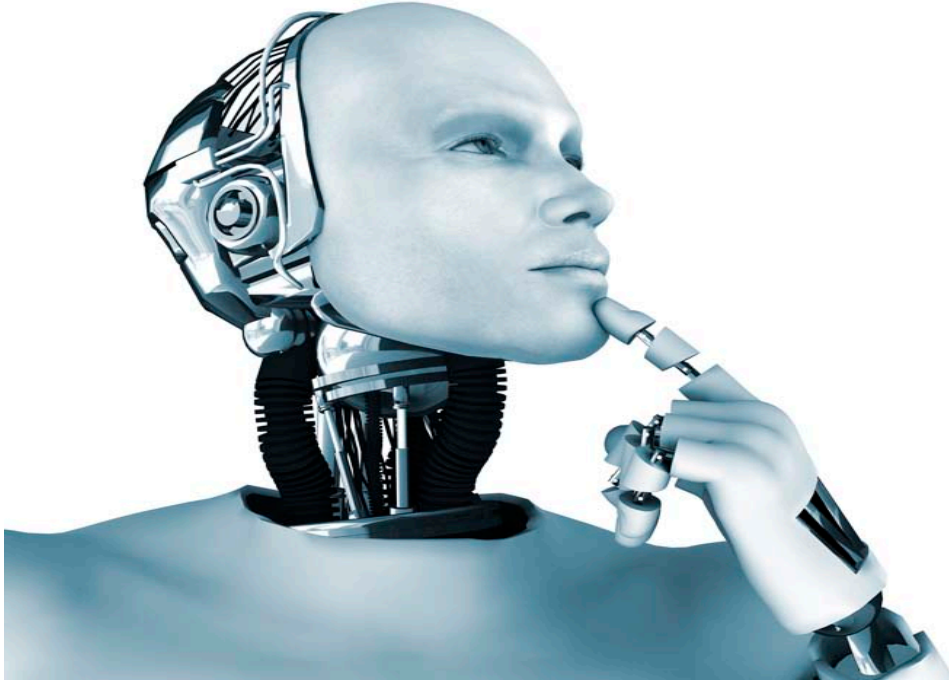


English 1028G (001): The Storyteller's Art II: The Rise of the Machines



Department of English & Writing Studies
Western University
Winter 2021

Dr. Christopher Keep
Email: ckeep@uwo.ca

Office Hours: Tuesday and Thursday 2:30-3:30 (or by app't)

Tutorial Leaders

Élise Ottavino

Tutorial 003 (in person): Thursday 2:30, MC-105B

Email: eottavin@uwo.ca

Office Hours: Thursday 3:30 - 4:30, Fridays 11:00-12:00, UC 3413.

Jac Morgan

Tutorial 004 (in person): Thursday 11:30, SSC 2028

Email: jmorga66@uwo.ca

Office Hours: Tuesday and Thursday 2:00-3:00

Ryanne Kap
Tutorial 005 (online): Monday 1:30
Email: rkap@uwo.ca
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Adam Mohamed
Tutorial 006 (online): Thursday 10:30
Email: amoha228@uwo.ca
Office Hours: Friday 11:00-1:00

Course Description

Where do I end and my phone or laptop or tablet begin? From Frankenstein's Creature to the digital assistant of Spike Jonze's film *Her*, our technological prostheses have always been more than simply tools for carrying out the tasks that we have assigned them. They have been, too, the instruments by which we have sought to define what it means to be human in a world in which our microprocessor-driven devices seem to have acquired a mysterious agency, a *liveliness* all of their own. This course will study novels, short stories, and a feature film that have sought to explore the social, political, and psychological dimensions of our increasingly intimate relationship with the technological realm. What fears and desires do these new life forms elicit in us? How do they compel us to think differently about what it means to work, think, love? And where, in the future, will we draw the line between what we want from them and what they might want from us?

The weekly course schedule consists of two hours of lecture and a third hour of tutorial discussion facilitated by a teaching assistant. In addition to providing opportunities for the discussion of reading and lecture materials, tutorials will also provide substantial instruction in effective essay writing and research methods.

Learning Outcomes

Successful students who complete the course will be able to:

- Identify and analyze basic elements of narrative literature, such as plot, character, point of view, theme, setting, imagery, diction, and tone.
- Write an essay about a work of narrative literature, containing an effective thesis supported by adequate evidence from the original text;
- 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 into an essay through use of quotations and paraphrases;
- Organize and present ideas clearly and effectively;
- Document essays using MLA format.

Course Delivery

English 1028G is a synchronous course: the lectures and tutorials will take place at the times listed in your timetable. The lectures and tutorials 005 and 006 will take place on Zoom; tutorials 003 and 004 will take place in the rooms listed in your timetable. Lectures and tutorials will not be recorded; you will be expected to attend them just as you would an ordinary class.

To attend a lecture, logon on to the Owl site shortly before the day and time listed in your schedule, click on Zoom in the menu on the left hand of the screen, and then click the link for that day's lecture.

If your tutorial is online, logon on to the Owl site shortly before the day and time listed in your schedule, click on Zoom in the menu on the left hand of the screen, and then click the link for your tutorial for that day and time.

If your tutorial is in-person, the tutorial will take place at the place and time listed in your schedule. In person tutorials are not recorded.

Office Hours

Office hours for both the instructor and the tutorial leaders (unless noted otherwise above) will be on Zoom. To meet with your instructor or tutorial leader, logon on to the Owl site shortly before the day and time indicated for the office hours on the syllabus, click on Zoom in the menu on the left hand of the screen, and then click the link for that day's office hours meeting. You will be admitted to a virtual waiting room. When the instructor or the tutorial leader is available, they will admit you to the regular Zoom meeting.

Zoom App

Please download the app and login using your Western id. Instructions can be found here: <https://wts.uwo.ca/zoom/index.html>

If you have problems with the app, it is fully supported by ITS: you can contact the help line here: <https://wts.uwo.ca/helpdesk/index.html>

Required Texts

(Available in the English section at the Campus Bookstore in the University Community Centre)

- Asimov, Isaac. *I, Robot* (Macmillan)
- Casson, Leslie E. *A Writer's Handbook*. Fourth Ed. (Broadview)
- Dick, Philip K. *Do Androids Dream of Electric Sheep?* (Del Rey)
- Gibson, William. *Neuromancer* (Ace)
- Newitz, Annalee. *Autonomous* (Tor)
- Shelley, Mary. *Frankenstein* (Broadview)

Print copies available from the Campus Bookstore (includes option for delivery to home address): <https://bookstore.uwo.ca/>

Digital versions are available from these vendors:

I, Robot (Kindle) <https://www.amazon.ca/dp/B000FC1PW0?tag=prhca-20&linkCode=osi&th=1&psc=1>

Do Androids Dream of Electric Sheep (Kindle) https://www.amazon.ca/Androids-Dream-Electric-Sheep-inspiration-ebook/dp/B000SEGTI0/ref=sr_1_1?dchild=1&keywords=do+androids+dream+of+electric+sheep&qid=1604061853&s=digital-text&sr=1-1

Neuromancer (Kindle) https://www.amazon.ca/Neuromancer-Sprawl-Trilogy-William-Gibson-ebook/dp/B000O76ON6/ref=sr_1_1?dchild=1&keywords=neuromancer&qid=1604061939&s=digital-text&sr=1-1

Autonomous (Kindle) https://www.amazon.ca/Autonomous-Novel-Annalee-Newitz-ebook/dp/B01N4P14CI/ref=sr_1_1?dchild=1&keywords=autonomous+newitz&qid=1604062208&sr=8-1

Assignments and Grade Distributions

Four Quizzes: Best Three (3.33% each): 10%

Passage Analysis (1000 words): 20%

Essay (2500 words): 30%

Tutorial Participation: 5%

Final Exam: 35%

Quizzes

Four short quizzes will be conducted online during our regular scheduled lectures using the Test and Quizzes tool in Owl. Each quiz will be made up of five questions testing your comprehension of the assigned texts and recent lecture materials. Of these four quizzes, we will choose the best three (each worth 3.33%) to count toward your final grade, for a total of 10%.

You will have five minutes to complete the quiz from the moment you click the link: enter your answers in the text boxes and the app will upload your answers at the end of the allotted period. You may, of course, consult your texts or lecture notes during the quiz (the quiz is not monitored), but you are likely to do better if you simply focus on composing your answers. The lecture will resume following the quiz.

Passage Analysis

A Passage Analysis is an assignment in which students get to develop their close reading and interpretative skills in preparation for the longer essay assignment at the end of term.

Students will be assigned an excerpt from a longer work previously studied in class. Read this passage carefully several times and provide a well-documented analysis of its structural features (its use of character, plot, setting, point of view, etc.) and its narrative style, including attention to word choice, figurative language, and use of symbolism. How does this passage contribute to the work's overarching themes and patterns of imagery? What makes this passage important to our understanding of the work as a whole?

The Passage Analysis should be approximately 1000 words or three-four pages in length. It will constitute 20% of your final grade. Further details regarding format and how to submit the assignment (including late penalties), can be found in the Course Assignments section below.

Essay

Students will choose from one of four essay topics to be circulated two weeks prior to the assignment's due date. Each topic will provide an opportunity for the student to develop his or her analytical and research skills, combining a close and detailed reading of the text in question with a knowledge of the secondary criticism related to its study.

You will be expected to use at least two secondary sources, but the essay is not to be a review of such secondary literature. Rather, you should use your secondary sources to either support aspects of your own argument, or to show places in which your analysis differs from that of the critics upon whom you are drawing. The essay is, first and foremost, an account of your interpretation of the text, and should read as such. Please consider using an electronic search tool, such as the MLA Bibliography, to find journal articles.

Your essay should be approximately 2500 words or eight-ten pages in length. It will constitute 30% of your final grade. Further details regarding format and how to submit the assignment (including late penalties), can be found in the Course Assignments section below.

Exam

The final exam for English 1028G will be a take-home assignment conducted during the regular exam period. The exam is conceived in such a way that it can be written in three hours. The exam will be provided twenty-four hours prior to the time it is scheduled to begin and it must be submitted by the time the exam is scheduled to end. Submit your completed exam through the "Assignment" section of the Owl site, just as you would an essay. The exam will constitute 35% of your final grade.

The exam format will be posted to Owl two weeks before the end of the course.

Tutorials and Participation

In addition to lectures, all students will be assigned to a tutorial group of twenty to twenty-five students, facilitated by a Teaching Assistant. These tutorial groups are, in many ways, the heart and soul of a large lecture course such as English 1028G, affording students opportunities to

raise questions and pursue issues introduced in the weekly lectures, and to share their insights with their fellow students. The tutorial groups will also provide a venue for instruction regarding researching, organizing, and writing an effective, university-level research essay, complete with secondary criticism and a list of works cited.

Participation means arriving for your tutorial on time, having read the assigned materials, and regularly volunteering informed, thoughtful, and helpful replies to questions and/or leading group discussions, as arranged by the Teaching Assistant. Participation in the tutorial constitutes 5% of your final grade.

In order for the tutorial groups to promote a free exchange of ideas and opinions, all students are expected to treat each other and their Teaching Assistants with dignity and respect. This means listening carefully to each others' contributions to the group discussion, and allowing each group member an opportunity to express his or her own point of view, with the objective of sharing and enriching our understanding of the literature we are studying.

Course Assignments

Essay and Passage Analysis assignments will be written according to standard essay style: double-spaced, 12-point font, and all margins set at one inch. A title-page is not necessary, but the first page must include the title of the essay, your name, the course number, the professor's name, teaching assistant's name, and the date.

Originality of argument, the ability to support the argument with reference to the primary text, rhetorical persuasiveness, syntax, grammar, spelling, and accurate bibliographic citation will *all* be factors in the grading of the essay.

All bibliographic notation will employ the MLA method of parenthetical notation and a works cited page. Please consult a standard style guide such as that found in Casson's *A Writers Handbook*, or the *MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers* (8th ed.), which is available in the reference shelves of the D.B. Weldon Library. A good online guide to the MLA method can be found [here](#).

Assignments will be submitted through the "Assignments" section of the Owl site, and are due by 4:30 on the due date. Papers submitted late will be returned with a grade but no comments. Late papers will be penalized 10 per cent for the first day and then 2% per day thereafter, including weekends. Papers submitted after the assignment is returned will not normally be accepted.

Please keep at least one copy of each of your papers. Save each file on a hard drive, usb key, drop box, one drive, or other form of back up media. Retain all returned, marked assignments until you receive your final grade for the course.

Accommodation Policies

Students seeking academic accommodation for any missed tests, exams, participation components and/or assignments must apply to the Academic Counseling 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 Student Medical Certificate (SMC) can be found [here](#).

The full policy is set out [here](#).

Students with disabilities work with Accessible Education (formerly SSD) which provides recommendations for accommodation based on medical documentation or psychological and cognitive testing. The accommodation policy can be found here: [Academic Accommodation for Students with Disabilities](#).

Academic Consideration for Student Absence

Students will have up to two (2) opportunities during the regular academic year to use an on-line portal to self-report an absence during the term, provided the following conditions are met: the absence is no more than 48 hours in duration, and the assessment for which consideration is being sought is worth 30% or less of the student's final grade. Students are expected to contact their instructors within 24 hours of the end of the period of the self-reported absence, unless noted on the syllabus. Students are not able to use the self-reporting option in the following circumstances:

- for exams scheduled by the Office of the Registrar (e.g., December and April exams)
- absence of a duration greater than 48 hours,
- assessments worth more than 30% of the student's final grade,
- if a student has already used the self-reporting portal twice during the academic year

If the conditions for a Self-Reported Absence are *not* met, students will need to provide a Student Medical Certificate if the absence is medical, or provide appropriate documentation if there are compassionate grounds for the absence in question. Students are encouraged to contact their Faculty academic counselling office to obtain more information about the relevant documentation.

Students should also note that individual instructors are not permitted to receive documentation directly from a student, whether in support of an application for consideration on medical grounds, or for other reasons. All documentation required for absences that are not covered by the Self-Reported Absence Policy must be submitted to the Academic Counselling office of a student's Home Faculty.

For Western University policy on Consideration for Student Absence, see

[Policy on Academic Consideration for Student Absences - Undergraduate Students in First Entry Programs](#)

and for the Student Medical Certificate (SMC), see:

http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/medicalform.pdf.

Religious Accommodation

Students should consult the University's list of recognized religious holidays, and should give reasonable notice in writing, prior to the holiday, to the Instructor and an Academic Counsellor if their course requirements will be affected by a religious observance. Additional information is given in the [Western Multicultural Calendar](#).

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 will 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.

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: <https://westernusc.ca/your-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.

Email

Questions and concerns about the course should, in the first instance, be directed to your Teaching Assistant. If you have a question that you feel is best addressed to the instructor, please do feel free to get in touch. I will try to respond within one business day; email over the weekend will be returned the following Monday. Please note, however, that email is not the most ideal medium for the discussion of difficult conceptual material, such as is often the focus of queries regarding an English course. If you miss a class and would like to catch up, or are having difficulties with an assignment, please do consider meeting me during my office hours, or, if those times are not convenient, making an appointment to meet at some alternative time.

Lecture and Reading Schedule

January	12	Introduction
	14	Shelley, <i>Frankenstein</i>
	19	Shelley, <i>Frankenstein</i>
	21	Shelley, <i>Frankenstein</i>
	26	Shelley, <i>Frankenstein</i>
	28	Shelley, <i>Frankenstein</i>
February	2	Asimov, <i>I, Robot</i>
	4	Asimov, <i>I, Robot</i> .
	9	Asimov, <i>I, Robot</i> Passage Analysis Due
	11	Asimov, <i>I, Robot</i>
	16	Reading Week
	18	Reading Week

23	Dick, <i>Do Androids Dream</i>
25	Dick, <i>Do Androids Dream</i>

March	2	Dick, <i>Do Androids Dream</i>
	4	Dick, <i>Do Androids Dream</i>
	9	Gibson, <i>Neuromancer</i>
	11	Gibson, <i>Neuromancer</i>
	16	Gibson, <i>Neuromancer</i>
	18	Gibson, <i>Neuromancer</i>
	23	Newitz, <i>Autonomous</i>
	25	Newitz, <i>Autonomous</i>
	30	Newitz, <i>Autonomous</i>
April	1	Jonze, <i>Her</i> Research Essay Due
	6	Jonze, <i>Her</i>
	8	REVIEW