

UNIVERSITY OF WESTERN ONTARIO
DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH AND WRITING STUDIES
ENGLISH 1028G/002
Winter 2021

The Department acknowledges that we are on the traditional territory of the Anishinaabeg, Haudenosaunee, Lunaapeewak and Attawandaron peoples.

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Course Description: “Strange Stories and Disturbing Narratives”

This course examines texts that leave readers with questions about what happened or why it happened. Some are Gothic, or mysterious; others flirt with the strange or are simply weird in their content or method of narrating the story. All of them leave the reader with doubt. Literature always aims to engage the reader’s curiosity and imagination; these texts amplify the reader’s role in interpreting what seems inexplicable.

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 an opportunity to discuss reading and lecture materials, tutorials will also provide substantial instruction in effective essay writing and research methods.

English 1028G is a course in its own right. It need not be taken in combination with any other course. Students who have taken English 1027F (The Storyteller’s Art) will have the equivalent of a 1.0 “essay” course for their breadth requirements and will have completed the 1.0 credits in first-year English necessary to take senior courses in English.

Course Delivery:

The *lecture* section of this course will be **asynchronous**; lectures will be recorded and posted on OWL. *Tutorial* sections, however, will take place at a specific time, whether by Zoom or in person. Students are expected to keep up with the lectures, and to attend tutorial sessions.

If your tutorial is online, log on to OWL shortly before the day and time indicated on your schedule, click on Zoom in the menu on the left hand of the screen, then click on the link for your tutorial.

Zoom App

Please download the app, and log in using your Western ID. Instructions can be found here:

<https://wts.uwo.ca/zoom/index.html>

If you have problems with the app contact the ITS Helpdesk:

<https://wts.uwo.ca/helpdesk/index.html>

Course Objectives:

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

- * Identify and analyse basic elements of narrative literature such as plot, story, character, point of view, setting, imagery, diction, and tone;
- * Develop 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.

Required Texts:

Print copies are available from the Campus Bookstore (includes an option for delivery)

<https://bookstore.uwo.ca/> **Digital versions are available from the vendors whose URLs are listed below the titles.**

Apart from the three novels listed below, we will also be looking at a number of short stories which are either online or will appear as PDFs in the Resources tab in OWL.

Oscar Wilde, *The Picture of Dorian Gray*. Broadview Press.

<https://broadviewpress.com/product/the-picture-of-dorian-gray/#tab-description>

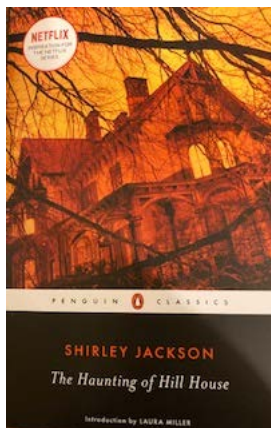
Angela Carter, *The Magic Toyshop*. (Penguin/Random House Canada)

<https://www.penguinrandomhouse.ca/books/351410/the-magic-toyshop-by-angela-carter/9780140256406>

Shirley Jackson, *The Haunting of Hill House*. (Penguin/Random House Canada)

https://www.chapters.indigo.ca/en-ca/books/product/9780143039983-item.html?s_campaign=goo-Shopping_Smart_Books&gclid=EAIaIQobChMIwb_zyJnd7QIVyMfICh0nwAN9EAYYAiABEgKMZPD_BwE&gclsrc=aw.ds

Please note: there are several editions of this novel, but the one referred to above (the Chapters site) is the one I'm using.



Searchable Style Guide: https://owl.purdue.edu/owl/purdue_owl.html

Lecture Schedule:

Please NOTE: Lectures will be available on OWL on the dates specified in the Course Content tab on our OWL site.

January 11: if you haven't already done so, please watch the introductory video.

January 13: Salman Rushdie, "At the Auction of the Ruby Slippers" (OWL)

January 18: Julio Cortázar, "Continuity of Parks"

January 20, 25, 27, February 1: Oscar Wilde, *The Picture of Dorian Gray*.

February: 3, 8: Herman Melville, "Bartleby the Scrivener: A Story of Wall Street." (OWL)

February 10: Leanne Betasamosake Simpson, "Big Water" (OWL)

February 13-21: READING WEEK

February 22, 24, March 1: Angela Carter, *The Magic Toyshop*

March 3: Elizabeth Bowen, "The Demon Lover."
<http://omero.humnet.unipi.it/matdid/201/DemonLover.pdf>

March 8, 10: Franz Kafka, "The Metamorphosis"
<https://www.gutenberg.org/files/5200/5200-h/5200-h.htm>

March 15, 17, 22, 24: Shirley Jackson, *Hill House*.

March 29: Edgar Allan Poe, "Berenice—A Story"
<https://www.eapoe.org/works/tales/bernicea.htm>

March 31: Robert Louis Stevenson, "The Signalman" (OWL)

April 5, 7: Randall Kenan "Let the Dead Bury Their Dead" (OWL)

Assignments:

Final Exam: 30%

Tutorial: 20%: 10% for attendance and participation;
10% for FIVE 100-200 word responses to questions posed on OWL forum.

TWO Passage Analyses: (approximately 750 words each) 2x15% Due: **February 3; March 3.**

Final Paper: (2000-2500 words) 20% Due **March 31.**

Passage analyses, the final paper and the final exam will be submitted online through OWL. Please upload as a WORD not a PDF.

Responses:

A question will be posted for each lecture, during the week that those lectures are listed in the schedule. They will be posted for that week only. You can respond to any question, but you must have all of your responses submitted by **March 24**. Each response will be worth 2%. Your posting may be a response to another posting or may simply stand alone. These forums will, of course be monitored, so if you are responding to another student please do so with courtesy and respect.

Passage Analyses:

Students will be assigned an excerpt from a longer work. 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? Further information will be posted with the assignment.

Essay:

The questions for this essay will be based on the longer texts on the course – *The Picture of Dorian Gray*, *The Magic Toyshop*, *The Haunting of Hill House*. You may choose to use secondary sources, or not, although you may find it easier to write a long paper by having some other ideas and opinions to respond to. If you do use secondary sources, they must be scholarly, peer-reviewed sources as opposed to Wikipedia or SparkNotes. They should support your argument, or show places in which your analysis differs from that of the critics upon whom you are drawing. Any secondary sources must be cited at the end of the paper. More information about how to access secondary texts from the library will be forthcoming in tutorials.

Tutorials and Participation

In addition to lectures, all students will be assigned to a tutorial group of approximately twenty 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 1027F, 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 (even a zoom one) 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.

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 1 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 Purdue OWL (https://owl.purdue.edu/owl/purdue_owl.html) for a good online guide to the MLA method.

Assignments will be submitted electronically through the owl site, and are due by 11:55 pm on the due date. Papers submitted late will be returned with a grade but no comments. Papers submitted late without prior permission will be deducted 2 per cent per day late, including weekends. Papers submitted after the assignment is returned will not normally be accepted.

Email

Your @uwo address is the one to which all university communication will be delivered. That includes any announcements that come from me or your TA. Please check it from time to time. I will endeavour to answer emails within 24 hours from Monday to Friday, and 48 hours on weekends.

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.

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.

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

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>.

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.