

Department of English & Writing Studies

**Am I to be the Hero of my own Life: Nineteenth-Century Fictions
of the Individual and the World
English 3352G (001)
Winter 2021**

Instructor: Dr. Jo Devereux
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Delivery Type: Synchronous

Course Day/Time: M 2:30-4:30,
W 3:30-4:30

Prerequisite: At least 60% in 1.0 of English 1020-1999 or permission of the Department.

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.

Course Description

Nineteenth-century philosophers celebrated the individual, but the period also saw the emergence of new forms of social control in politics, the market, and the workplace. This course examines the individual's relation to society and the world in nineteenth-century English literature. Looking at examples of Victorian fiction, poetry, and autobiography, we will explore the problems of gender, race, and social class and will consider the effects of industrialization and the challenges faced by women of colour in the racialized and colonialist society of nineteenth-century Britain.

Objectives:

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

- Write critically about nineteenth-century literary representations of the individual in his/her/their world
- Present logical and reasoned arguments with a sophisticated use of evidence
- Demonstrate familiarity with the historical context of 19th-century fiction, poetry, and autobiography
- Show knowledge of the reception history of the selected readings from their time to our present moment

Course Materials (all required)

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

Tennyson, *In Memoriam* (1849) (Broadview)

Mary Seacole, *Wonderful Adventures of Mrs. Seacole in Many Lands* (1857) (Penguin)

Factory Lives: Four Nineteenth-Century Working-Class Autobiographies (Broadview)

Thomas Hardy, *Jude the Obscure* (1895) (Broadview)

Methods of Evaluation

The grade for the course will be arrived at as follows:

Essay 1, due Feb. 8, 2021: 20%
Essay 2, due March 29, 2021: 25%
Midterm test, March 1, 2021: 15%
Attendance: 5%
Final Exam, April 2021 (date TBA): 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>

Assignments

ESSAY 1: WRITE A PERSUASIVE ESSAY ON ONE WORK FROM THE COURSE. Examine and incorporate at least one other primary and two secondary sources in your research. Develop a strong and focused argument based on your reading of the sources.

Length: 1500 words

Format: MLA for undergraduate research essays, 8th edition

Worth: 20%

Due: Feb. 8, 2021

Submit via OWL as an attachment in Word

Topics: Choose ONE of the following broad topics (which you must narrow down very specifically to construct a clear argument):

- Gender
- Race
- Mourning
- Memory
- Disability
- Desire
- Heroism
- Community
- Isolation

ESSAY 2: COMPARE AND CONTRAST TWO OTHER WORKS ON THE COURSE, USING ONE OF THE BROAD TOPICS LISTED ABOVE.

Length: 2500 words

Format: MLA for undergraduate research essays, 8th edition

Worth: 25%

Due: March 29, 2021

Submit via OWL as an attachment in Word

As with the first essay, choose ONE of the topics listed above (**which you must narrow down very specifically to construct a clear argument**). **You may use the same topic as in Essay 1 but write on TWO different works from Essay 1.** Examine and incorporate at least one other primary and four secondary sources in your research. Develop a strong and focused argument based on your reading of the sources.

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. See <https://www.uwo.ca/english/undergraduate/Student%20Information.html>

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

Jan.4	Introduction
Jan. 11	More intro: Victorian heroism
Jan.18	Bronte, <i>Jane Eyre</i>
Jan. 25	Bronte, <i>Jane Eyre</i>
Feb. 1	Tennyson, <i>In Memoriam</i>
Feb. 8	Tennyson, <i>In Memoriam</i> ; Essay 1 Due
Feb. 15	READING WEEK
Feb. 22	Seacole, <i>Adventures of Mrs. Seacole in Many Lands</i>
Mar. 1	Seacole, <i>Adventures of Mrs. Seacole in Many Lands</i> ; Midterm Test
Mar. 8	<i>Factory Lives</i>
Mar. 15	<i>Factory Lives</i>
Mar. 22	Hardy, <i>Jude the Obscure</i>
Mar. 29	Hardy, <i>Jude the Obscure</i> ; Essay 2 Due
Apr. 5	Review