

Learn about Western, its story, its architecture, academic calendar, governance, codes of conduct, research; and learn about universities, their origins in the Middle Ages, their development and current campus issues. Read a short story by Western's own Nobel prizewinner Alice Munro, and think about universities in the world today.

Taught in a flexible hybrid format, 0.5 course

Intersession May 16 - June 3, 2022.

What, exactly, is a university? A Canadian university? Western? What purposes does it serve in society? When did they start, and how are they changing today?

In this course we will think about these issues, and on a more pragmatic level we'll learn the basics about Western and its physical structures, its government and its particular concerns. The course is a blended one, with four required units, and a blend of at least five of the other available units.

We have two required inperson three-hour classes and a required inperson final examination in this course. In addition, nearly every weekday I will hold an optional zoom discussion, not to teach one of the units but to answer questions and offer some additional comments, sometime bringing the material up to date, sometimes amplifying it. These are optional, and will be from 7-8 p.m. in the evenings (I am working on the assumption that you might well have other calls on your time, and this time seems relatively convenient). A schedule of the units to be discussed appears later in this outline.

The introductory unit will take place inperson on the first day of the course, May 16, from 5:30-8:30 p.m.. After the class there will be an assignment, due within the next eighteen hours. Note that if you add the course late there will be no opportunity to make up this assignment.

There will be required units on each of the two books assigned for this course, and they will be due on specified days (see the "Due Dates" tab).

The fourth required unit will concern Alice Munro's short story, "The Beggar Maid," and will follow the second required inperson class on May 30 from 5:30-8:30. Again, there will be an assignment, due within the next eighteen hours.

All of the units will be open so that students can look through each one and decide which to do. Each unit will be due on the day after our class discussion, but I plan near the end of the course to open most of the units for a second time so that if you missed one that in retrospect you wanted to do that option will be available. Note, however, that the assignments will change if the unit is reopened, though they will be of the same degree of

difficulty.

In addition to the introductory assignments, students must complete the assignment on Today's Medieval University, and at least one other unit in the first week.

In the second week of the course students will complete the assignment on Love the Questions, and at least two other units.

In the third week of the course, students will complete the Alice Munro class and assignment, and the rest of the units. All units will have to be submitted by midnight on Friday 3 June.

The final examination will be worth 30% and will be held on Sunday 5 June from 5:30-8:30 p.m., at a room to be specified in University College.

The First Thirty Percent of the Course

The first required in-class unit is the introductory one, followed by an introductory paper. Note that after the introductory lecture and discussion, I will assign a question for you to answer in an online paper within the next eighteen hours in a paper of 350-500 words. Make sure that your OWL connections are working and you have the time to write your paper in the eighteen hours after the class. This will be a class that does not require any preparation on your part, and the question for you to answer is designed to ensure that you will have something to say. 7.5%

The second and third required units will concern the two books on the course. We will have a discussion class (or two, if time permits) on each of these, but you really only have to read the book in order to be able to answer the specific question of the assignment in a paper of 350-500 words. You can refer to the other units in the course as well, especially for Love the Questions. 2 @ 7.5%

The fourth required in-class unit will address Alice Munro's short story, "The Beggar Maid." The story is written about two students at Western, and a free copy is available at https://www.thestar.com/entertainment/books/2013/10/11/the_beggar_maid_by_alice_munro.html. I will also post some basic information about Alice Munro to the unit on the OWL site, and you should read that before you come to class. We will have a thirty-minute lecture on the story, and then a sixty-minute tutorial, at the end of which I will assign you a specific question for you to write 350 words within the next eighteen hours. Again, because you will have read the short story (beware that the newspaper says this will take 58 minutes; it may take you longer), and come to class knowing what is in the story, you will be able to engage in the basic analysis common to English courses easily, and we can move on with some more interesting approaches in class. 7.5%

The Middle Forty Percent of the Course:

Have a look through all the units in the course, and the associated quiz or assignment for each one. The unit will give you a sense of what the assignment is, and its value will be clearly stated. You need to complete 40% in the units, and for this iteration of the course I am not specifying how you should do that. You can do all the units that have quizzes worth 5%, and then only have to complete two or three other units to get to 40%. If you wind up at 42.5% I'll prorate back to 40%. You can complete up to two extra assignments and I will count the best results in the 40%.

How to choose:

Some units have a multiple-choice quiz, one asks for an infographic, some have fill-in-the-blanks (which are extremely unforgiving), and others require a short written piece taking the information you have and assembling it into a different mental structure. You can go through all the units and pick the ones that interest you. Bear in mind, however, that once you have clicked in to the assessment tool for a particular unit, you must complete it in the time specified. For the section on the academic calendar, you will be looking through the calendar for particular items; to prepare for that one, which will be set up so that just running Google searches does not find the information correctly, you will want to look around the calendar for a while, and be sure that you understand its basic parameters. These are just examples: most of the units will ask you to do some writing, and it will be time-limited, so bear in mind the vagaries of OWL and do not click into an assessment that is going to fall due at the precise time that internet in your house or residence always falters because of oversubscription. Go to a library to do these. You can overcome these hurdles.

The Last Thirty Percent of the Course:

The final examination will have a short-answer identify question, with a lot of choice since you will have done quite different units in the course, and two questions requiring longer essay-type answers. Towards the end of the course I will post some review material and invite suggestions from the class. If the suggestions are good ones, I'll use them in the examination. We will also have a review session during the examination period.

Evaluation:	Introductory paper	7.5%
	Alice Munro class and short paper	7.5%
	Today's Medieval University paper	7.5%
	Love the Questions paper	7.5%
	Various units in the course adding up to	40%
	Final examination	30%

Total: 100%

Online units for the course. The OWL site will have these, and at the beginning of the course you can expect to find the following units posted (if you want to get in early to do some preliminary scouting, send me an email. I can add you to the course, but in the overnight updates you will probably be deleted at some point, so pick your time carefully):

- a) Western's buildings
- b) Western's academic calendar
- c) Canadian universities, their history, geography, and culture
- d) the European medieval origin and development of universities
- e) accessibility, equity, and diversity in the university
- f) Western's history
- g) the role of research in the modern university
- h) moral codes and the university
- i) people and structures at Western
- j) the Academic Calendar
- k) planning your Western trajectory
- l) the English department

Instructor information:

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Office Hours: by appointment at one of our discussion classes

Discussion classes:

- 17 May Today's Medieval University
- 18 May Today's Medieval University, unit on the Medieval university
- 19 May Moral Codes, Academic Plan
- 20 May Canadian Universities

- 24 May Love the Questions
- 25 May Love the Questions
- 26 May (7-9 p.m.) Western University, Buildings, People and Structures

- 31 May EDI, Academic Calendar
- 1 June Research
- 2 June Future
- 3 June 7-9 p.m.) General Discussion, review for examination