

DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH AND WRITING STUDIES
UNIVERSITY OF WESTERN ONTARIO

ENGLISH 2200F
FALL 2021

Professor Jan Plug
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Antirequisites: English 2235A/B.

Prerequisites: 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. *It is students' responsibility to ensure that they have the proper requisites.*

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course offers an introduction to some of the most influential ideas in and about literature and the arts from Plato to the turn of the twentieth century. It will try to take a step back and ask fundamental questions about literature and the arts, as well as about what we are doing when we study them. To quote the German Romantic poet Friedrich Hölderlin, "Wozu Dichter in dürftiger Zeit?" ("What are poets for in wretched times"—a question for today!).

So, we'll ask what literature is for. Why does it matter? Why does studying it matter? What is the nature of truth in literature? What is beauty? How are such central concepts arrived at? What are their implications?

While the main focus of the course will be on figures, again, from Plato to about Nietzsche, we will also introduce some contemporary readings that take these up, extend them, and often put them into question. In particular, we'll read theory that challenges some of the assumptions of these earlier texts and their dismissal, exclusion, or reduction of class, race, and gender.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

- To learn to analyze arguments about literature and art.
- To develop the critical skills to unpack authors' biases, presuppositions, and the implications of their arguments, how claims are made, and what purchase they have.

- For you to discover something completely unexpected—for you and for me—about literature, how we approach it, what it means, how it means, etc. This is a lofty goal, but I think we should be open to it.

REQUIRED TEXT

The Norton Anthology of Theory & Criticism. 3rd ed. Vincent B. Leitch et al, eds. **Available through the bookstore.**

COURSE CONTENT

All lectures materials posted for the course are my intellectual property. Students are not to post lectures or lecture materials to any other websites or platforms and may not use the lectures or course materials for any other purpose without my consent.

ACCOMMODATION

The only timed assessment for this course is the final exam. Allowing students 24 hours to complete an assignment that is intended to take 3 hours, it has been designed to adhere to the principles of Universal Instructional Design. Students who require accommodation for timed assessments will therefore not require further accommodation the examination. If you have a file with SAS and require other forms of accommodation, please do email me.

ACADEMIC CONSIDERATION FOR 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 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, you 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. You are encouraged to contact their Faculty academic counselling office to obtain more information about the relevant documentation.

If you self-report an absence, you do NOT need to email me within 24 hours after the absence. If an assignment was due during your self-reported absence, it will now be due 72 hours after the end of the absence. If there are additional complications, then please contact me.

Students should also note that 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](#).

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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>.

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.

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