

Department of English & Writing Studies

The Many Faces of Harry Potter
English 2092F (001)

Fall 2022

Instructor: Dr. Gabrielle Ceraldi
UC 4431 (office hours: T,Th 3:30-4:30)
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Course Date/Time: M 2:30-4:30
W 3:30-4:30
Location: MC 105B

Course Description

The wildly successful *Harry Potter* series has been noted for its capacity to cross traditional boundaries. Conventional wisdom claims that young girls won't read a book with a male protagonist and young boys won't read a book by a female author, yet *Harry Potter* has found an enthusiastic readership among children of both sexes. Age boundaries have proven to be equally elastic; the popularity of the series among adults has even prompted the creation of an adult-friendly edition of the series with dark cover art suitable for reading on public transportation. The flexibility of the series may relate to its roots in a wide variety of genres including the gothic novel, detective fiction, fantasy, adventure, and even the dystopian novel. This course will examine the *Harry Potter* series in relation to all these genres. We will read all seven books alongside other novels and short stories that illustrate the generic conventions Rowling is using.

Learning Objectives:

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

- Recognize how the *Harry Potter* series employs conventions from a variety of genres;
- Identify and analyze the basic elements of literature such as plot, character, point of view, theme, setting, imagery, and diction;
- Understand the political, religious, moral, and philosophical underpinnings of the texts on the course;
- Write an essay about a work of literature containing an effective thesis supported by adequate evidence from the original text;
- Offer independent insights, beyond those outlined in class;
- Organize and present ideas clearly and effectively.

Course Materials**Required Texts (available from the Bookstore at Western):**

J.K. Rowling, *Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone*, Bloomsbury
Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets, Bloomsbury
Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban, Bloomsbury
Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire, Bloomsbury
Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix, Bloomsbury
Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince, Bloomsbury
Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows, Bloomsbury
The Tales of Beedle the Bard, Bloomsbury

Markus Zusak, *The Book Thief*, Knopf

George Orwell, *Nineteen Eighty Four*, Penguin

Methods of Evaluation

Close Reading (750 words, due Oct. 3)	15%
Essay (1500 words, due Nov. 23)	35%
Film Discussion (300 words, due Nov. 30)	10%
Attendance and Participation	10%
Final Exam	30%

Please note: The department of English & Writing Studies does not release final grades. All undergraduate grade reports will be available online from the Office of the Registrar.

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>.

Attendance

Attendance is mandatory in all classes and tutorials. In cases of excessive absenteeism (e.g. more than 9 unexcused hours for a half course, 18 for a full course), which are not accounted for by either academic consideration or accommodation, students may be debarred from taking the final examination, and will receive an official warning to this effect by or before the course drop date (see Senate policy). In classes with or without final exams, students who do not attend class will receive 0% for course participation grades. Unless other policies dictate a different set of penalties in specific English and Writing Studies programs, this will apply to all department programs.

Intellectual Property/Copyright

All instructor-written materials (e.g. PowerPoints, lecture notes, oral lectures) for this course are created solely for students' personal use within the course, and remain the instructor's intellectual property. Further reproduction, fixation, distribution, transmission, dissemination, communication, or any other uses, without securing the consent of the copyright owner (the course instructor) may be an infringement of copyright. You may not distribute, email, or otherwise communicate these materials to any other person. These limitations extend to recording, photographing, or sharing lectures (online or in-person) and lecture material without permission. Posting the instructor's content from this course to online course sharing sites like OneClass or Course Hero without permission is both an infringement of intellectual property law and a violation of academic integrity guidelines. The instructor will pass these cases on to the Western University Ombudsperson or their Department Chair as appropriate.

General Information:

1. All written assignments should be double-spaced and should use a standard font such as 12-pt Times Roman. Please follow MLA format (see attached guidelines). Essays must be uploaded as documents to the Assignments tool. Email is not an accepted method of submission. To count as on time, an essay must be uploaded to the OWL by 11:55 pm on the due date. One percent per day (including weekends) will be deducted from late essays. No paper will be accepted beyond three weeks after the due date or after the last day of classes (Dec. 8).

2. Requests for extensions will be handled according to the practices recommended by the university; these may evolve based on the COVID-19 pandemic, and if any changes do occur, I will post an announcement on the OWL. Currently, students can obtain academic consideration by submitting appropriate documentation to the academic counsellor in their home faculty (see page 6 of this syllabus for more details). Please email me only after you have contacted academic counselling.
3. Regular attendance at lectures is essential. If you have to miss a class for reasons of emergency or illness, you should inform me by email; if you need to miss more than a week of classes, you should contact your academic counsellor to arrange for academic consideration to avoid penalty.
4. The Attendance and Participation grade will reflect not only your physical presence in class but also your active involvement, which can take the form of spoken contributions to class discussion or posts added to the Forum on the OWL. The highest marks in this category will be achieved by those who participate every week, either in person or online (or a combination of the two).
5. All grades, once assigned and/or posted, are final. While formal appeal processes do exist in the Department of English and Writing Studies, grades will not be changed after the fact in response to emailed requests and/or GPA requirements, nor will the weighting of assignments be altered for individual students.

Accommodation Policies

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](#).

Students seeking academic accommodation on medical grounds for any missed tests, exams, participation components and/or assignments worth (either alone or in combination) 10% or more of their final grade must apply to the Academic Counselling 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 at https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/medicalform.pdf.

The full policy is set out here:

https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/accommodation_medical.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 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/>

Academic Support and Engagement <http://www.sdc.uwo.ca/>

Students who are in emotional/mental distress should refer to Health and Wellness <http://www.uwo.ca/uwocom/mentalhealth/> for a complete list of options about how to obtain help.

Timetable

The Actively Detecting Reader

Sept. 12,14: Edgar Allan Poe, "The Purloined Letter" (on OWL)
Arthur Conan Doyle, "A Scandal in Bohemia" (on OWL)
"The Wizard and the Hopping Pot" (from *The Tales of Beedle the Bard*)
Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone

Uncovering the Past: The Gothic

Sept. 19,21: Elizabeth Gaskell, "The Old Nurse's Story" (on OWL)
Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets

Sept. 26,28: *Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban*
Close Reading Assignment Due (Oct. 3)

Nazis and Death Eaters

Oct. 3,5: Markus Zusak, *The Book Thief*
Oct. 10: THANKSGIVING DAY (no class)
Oct. 12: *The Book Thief*; Writing Comparative Essays
Oct. 17,19: *Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire*

Dystopia

Oct. 24,26: George Orwell, *Nineteen Eighty-Four*

Oct. 31-Nov. 4 – FALL READING WEEK (no classes)

Nov. 7,9: *Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix*

The Art of Interpretation: Stories, Fairy Tales, Allegories

Nov. 14,16: *Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince*

Nov. 21,23: film viewing

Essay Due (Nov. 23)

Nov. 28,30, Dec. 5:

Geoffrey Chaucer, “The Pardoner’s Tale” (on OWL)

“The Tale of the Three Brothers” (from *The Tales of Beedle the Bard*)

Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows

Film Discussion Due (Nov. 30)

Dec. 7: Review

Grading Rubric

THESIS

- Is there a unifying idea in this paper?
- Is this idea specific, original, and argumentative?
- Is this idea explained clearly near the beginning of the paper?

ARGUMENT

- Does the material in this paper go beyond description to explore the implications and meaning of the text(s)?
- Have opposing ideas been acknowledged and given a convincing response?

ORGANIZATION

- Do paragraph breaks reflect a meaningful shift in topic?
- Does the opening sentence of each paragraph identify the central idea of that paragraph and its relationship to the thesis?

USE OF SOURCES

- Is there textual evidence to back up each claim in the paper?
- Is there an attention to detail (word choice, imagery, etc.) that adds intricacy to the argument?
- Are quotations integrated smoothly and cited correctly?

STYLE

- Is the writing style clear, concise, and readable, so that the focus falls on the ideas in the paper?
- Are sentences punctuated correctly?

A+ (90-100) = Excellent ("Yes, absolutely!" in all categories)

A (80-89) = Very Good ("Yes" in almost all categories)

B (70-79) = Good ("Yes" or "Somewhat" in all categories)

C (60-69) = Satisfactory ("Somewhat" in most categories OR "No" in one category)

D (50-59) = Poor ("No" in several categories)

F (49 or below) = Unsatisfactory (does not meet the requirements for the assignment)

Sample MLA Format:

Surname 1

Your Name

Name of T.A./House

English 2092G

11 February 2020

Wit and Wizardry

The Armchair Detective in Edgar Allan Poe's "The Purloined Letter" and
J.K. Rowling's *Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone*

If you have a snappy, attention-grabbing title, follow it with an informative subtitle that indicates your topic as well as the works you will be discussing. Titles of books should be *italicized*. Titles of articles and short stories should be put in "Quotation Marks." Introduce quotations in your own words, identifying the speaker and context: EXAMPLE: As Hermione points out, "A lot of the greatest wizards haven't got an ounce of logic" (207). Use ellipses to indicate where you have omitted words from the quotation, and put any changes in brackets: EXAMPLE: Draco opposes the admission of Muggle-borns to Hogwarts: "I really don't think they should let [Muggle-borns] in, do you? ... I think they should keep it in the old wizarding families" (61).

If the quotation is longer than four lines, do not use quotations marks; instead, indent the passage five spaces (one tab) from the left and continue to double space.

EXAMPLE: Harry sees his family for the first time in the Mirror of Erised:

They just looked at him, smiling. And slowly, Harry looked into the faces of the other people in the mirror and saw other pairs of green eyes like his, other noses like his, even a little old man who looked as though he had Harry's knobbly knees – Harry was looking at his family, for the first time in his life. (153)

At the end of the essay, list all the works you have discussed or used in the preparation of your paper. Staple the top left hand corner.

Works Cited

Rowling, J.K. *Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone*. Bloomsbury, 1997.