

Department of English & Writing Studies

History of Theory and Criticism

English 2200F (001)

Fall/Winter 2022-23

Instructor: Anne Schuurman

Course Day/Time: Tuesdays, 12:30-1:30 &
Thursdays, 12:30-2:30

Course Location: SSC 3028

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.

Course Description

“For a poet is an airy thing, winged and holy, and he is not able to make poetry until he becomes inspired and goes out of his mind and his intellect is no longer in him.” So says Socrates to Ion on the craft of literary art, in a dialogue written by Plato, thus beginning a long tradition in the West of understanding the poet’s art as both a divine gift and a kind of madness. Elsewhere, Plato argues that poetry should be banished from the ideal political order because it deceives the mind and inflames the passions, thus beginning another long tradition of mistrusting poetry, of associating creative arts in general with irrational and subversive impulses.

This course begins with Plato to embark on a historical journey through some of the most influential ideas in and about literature and the arts from ancient Greece to the turn of the twentieth century in Europe. Many of these ideas return to the themes of inspiration, madness, and lies, but many others challenge Plato, offering different answers to questions that stand at the foundations of English as an academic discipline: What is literature for? Why does it matter? Why does studying it matter? What is the nature of truth in literature? Should literature teach morality? What is beauty? How are these central concepts forged? What are their consequences? By reading what philosophers and poets have written in answer to these questions, you will begin to formulate your own answers, situating yourselves as readers and writers in the field of English studies.

Objectives:

- To develop the critical skills required to analyze arguments about literature and art.
- To begin to use some of the theories and critical practices under consideration in your own analyses of literature and art.
- To discover something unexpected about literature — about how we approach it in English and what it means.
- To gain perspective and understanding of the history of ideas in literary studies.

Course Materials

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

Conversations About Writing. Elizabeth Sargent and Cornelia Paraskevas, eds. Custom Courseware. **Recommended.**

Methods of Evaluation

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

Reading responses (15%)

DUE: every other week or so. See the Reading Response Instruction Sheet on OWL for details.

You will be required to write 5 reading responses over the course of the term, each worth 3% of your course grade. These will be short responses (approx. 2 pages) to topical prompts and should be used to demonstrate that you are completing the assigned reading, thinking about it carefully, and coming up with some questions and insights in response to it. Each response will be graded on a pass/fail basis. If you do not submit a response, if your response suggests that you have not actually done the reading, or if your response is written so hastily that it is difficult to read or lacks meaningful content, you will receive a "fail." If your response demonstrates some thoughtful engagement with the assigned reading, you will receive a "pass." Prompts for the readings responses can be found on our OWL site, in the Resources folder.

Short critical essay (15%)

DUE: October 13, 2022

Final essay (30%)

DUE: December 6, 2022

Detailed instructions and topics for both essays can be found on our OWL site, in the Assignments folder.

Participation (10%)

You are required to attend class regularly and to complete assigned readings. Students who miss class often and who do not complete assigned readings will receive a failing grade for participation. You are also required to take your turn as a designated note-taker: taking notes on your assigned date and sending the file to me as an attachment after class counts for a significant portion of your participation grade.

Final Exam (30%)

Details on the structure of the exam will be available later in the term.

Late Policy

Work submitted late will be penalized 2%/day. If your work is more than one week late, please contact me.

Students are fully responsible for looking at and being familiar with the information posted on the department website at <http://www.uwo.ca/english/undergraduate/Student%20Information.html>.

Attendance

Attendance is mandatory in all classes. In cases of excessive absenteeism (e.g. more than 9 unexcused hours for a half 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.

Laptop/device policy

There are no digital devices allowed in the classroom: no cell phones and no laptops except for those of the designated note-takers. Each class session will have two designated note-takers who will be responsible for typing notes and sending the document to me at the end of class. I will post the notes for the class on OWL. All students will take turns as designated note-taker.

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 & Engagement <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 (Subject to change)

Please have the following pages read in preparation for each class. Pages numbers refer to *The Norton Anthology of Theory and Criticism*. Square brackets indicate works of visual art, poetry, or excerpts of fiction that we will consider in relation to the reading assigned from the anthology: these images and texts will be available as PDFs on our OWL site and/or will be shown in class.

September

8	Introduction
13	Plato, <i>Ion</i> (43-58)
15	Plato, from <i>Republic</i> (75—77, 78-89)
20	Aristotle, from <i>Poetics</i> (99-127) [<i>The Eumenides</i>]
22	Horace, <i>Ars Poetica</i> (131-44)

- 27 Longinus, *On Sublimity* (144-164)
[Turner, "Fisherman at Sea"]
- 29 Augustine, from *On Christian Doctrine* (164-177);
[Genesis, Ch. 2]
- October**
- 4 Dante, *Il Convivio*, Letter to Can Grande (194-199);
[*Purgatorio*]
- 6 Boccaccio, *Genealogy of the Gentile Gods* (200-209);
[*Piers Plowman*]
- 11 Christine de Pizan, Treatise on *Roman de la Rose* (209-220)
[*Roman de la Rose*]
- 13 Sidney, *The Defence of Poesy* (260-291)
[*Troilus and Criseyde*]
Short essays DUE
- 18 Spinoza, from *Theological-Political Treatise* (311-326)
[2 Samuel 12]
- 20 Johnson, *The Rambler*, No. 4; *Preface to Shakespeare* (387-390, 392-405)
[Austen, *Emma*]
- 25 Burke, from *A Philosophical Enquiry into the Origin of Our Ideas
of the Sublime and the Beautiful* (464-473)
[Wordsworth, "Lines Composed a Few Miles above Tintern Abbey"]
- 27 Kant, from *Critique of Judgment* (425-438)
- October 31 – November 4: Fall Reading Week
- November**
- 8 Kant, from *Critique of Judgment* (438-463)
[Jacques-Louis David, "The Death of Socrates"]
- 10 Hegel, from *Phenomenology of Spirit* (545-555)
- 15 Hegel, from *Lectures on Fine Art* (555-563)
- 17 Shelley, "A Defence of Poetry" (598-619)
[Milton, *Paradise Lost*]
- 22 Arnold, "The Function of Criticism at the Present Time" (681-703)
[Yeats, "The Second Coming"]
- 24 Nietzsche, "On Truth and Lying in a Non-Moral Sense" (752-762)
- 29 Freud, from *The Interpretation of Dreams* (783-799)
- December**
- 1 Freud, from *The "Uncanny"* (799-816)
[Kahlo, "Without Hope"]
- 6 Course wrap-up
Final Essays DUE
- 8 Course wrap-up
- December 10 – 22: Exam Period