

Department of English & Writing Studies

**English 1028G (001)**

**The Storyteller's Art II | Introduction to Narrative - Strange Stories and Disturbing Narratives**  
Winter 2026

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**Office Hours:** Wednesday 12:30-2:30 p.m.

**Western University is situated on the traditional territories of the Anishinaabeg, Haudenosaunee, Lunaapeewak and Attawandaron peoples, who have longstanding relationships to the land and region of southwestern Ontario and the City of London. The local First Nation communities of this area include Chippewas of the Thames First Nation, Oneida Nation of the Thames, and Munsee Delaware Nation. In the region, there are eleven First Nation communities and a growing Indigenous urban population. Western values the significant historical and contemporary contributions of local and regional First Nations and all of the Original peoples of Turtle Island (North America).**

#### Course Description

This course examines texts that leave readers with questions about what happened or why it happened. Some are Gothic, or mysterious; others flirt with the strange or are simply weird in their content or method of narrating the story. All of them leave the reader with doubt. Literature always aims to engage the reader's curiosity and imagination; these texts amplify the reader's role in interpreting what seems inexplicable.

The weekly course schedule consists of two hours of lecture and a third hour of tutorial discussion facilitated by a teaching assistant. In addition to providing an opportunity to discuss reading and lecture materials, tutorials will also provide substantial instruction in effective essay writing and research methods.

English 1028G is a course in its own right. It need not be taken in combination with any other course. Students who have taken English 1027F (The Storyteller's Art) will have the equivalent of a 1.0 "essay" course for their breadth requirements and will have completed the 1.0 credits in first-year English necessary to take senior courses in English.

#### **Course Objectives:**

- Upon successful completion of the course, students will be able to:
- Identify and analyse basic elements of narrative literature such as plot, story, character, point of view, setting, imagery, diction, and tone;
- Develop a critical reading of a text, and write essays that have an effective thesis and a logical argument supported by evidence from the text(s);
- Engage in research and properly document their essays using the MLA guidelines;
- \*Converse in the language of the discipline, using literary terms and concepts, both in written and oral forms.
- Demonstrate a basic ability to practice intersectional analysis

## Course Materials

### **Required Texts:**

**Print** copies are available from the Campus Bookstore <https://bookstore.uwo.ca/> **Digital** versions are available from the vendors whose URLs are listed below the titles.

Apart from the three novels listed below, we will also be looking at a number of short stories which are either online or will appear on OWL by week.

**Waubgeshig Rice, *Moon of the Crusted Snow*. (ECW Press)**

<https://ecwpress.com/products/moon-of-the-crusted-snow>

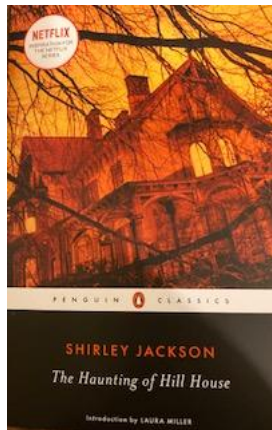
**Angela Carter, *The Magic Toyshop*. (Penguin/Random House Canada)**

<https://www.penguinrandomhouse.ca/books/351410/the-magic-toyshop-by-angela-carter/9780140256406>

**Shirley Jackson, *The Haunting of Hill House*. (Penguin/Random House Canada)**

[https://www.chapters.indigo.ca/en-ca/books/product/9780143039983-item.html?s\\_campaign=goo-Shopping\\_Smart\\_Books&qclid=EALaIQobChMlwb\\_zyJnd7QIVyMflCh0nwAN9EAYYAiABEgKMZPD\\_BwE&qclsrc=aw.ds](https://www.chapters.indigo.ca/en-ca/books/product/9780143039983-item.html?s_campaign=goo-Shopping_Smart_Books&qclid=EALaIQobChMlwb_zyJnd7QIVyMflCh0nwAN9EAYYAiABEgKMZPD_BwE&qclsrc=aw.ds)

**Please note: there are several editions of this novel, but the one referred to above (the Chapters site) is the one I'm using.**



**Searchable Style Guide:** [https://owl.purdue.edu/owl/purdue\\_owl.html](https://owl.purdue.edu/owl/purdue_owl.html)

**Please note: If a short story has (OWL) next to it, the text of that story is on OWL Brightspace by week. EG: Rushdie's short story on January 8 is on OWL in Week 1. Some texts will have a URL.**

**I will post PowerPoints on OWL by week. Other information will be posted in the Resources tab.**

## Assignments

**Final Exam:** 35%

**Tutorial:** 15%

**TWO Passage Analyses:** (approximately 750 words each) 2x15%

**The first of these will be written in tutorial *the week of February 2*; the second is due March 2.**

**Final Paper:** (1500-2000 words) 20% Due **March 26.**

**All written work will be submitted online through OWL. Please upload as a WORD document, not a PDF.**

## Passage Analyses

Students will be assigned an excerpt from a longer work. Read this passage carefully several times and provide a well-documented analysis of its structural features (its use of character, plot, setting, point of view, etc.) and its narrative style, including attention to word choice, figurative language, and use of symbolism. How does this passage contribute to the work's overarching themes and patterns of imagery? What makes this passage important to our understanding of the work as a whole? Further information will be posted with the assignment.

## Essay

The questions for this essay will be based on the longer texts on the course: *Moon of the Crusted Snow*, *The Magic Toyshop*, *The Haunting of Hill House*. You should use at least one secondary source, which must be scholarly and peer-reviewed as opposed to Wikipedia or SparkNotes, etc. The source(s) should support your argument, or show places in which your analysis differs from that of the critic(s) upon whom you are drawing. Any secondary sources must be cited at the end of the paper. More information about how to access secondary texts from the library will be forthcoming in tutorials.

## Tutorials and Participation

In addition to lectures, all students will be assigned to a tutorial group of approximately twenty students, facilitated by a Teaching Assistant. These tutorial groups are, in many ways, the heart and soul of a large lecture course such as English 1028G, affording students opportunities to raise questions and pursue issues introduced in the weekly lectures, and to share their insights with their fellow students. The tutorial groups will also provide a venue for instruction regarding researching, organizing, and writing an effective, university-level research essay, complete with secondary criticism and a list of works cited.

Participation means arriving for your tutorial on time, having read the assigned materials, and regularly volunteering informed, thoughtful, and helpful replies to questions and/or leading group discussions, as arranged by the Teaching Assistant.

In order for the tutorial groups to promote a free exchange of ideas and opinions, all students are expected to treat each other and their Teaching Assistants with dignity and respect. This means listening carefully to each other's contributions to the group discussion, and allowing each group member an opportunity to express his or her own point of view, with the objective of sharing and enriching our understanding of the literature we are studying.

### **Course Assignments**

The Essay and Passage Analysis 2 will be written according to standard essay style: double-spaced, 12 point font, and all margins set at 1 inch. A title-page is not necessary, but the first page must include the title of the essay, your name, the course number, the professor's name, teaching assistant's name, and the date in the top left corner.

Originality of argument, the ability to support the argument with reference to the primary text, rhetorical persuasiveness, syntax, grammar, spelling, and accurate bibliographic citation will *all* be factors in the grading of the essay.

All bibliographic notation will employ the MLA method of parenthetical notation and a works cited page. Please consult Purdue OWL ([https://owl.purdue.edu/owl/purdue\\_owl.html](https://owl.purdue.edu/owl/purdue_owl.html)) for a good online guide to the MLA method.

**Assignments will be submitted electronically through Brightspace, and are due by 11:55 pm on the due date.**

**\*\*\*PLEASE NOTE: there will be no extensions without academic accommodation. Late papers without academic accommodation will have 15% deducted on day 1, and 2% per day on subsequent days, including weekends, to a maximum of 7 days, after which the paper will receive a 0. Invoking the Student Absence Portal grants you 48 hours from the original due date, after which late penalties apply.**

**If you wish to request a re-read of any of your work, you must make the request no more than 7 days after receipt of the grade.**

### **Use of Generative Artificial Intelligence**

I am interested in **your** thinking and writing. I therefore ask that you complete your work without the use of AI (automatic translation tool, grammar checkers, ChatGPT etc.). If I suspect AI use in your assignments, I will request research notes, rough drafts, essay outlines, and any other relevant material. You are expected to retain these materials until after final grades have been entered. I will treat AI use as plagiarism, and will report it to the Undergraduate Chair, which could result in a 0 for the assignment. Critical thinking and independent problem solving are among the aims of this course; neither of those is helped by using AI.

### **Email**

Your @uwo address is the one to which all university communication will be delivered. That includes any announcements that come from me or your TA. Please check it from time to time. I will endeavour to answer emails within 24 hours from Monday to Friday, and 48 hours on weekends.

## **OFFICIAL THINGS THAT MAKE YOUR EYES GLAZE OVER, BUT THAT YOU REALLY NEED TO KNOW:**

### **Academic Consideration**

Students may request academic consideration in cases of extenuating circumstances – that is, personal circumstances beyond the student's control that have a substantial but temporary impact on the student's ability to meet essential academic requirements.

1. Requests for academic consideration are made to the Academic Advising office of the student's Faculty of Registration.
2. Requests for academic consideration include the following components:
  - a. Self-attestation signed by the student;
  - b. Indication of the course(s) and assessment(s) relevant to the request;
  - c. Supporting documentation as relevant.

Requests without supporting documentation are limited to one per term per course. The extra time allotted will be 48 hours, after which late penalties will apply.

Documentation for medical illness, when required, includes the completion of a Western Student Medical Certificate (SMC) or, where that is not possible, equivalent documentation, by a health care practitioner.

Requests linked to examinations scheduled by the Office of the Registrar during official examination periods as well as practice laboratory and performance tests typically scheduled in the last week of term always require formal supporting documentation.

### **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.

### **Gender-Based and Sexual Violence**

Western is committed to reducing incidents of gender-based and sexual violence (GBSV) and providing compassionate support to anyone who is going through or has gone through these traumatic events. If you are experiencing or have experienced GBSV (either recently or in the past), you will find information about support services for survivors, including emergency contacts at the following website:

[https://www.uwo.ca/health/student\\_support/survivor\\_support/get-help.html](https://www.uwo.ca/health/student_support/survivor_support/get-help.html). To connect with a case manager or set up an appointment, please contact [support@uwo.ca](mailto:support@uwo.ca).

### **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.

### **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.

### **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.

### **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](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.

### Schedule of Classes and Assignments

#### **January 6: Introduction**

**January 8:** Salman Rushdie, "At the Auction of the Ruby Slippers" (OWL)

**January 13:** Julio Cortázar, "Continuity of Parks" (OWL)

**January 15, 20, 22:** Angela Carter. *The Magic Toyshop*

**January 27:** John Polidori, "The Vampyre" (OWL)

**January 29:** Angela Carter, "The Loves of Lady Purple" (OWL)

**February 3:** Elizabeth Bowen, "The Demon Lover." (OWL)

**February 5 10, 12:** Waubgeshig Rice, *Moon of the Crusted Snow*.

#### **February 16-20: READING WEEK**

**February 24,** Ted Chiang "Story of Your Life" (OWL)

**February 26, March 3:** Franz Kafka, "The Metamorphosis" (OWL, OR:  
<https://www.gutenberg.org/files/5200/5200-h/5200-h.htm>)

**March 5:** Shirley Jackson, "The Lottery" (OWL)

**March 10, 12, 17, 19:** Shirley Jackson, *Hill House*.

**March 24:** Edgar Allan Poe, "Berenice—A Story"  
<https://www.eapoe.org/works/tales/bernicea.htm>

**March 26:** Julia Armfield, "Salt Slow" (OWL)

**March 31:** Robert Louis Stevenson "The Body Snatcher" (OWL)

**April 2:** Vladimir Nabokov, "Signs and Symbols" (OWL)

**April 7: REVIEW**