

## 1. Course Information

Understanding Literature Today  
ENG1020E Sect. 003  
FW26

**List of Antirequisites:** English 1022E, English 1035E

**List of Prerequisites:** Grade 12U English or permission of the Department. For part time students who have been admitted without the OSSD, this permission will be granted as a matter of course.

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.

## 2. Instructor Information

Mark McDayter, Associate Professor  
[mmcdayte@uwo.ca](mailto:mmcdayte@uwo.ca)

In-Person Office Hours: Tuesdays, 3:30-5:00pm; Wednesdays 11:30am-1:00pm

Online consultation through appointment

Students must use their Western ([@uwo.ca](mailto:@uwo.ca)) email addresses when contacting their instructors.

Students with questions or concerns should generally speak to their TAs before approaching the course instructor (unless the course instructor is also their tutorial leader). If you approaching the course instructor, please inform your TA that you are doing so unless there is a very good reason not to.

| Instructors                                 | Email                                                | Office | Phone                 | Office Hours                             |
|---------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------|--------|-----------------------|------------------------------------------|
| Prof. Mark McDayter<br>(Course Coordinator) | <a href="mailto:mmcdayte@uwo.ca">mmcdayte@uwo.ca</a> | UC3419 | (519) 661-2111 x85784 | Tue. 3:30-5:00pm;<br>Wed. 11:30am-1:00pm |
| Samantha Blaauw                             | <a href="mailto:sblaauw@uwo.ca">sblaauw@uwo.ca</a>   | UC3401 |                       | Wed. 3:30-4:30                           |
| Fletcher Needham                            | <a href="mailto:fneedham@uwo.ca">fneedham@uwo.ca</a> |        |                       |                                          |
| Jordan Flacco                               | <a href="mailto:fneedham@uwo.ca">fneedham@uwo.ca</a> |        |                       |                                          |

### 3. Course Syllabus, Schedule, Delivery Mode

#### Course Description

By studying a broad range of exciting and important literary works from the past and present, this course will increase your understanding and appreciation not just of the richness and power of the works themselves, but also of the role of literature in reflecting and shaping our perceptions of the world and of ourselves. 1.0 course

#### **Objectives**

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

- Identify and analyze basic elements of literature, such as plot, character, point of view, theme, setting, imagery, diction, tone, figures of speech, syntax, and rhythm;
- Write an essay about a work of literature, containing an effective thesis supported by adequate evidence from the original text;
- Research critical commentary on literary works;
- Evaluate the relevance, reliability, and usefulness of research sources, especially those obtained through the Internet;
- Integrate outside research materials and references to the original text into an essay through use of quotations and paraphrases;
- Organize and present ideas clearly and effectively;
- Document essays using MLA format.

#### **Course Schedule**

##### **FIRST TERM**

##### **Week 1 – Tuesday, 15 September, 2026**

##### **Pulleys and Wires**

Philip Larkin, "This Be the Verse"

John Donne, "The Flea"

**Tutorial 1:** Introductions; Metaphor and Metonymy

##### **Week 2 – Tuesday, 22 September, 2026**

Samuel Taylor Coleridge "The Eolian Harp"

W. H. Auden "Musee de Beaux Arts"

**Tutorial 2:** Designing a Thesis

##### **Week 3 – Tuesday, 29 September, 2026**

##### **Irony, Parody, and Mock**

Jonathan Swift, *A Modest Proposal*

**Tutorial 3:** Irony

##### **Week 4 – Tuesday, 6 October, 2026**

Geoffrey Chaucer, from *The Canterbury Tales*, "The Knight's Tale" / "The Miller's Tale"

**Tutorial 4:** Structuring an Argument

**Fall Reading Week – 10-18 October, 2026**  
**NO CLASSES OR TUTORIALS**

**Week 5 – Tuesday, 20 October, 2026**  
 Francis Beaumont, *The Knight of the Burning Pestle*  
**Tutorial 5:** Mock Epic and Travesty

**Week 6 – Tuesday, 27 October, 2026**  
**Parody on Stage (cont'd)**  
 Francis Beaumont, *The Knight of the Burning Pestle*  
**Tutorial 6:** Staging Renaissance Drama  
**Assignment 1 (Thesis Draft) Due**

**Week 7 – Tuesday, 3 November, 2026**  
**Ends of Empire I**  
 Joseph Conrad, *The Heart of Darkness*  
**Tutorial 7:** Literary Modernism

**Week 8 – Tuesday, 10 November, 2026**  
**Ends of Empire II**  
 Joseph Conrad, *The Heart of Darkness*  
**Tutorial 8:** Sentence Structures and Commas

**Week 9 – Tuesday, 17 November, 2026**  
 Rudyard Kipling, "Mark of the Beast" (from *Life's Handicap* 1891, pp. 208-24)  
**Tutorial 9: IN-TUTORIAL TEST**

**Week 10 – Tuesday, 24 November, 2026**  
 Derek Walcott, "A Far Cry from Africa"  
 Jeanette Armstrong, "History Lesson"  
**Tutorial 10:** Critical Self-Reflection

**Week 11 – Tuesday, 1 December, 2026**  
 Chinua Achebe, *Things Fall Apart*  
**Tutorial 11:** The Novel  
**First Term Essay Due**

**Week 12 – Tuesday, 8 December, 2026**  
 Chinua Achebe, *Things Fall Apart* (Cont'd)  
**Tutorial 12:** Our Friend the Paragraph

**SECOND TERM**

**Week 13 – Tuesday, 5 January, 2027**  
**Sexual Intercourse Began in 1963**  
 Philip Larkin, "High Windows"  
 Irving Layton, "Misunderstanding"

Kim Addonizio, "What Do Women Want?"

**Tutorial 13:** The Literature of Opposition

**Week 14 – Tuesday, 12 January, 2027**

**No, It Didn't Really**

Andrew Marvell, "To His Coy Mistress"

Mary Wortley Montagu, "The Lover"

**Tutorial 14:** Research Methodologies I

**Week 15 – Tuesday, 19 January, 2027**

**Sex on Stage (Almost)**

William Wycherley, "The Country Wife"

**Tutorial 15:** Research Methodologies II

**Week 16 – Tuesday, 26 January, 2027**

William Wycherley, "The Country Wife"

**Tutorial 16:** The "Proper" Uses of Poetry

**Week 17 – Tuesday, 2 February, 2027**

**Sex and Identity**

Eliza Haywood, "Fantomina"

**Tutorial 17:** Women and Writing

**Week 18 – Tuesday, 9 February, 2027**

**Sex and Identity II**

Christina Rossetti, *Goblin Market*

**Tutorial 18:** Close Reading and *Goblin Market*

**READING WEEK, 13-21 February, 2027**

**NO CLASSES OR TUTORIALS**

**Week 19 – Tuesday, 23 February, 2027**

Alan Moore and David Lloyd, *V Is for Vendetta*

**Tutorial 19:** *V Is For Vendetta* (Movie Night!)

**Assignment 2 (Annotated Bibliography) Due**

**Week 20 – Tuesday, 2 March, 2027**

**And for a Change of Pace: Death!**

Thomas Grey, *Elegy Written in a Country Churchyard*

**Tutorial 20:** Peer Review Exercise I

**Week 21 – Tuesday, 9 March, 2027**

Tony Harrison, *V*

<https://youtu.be/WPutBM7zfv8>

[https://youtu.be/htVdIq8ID\\_g](https://youtu.be/htVdIq8ID_g)

<https://youtu.be/rgsJSAJwmOQ>

<https://youtu.be/gtEaDEdh2zE>

**Tutorial 21:** Peer Review Exercise II

**Week 22 – Tuesday, 16 March, 2027**

**Fragments, and a Really Famous Poem**

T. S. Eliot, *The Waste Land*

**Tutorial 22:** Tradition and the Individual Talent

T. S. Eliot, "Tradition and the Individual Talent"

**Week 23 – Tuesday, 23 March, 2027**

**Fragments Revisited**

Ursula K. Le Guin, *The Word for World Is Forest*

**Tutorial 23:** Ecocriticism

**Week 24 – Tuesday, 30 March, 2027**

Ursula K. Le Guin, *The Word for World Is Forest*

**Tutorial 24:** Randomness and Design

**Week 25 – Tuesday, 6 April, 2027**

**Tutorial 25:** Exam Review and Prep

**Second Term Essay Due**

**Exam Period – Exam TBA**

## 4. Course Materials

Most of the texts for this course are available online, through the course syllabus and schedule on Brightspace. Three texts that must be purchased are also included in the course schedule:

*The Word for World is Forest* (Required) -- \$24

*Things Fall Apart* (Required) -- \$22

*V for Vendetta* (Required) -- \$34

Total Cost: \$80

These books are available for purchase through the [Dellelce Family Bookstore at Western](#).

All course materials that are not included in the above three books will be posted as PDFs or links to OWL: <https://westernu.brightspace.com/>

Students are responsible for checking the course OWL site (<https://westernu.brightspace.com/>) regularly for news and updates. This is the primary method by which information will be disseminated to all students in the class.

If students need assistance with the course OWL site, they can seek support on the [OWL Brightspace Help](#) page. Alternatively, they can contact the Western Technology Services Helpdesk. They can be contacted by phone at 519-661-3800 or ext. 83800.

### **Technical Requirements**

There are no technical requirements for this course beyond access to a computer that will allow you to access Brightspace and the information and texts there, as well to submit assignments electronically.

### **Electronic Devices**

No aids are permitted for this exam. Electronic devices of any kind (including calculators, cell phones and smart watches) are not permitted.

### **Statement on the Use of Generative Artificial Intelligence (AI)**

In this course, students are permitted to use AI tools exclusively for information gathering, preliminary research, and outlining. These tools are intended to enhance the learning experience by providing access to diverse information sources. However, it is essential that students critically evaluate the obtained information, exercise independent thinking, and engage in original research to synthesize and develop their own ideas, arguments, and perspectives. The use of AI tools can serve as a starting point for exploration; however, students are expected to uphold academic integrity by appropriately attributing all sources and avoiding plagiarism.

Assignments should reflect the students' own thoughts and independent written work. By adhering to these guidelines, students contribute to a responsible and ethical learning environment that promotes critical thinking, independent inquiry and allows them to produce original written contributions.

## **5. Methods of Evaluation**

### **Grading Scheme and Assessment Dates**

The overall course grade will be calculated as listed below:

- Assignment 1 (Thesis Draft) (27 October, 2026) – 5%
- First Term Essay (1 December, 2026) – 15%
- Assignment 2 (Annotated Bibliography) (23 February, 2027) – 5%
- Second Term Essay (6 April, 2027) – 20%
- First Term Test (17 November, 2026) – 10%
- Participation – 10%
- Exam (TBA) – 35%

**First Term Test (17 November, 2026):** This assessment is central to the learning objectives for this course. Accordingly, students seeking academic consideration for this assessment will be required to provide formal supporting documentation. Students who are granted academic consideration for this

assessment will be provided with the opportunity to write a makeup test at a time and place to be determined by the instructor.

Note that supporting documentation is **always** required for academic consideration requests for examinations scheduled by the office of the registrar (e.g. December and April exams) and for practical laboratory and performance tests typically scheduled during the last week of the term.

When a student receives academic considerations or academic accommodations which overlap with the built-in flexibility of the assessment, the longest period of accommodation will determine the deadline. The built-in flexibility of the assessment should not be taken to extend any considerations or accommodations.

### General information about missed coursework

Students must familiarize themselves with the *University Policy on Academic Consideration – Undergraduate Students in First Entry Programs* posted on the Academic Calendar:  
<https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academicpolicies/appeals/academicconsiderationSep24.pdf>

This policy does not apply to requests for academic consideration submitted for **attempted or completed work**, whether online or in person. The policy also does not apply to students experiencing longer-term impacts on their academic responsibilities. These students should consult: [Accessible Education](#).

For procedures on how to submit Academic Consideration requests, please see the information posted on the Office of the Registrar's webpage:  
<https://registrar.uwo.ca/academics/academicconsiderations/>

All requests for Academic Consideration must be made within 48 hours after the assessment date or submission deadline.

All academic consideration requests must include supporting documentation; however, recognizing that formal documentation may not be available in some extenuating circumstances, the policy allows students to make one Academic Consideration request **without supporting documentation** in this course. However, the following assessments are excluded from this, and therefore always require formal supporting documentation:

- Examinations scheduled during official examination periods (Defined by policy)

### Evaluation Scheme for Missed Assessments

Missed assignments (numbered 1 and 2 in the syllabus and evaluation criteria) and both term essays may, with the agreement of the instructor or the provision of documentation, be granted extensions. The First Term test will, where documentation has been provided, be made up through the scheduling of an alternate writing date, to be determined by the instructor.

When a student misses the **Final Exam** and their Academic Consideration has been granted, they will be allowed to write the Special Examination (the name given by the University to a makeup Final Exam). See the Academic Calendar ([Special Examinations](#)), especially for those who miss multiple final exams within one examination period.

## 6. Additional Statements

### **Academic Integrity Module**

Incoming undergraduate students are required to complete Western's Academic Integrity Module. Information about the module, including access instructions, and completion deadlines, is available at: [https://vpacademic.uwo.ca/Academic\\_Integrity\\_Module.html](https://vpacademic.uwo.ca/Academic_Integrity_Module.html).

This training is part of the required training suite for all incoming students. Students who do not complete the Academic Integrity Module by the deadline will have an academic seal placed on their records and will not be able to add/drop courses, obtain a transcript, or Intent to Register the following year.

### **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, here:

[https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic\\_policies/appeals/scholastic\\_offences.pdf](https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/scholastic_offences.pdf)

### **Statement on the use of plagiarism-checking software**

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>).

### **Policy on Accommodation for Religious Holidays**

Students should review the [policy for Accommodation for Religious Holidays](#). Where a student will be unable to write examinations and term tests due to a conflicting religious holiday, they should inform their instructors as soon as possible but **not later than two weeks** prior to writing the examination/term test. In the case of conflict with a midterm test, students should inform their instructor as soon as possible but not later than one week prior to the midterm.

Religious Accommodation requests for final exams should be submitted via the Student Absence Portal.

### **Academic Accommodation and Accessible Education**

**Academic Accommodation** is “a means of adjusting the academic activities associated with a course or program of student in order to permit students with disabilities to participate in those activities at the University and to fulfill the essential requirements of a course or program.” <https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academicpolicies/appeals/Academic%20Accommodationdisabilities.pdf>. Students with disabilities are encouraged to register with **Accessible Education** at the earliest opportunity. “Accessible Education plays a central role in Western's efforts to ensure that its academic programs are accessible for all students” <http://academicsupport.uwo.ca/accessibleeducation/index.html>

### **Special Examinations**

A Special Examination is any examination other than the regular examination, and it may be offered only with the permission of the Dean of the Faculty in which the student is registered, in consultation with the instructor and Department Chair. Permission to write a Special Examination may be given on the basis of compassionate or medical grounds with appropriate supporting documents. To provide an opportunity for students to recover from the circumstances resulting in a Special Examination, the University has implemented Special Examinations dates. These dates as well as other important information about examinations and academic standing can be found [here](#).

### **Support Services**

#### **Academic Advising**

Your Home Faculty's Academic Advising Office will support or refer whenever you have an issue that is affecting your studies, including information on adding/dropping courses, academic considerations for absences, appeals, exam conflicts, and many other academic related matters. Do not hesitate to reach out to them if you are struggling and unsure where to go for help. Contact info for all Faculties is here: <https://registrar.uwo.ca/facultyacademiccounselling.html>

#### **Mental Health Support**

Students who are in emotional/mental distress should refer to Mental Health@Western (<https://uwo.ca/health/>) for a complete list of options about how to obtain help.

#### **Gender-based and sexual violence**

Western University [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/studentssupport/survivorsupport/get-help.html>. To connect with a case manager or set up an appointment, please contact [support@uwo.ca](mailto:support@uwo.ca).

#### **Learning Development and Success**

Counsellors at the Learning Development and Success Centre <https://learning.uwo.ca> are ready to help you improve your learning skills. They offer presentations on strategies for improving time management, multiple-choice exam preparation/writing, textbook reading, and

more. Individual support is offered throughout the Fall/Winter terms in the drop-in Learning Help Centre, and year-round through individual counselling.

**USC**

Additional student-run support services are offered by the USC, <https://westernusc.ca/services/>.