

Department of English & Writing Studies

Understanding Literature Today
English 1020E (650)
Summer 2017

Instructor: Dr. Anne Schuurman
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Office Hours: Tuesdays 10:00-12:00 or by
appointment

Antirequisite(s): English 1022E, 1035E.

Prerequisite(s): 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.

Course Description:

This course takes you on a journey through the genres, historical periods, and critical approaches to English literature. In online lectures and online discussions, you will study major works of poetry, prose, and drama with attention to their use of literary form and the cultural contexts in which they were written. The written assignments for the course will provide you with training in literary analysis, logical and rhetorical argumentation, and strong skills in grammar and composition.

This course is recommended to students who may be considering either a Major or Minor in English Language and Literature, and who are interested in reading poetry, prose, and drama.

Course Objectives:

- Students who complete the course successfully 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;
- Recognize connections between course texts;
- Write an essay about a work (or works) of literature, containing a clear and effective thesis supported by adequate evidence from the original text(s)
- Research critical commentary on literary works;
- Evaluate the relevance, reliability, and usefulness of research sources, especially those obtained through the Internet;
- Integrate secondary research materials and references to the original text(s) into an essay;
- Organize and present ideas clearly and effectively in writing;
- Document essays using MLA Style

Course Materials

Text List:

1. Austen, Jane. *Northanger Abbey*. Ed. Claire Grogan. Peterborough: Broadview, 2002.
2. *Elements of Literature*. 5th Canadian Edition. Ed. David Staines et al. Toronto: Oxford UP, 2014.*
3. Larsen, Nella. *Passing*. New York: Modern Library-Random House, 2002.
4. Martel, Yann. *Life of Pi*. Toronto: Vintage, 2002.
5. Shakespeare, William. *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. Ed. Russ McDonald. New York: Pelican Shakespeare-Penguin, 2000.
6. Custom Course Pack. Available from the UWO Bookstore.

* The 4th edition is also fine if students can find it.

** A current writing handbook is strongly recommended, such as *The Brief Penguin Handbook*.

Methods of Evaluation

Final Grade:

Students must pass both term work and the final examination to pass the course. Students who fail the final examination (regardless of their term mark) automatically fail the course.

Class Format:

Each week you will be responsible for reading the assigned text(s), the associated lecture, and the discussion postings of your peers. You are expected to contribute to these discussions on a regular basis. (For more information, please see the "Discussion" section of the document labelled "Read Me First.")

Discussion Participation:

Participation in online discussion is a major component of this course. It is essential that students keep up with class discussion, because each topic is only available for a limited period (without exception). To receive a passing participation grade, you must contribute to at least **twenty** discussion topics (out of a total of twenty-three). Remember: discussion contributions are more about quality than quantity. You must respond to the ideas of your classmates, which means that you need to read other students' postings. In preparation for each discussion, you should first read the required text(s), then read the lectures, then read what other students have already posted, then post your own response. Discussion posts that fail to respond to previous posts by repeating the same points or covering the same ground with additions but without acknowledging peers will receive a failing grade. Moreover, posting to the discussion board is not a onetime thing—it's a conversation. Expect to visit the discussion board repeatedly throughout the week. You might find that you can use the class discussion space as a springboard for new ideas—you may even come back to your discussion posts when you're brainstorming for an essay.

Email:

Please use the Messages function in OWL for all course communication. You can do this by composing an email addressed to "Instructor Role." (See the email section of the "Read Me First" document for more on course communication.)

Essay Style:

Essays must comply with MLA (Modern Languages Association) citation style and guidelines. The UWO library provides a document explaining the basics of MLA formatting:

<http://www.lib.uwo.ca/files/styleguides/MLA.pdf> You will find a link to this site in the Academic Resources folder through the Learner Resources tab.

COMPONENT	WEIGHT	DUE DATE	LENGTH
Participation	15%	Every Unit	X 2-3
Essay 1	15%	June 3	1000 words
Midterm Test	10%	June 20-22	1 hour
Essay 2	20%	July 24	2000 words
Reflection	5%	July 29	500 words
Final Exam	35%	TBA	3 hours

Late Penalty:

Due to the nature of an online course and assignment turnaround times, students should make every effort to hand all assignments in on time. Essays and other assignments are to be submitted via the Owl Assignments Tab by the due dates listed above (and on the Course Schedule). Assignments sent as email attachments will not be accepted unless previously arranged with the instructor. Papers handed in late without prior permission will be deducted 5% per day late, including weekends. Essays submitted more than one week after the due date has passed will not be accepted. Late essays will forfeit instructor commentary. Please note that instructors cannot grant accommodation on medical grounds: see the Academic Accommodation section below for details.

A student must receive a passing grade for both term work and the final examination in order to receive a passing grade for the course. This applies to all courses in all programs offered by the department. Students whose term and final exam grades average 50% or above, even though one of the two is a failure, shall receive a default grade of 48%. **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 <http://www.uwo.ca/english/undergraduate/info%20for%20students.html#grade>.

Timetable

Unit 1.1: Creation Stories (May 8-10)

Margaret Laurence, "Where the World Began" (course pack); "Fiction, Fact, and Truth," *Elements of Literature* (henceforth EL) 3-4; Discussion 1.1

Unit 1.2: Creations Stories (May 11-13)

Milton, *Paradise Lost*, from Book 4 (course pack); "Approaching a Poem" EL 372-73; Discussion 1.2

Unit 2.1: The Natural World (May 15-17)

Frost, "Design" and "Birches" (EL), Page, "Planet Earth (course pack), "Music" EL 361-72; Discussion 2.1

Unit 2.2: The Natural World (May 18-20)

Wordsworth, "Tintern Abbey" (EL), Thomas, "The Force that through the Green Fuse Drives the Flower" (EL); "Description and Meditation" EL 347-49; Discussion 2.2

Unit 3.1: The Reading Self (May 23-24)

Austen, *Northanger Abbey*; "Plot and Character" EL 7-9; Discussion 3.1

Unit 3.2: The Reading Self (May 25-27)

Austen, *Northanger Abbey*; Discussion 3.2

Unit 4.1: Art and Life (May 29-31)

Keats, "Ode on a Grecian Urn" (EL), Rossetti, "In an Artist's Studio" (course pack); Discussion 4.1

Unit 4.2: Art and Life (June 1-3)

Avison, "Snow" (EL), Walker, "Everyday Use" (course pack); "Themes" EL 9-11; Discussion 4.2

ESSAY 1 DUE JUNE 3rd by 11:55PM

Unit 5.1: Dreams and Nightmares (June 5-7)

Blake, "London" (EL), Lampman, "The City of the End of Things" (EL), T.S. Eliot, "The Hollow Men" (EL); Discussion 5.1

Unit 5.2: Dreams and Nightmares (June 8-10)

LeGuin, "The Ones Who Walk Away from Omelas" (course pack); Page, "Unless the Eye Catch Fire" (course pack); Discussion 5.2

Unit 6.1: Love and Loss (June 12-14)

Shakespeare, "A Midsummer Night's Dream"; "Elements of Drama" EL 707-12; Discussion 6.1

Unit 6.2: Love and Loss (June 15-17)

Shakespeare, "A Midsummer Night's Dream"; Discussion 6.2

Unit 7.1: Love and Loss (June 19-21)

Donne, "Holy Sonnets" (EL); Discussion 7.1

MIDTERM TEST (June 20-22 ONLINE)

Unit 7.2: Love and Loss (June 22-24)

Shakespeare, "Sonnet 18, "Sonnet 73" and "Sonnet 130" (EL); Edna St. Vincent Millay, "I Being Born a Woman and Distressed" (course pack); Discussion 7.2

Unit 8.1: Love and Loss (June 26-28)

Burns, "My Love is Like a Red, Red Rose" (course pack); Atwood, "Variations on the Word Love" (EL); Faulkner, "A Rose for Emily" (link on OWL); Discussion 8.1

Unit 8.2: Love and Loss (June 29-30)

Thomas, "Do Not Go Gentle into That Good Night" (EL); Yeats, "When You Are Old" (course pack); Auden, "Funeral Blues" (course pack); Discussion: Vacation – Happy Canada Day!

Unit 9.1: Public and Private Selves (July 3-5)

Nella Larsen, *Passing*; Discussion 9.1

Unit 9.2: Public and Private Selves (July 6-8)

Nella Larsen, *Passing*; Discussion 9.2

Unit 10.1: Public and Private Selves (July 10-12)

Charlotte Perkins Gilman, "The Yellow Wallpaper" (EL); "Point of View: Perspective and Language" EL 11-14; Discussion 10.1

Unit 10.2: Public and Private Selves (July 13-15)

Munro, "Family Furnishings" (OWL); Heaney, "Digging" (course pack); Discussion 10.2

Unit 11.1: Storytelling (July 17-19)

Barnes, excerpt from *A History of the World in 10 1/2 Chapters* (course pack); Discussion 11.1

Unit 11.2: Storytelling (July 20-22)

Robert Browning, "My Last Duchess" (EL); Eliot, "The Love Song of J. Alfred Prufrock" (EL); Discussion 11.2

Unit 12.1: Storytelling (July 24-26)

Yann Martel, *Life of Pi*; "The Spectrum of Fiction" EL 4-5; Discussion 12.1

ESSAY 2 DUE 11:55 pm on July 24

Unit 12.2: Storytelling (July 27-29)

Life of Pi. Discussion 12.2.

REFLECTIONS DUE 11:55 pm on July 29

Final Exam TBA somewhere between July 31 and August 3.

Accommodation

Students seeking academic accommodation on medical grounds for any missed tests, exams, participation components and/or assignments worth 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 UWO Policy on Accommodation for Medical Illness and further information regarding this policy can be found at http://uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/accommodation_medical.pdf.

Downloadable Student Medical Certificate (SMC):

http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/medicalform.pdf

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:

Plagiarism is a major academic offense: see the Scholastic Offense Policy in the Academic Calendar. In sum, plagiarism includes the possession and use of unauthorized materials in examinations, giving to or obtaining from other students in an examination information, representing another student or having oneself represented by another student at an examination, submitting in one course a paper in whole or part already submitted for credit in another course, submitting a paper containing a statement of fact known by the student to be false, submitting a paper in which a reference or source has been fabricated, submitting a paper in which a quotation from another source or a borrowed idea is presented as one's own.

Borrowed ideas and ideas inspired from external sources, not just quotations, must be appropriately acknowledged. This includes borrowings from Internet sources just as it does Library sources. The documentation of your sources is an essential part of writing for university. Plagiarism charges are easy to avoid: put quotations in quotation marks and document the sources of all quotations and borrowed ideas. If you have any doubt about a particular case, I encourage you to ask me for help.

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.