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Western University



ENGLISH 1020E (650): Understanding Literature Today

Summer 2018

Instructor: Dr. Jo Devereux

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.

Prerequisite: Grade 12U English or permission of the Department.

Course Objectives:

Successful students who complete the course 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 outside research materials and references to the original text(s) into an essay through the use of

quotations and paraphrases

- Organize and present ideas clearly and effectively in writing
- Document essays using MLA format, 8th edition.

Text List (7 separate books. N.B.: these are all in print, not electronic. All can be purchased at the Western Bookstore.)

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.** The 4th edition is also fine if students can find it.
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*. Folger Shakespeare Library, 1993.
6. Custom Course Pack. Available from the UWO Bookstore. Required.
7. A current writing handbook is strongly advised. I like *The Little Seagull Handbook*, which has the current MLA.

Composition of Grade

COMPONENT	WEIGHT	DUE DATE	LENGTH
Participation	15%	3 Discussion posts per Unit	50-100 words per post
Essay 1	15%	June 4	1000 words
Midterm Test	10%	June 18-20	1 hour
Essay 2	20%	July 26	2000 words
Discussion Reflection	5%	July 2	500 words
Final Exam	35%	TBA –	3 hours

Final Grades

Students must pass both term work and the final examination in order 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). In order to receive a passing participation grade, you must contribute to at least twenty discussion topics (out of a total of twenty three units worth). 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.

Late Penalty

Due to the nature of an online course and assignment turnaround times, students should make every effort to hand in assignments 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.

Academic Accommodation

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:

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

The full policy is set out here: http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/appealsundergrad.pdf

Plagiarism is a serious academic offence. Please refer to the department's statement on plagiarism at

<http://www.uwo.ca/english/undergraduate/info%20for%20students.html#plagiarism>

Essays in this course may be subject to assessment through Turnitin.com.

Important General Information for Students For English Department regulations governing term work, faculty office hours, academic relief (appeals, petitions, complaints), and other matters, please consult the "Undergraduate Information for Students" section on the English Department website at:

<http://www.uwo.ca/english/undergraduate/info%20for%20students.html>

Students who are in emotional/mental distress should refer to Mental Health@Western

<http://www.uwo.ca/uwocom/mentalhealth/> for a complete list of options about how to obtain help.

EN 1020E (650): Understanding Literature Today

Course Schedule: Summer 2018 – we will be covering one full unit per week

(Note that *Elements of Literature* is abbreviated to EL)

Unit 1.1, May 7-9: Creation Stories: Margaret Laurence, "Where the World Began" (course pack); "Fiction, Fact, and Truth," *Elements of Literature* (EL) 3-4; Discussion 1.1

Unit 1.2, May 10-12: Milton, *Paradise Lost*, from Book 4 (course pack); "Approaching a Poem" EL 372-73; Discussion 1.2

Unit 2.1, May 14-16: The Natural World: Frost, "Design" and "Birches" (EL), Page, "Planet Earth (course pack), "Music" EL 361-72; Discussion 2.1

Unit 2.2, May 17-19: The Natural World: 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, May 21-23: The Reading Self: Austen, *Northanger Abbey*; "Plot and Character" EL 7-9; Discussion 3.1

Unit 3.2, May 24-26: The Reading Self: Austen, *Northanger Abbey*; Discussion 3.2

Unit 4.1, May 28-30: Art and Life: Keats, "Ode on a Grecian Urn" (EL), Rossetti, "In an Artist's Studio" (course pack);
Discussion 4.1

Unit 4.2, May 31-June 2: Art and Life: Avison, "Snow" (EL), Walker, "Everyday Use" (course pack); "Themes" EL 9-11;
Discussion 4.2

ESSAY 1 DUE JUNE 4th by 11:55PM

Unit 5.1, June 4-6: Dreams and Nightmares: Blake, "London" (EL), Lampman, "The City of the End of Things" (EL), T.S. Eliot,
"The Hollow Men" (EL); Discussion 5.1 6

Unit 5.2, June 7-9: Dreams and Nightmares: LeGuin, "The Ones Who Walk Away from Omelas" (course pack); Page, "Unless
Eye Catch Fire" (course pack); Discussion 5.2

Unit 6.1, June 11-13: Love and Loss: Shakespeare, "A Midsummer Night's Dream"; "Elements of Drama" EL 707-12;
Discussion 6.1

Unit 6.2, June 14-16: Love and Loss: Shakespeare, "A Midsummer Night's Dream"; Discussion 6.2

Unit 7.1, June 18-20: Love and Loss: Donne, "Holy Sonnets" (EL); Discussion 7.1

MIDTERM TEST (June 18-20 ONLINE)

Unit 7.2, June 21-23: Love and Loss: Shakespeare, "Sonnet 18, "Sonnet 73" and "Sonnet 130" (EL); Edna St. Vincent Millay,
"Being Born a Woman and Distressed" (course pack); Discussion 7.2

Unit 8.1, June 25-27: Love and Loss: 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, June 28-30: Love and Loss: 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!

Discussion Reflection Due July 2nd.

Unit 9.1, July 2-4: Public and Private Selves: Nella Larsen, *Passing*; Discussion 9.1

Unit 9.2, July 5-7: Public and Private Selves: Nella Larsen, *Passing*; Discussion 9.2

Unit 10.1, July 9-11: Public and Private Selves: Charlotte Perkins Gilman, "The Yellow Wallpaper" (EL); "Point of View:
Perspective and Language" EL 11-14; Discussion 10.1

Unit 10.2, July 12-14: Public and Private Selves: Munro, "Family Furnishings" (OWL); Heaney, "Digging" (course pack);
Discussion 10.2

Unit 11.1, July 16-18: Storytelling: Barnes, excerpt from *A History of the World in 10 ½ Chapters* (course pack); Discussion
11.1

Unit 11.2, July 19-21: Storytelling: Robert Browning, "My Last Duchess" (EL); Eliot, "The Love Song of J. Alfred Prufrock" (EL)
Discussion 11.2

Unit 12.1, July 23-25: Storytelling: Yann Martel, *Life of Pi*; "The Spectrum of Fiction" EL 4-5; Discussion 12.1

ESSAY 2 DUE July 26th

Unit 12.2: Storytelling, July 26-27: *Life of Pi*. Discussion 12.2.

Final Exam TBA somewhere between July 30th and August 2nd.

First day of classes: Monday May 7, 2018

Week 1 May 11, 2018

Week 2 May 18, 2018

Week 3 May 25, 2018

Week 4 June 1, 2018

Week 5 June 8, 2018

Week 6 June 15, 2018

Week 7 June 22, 2018

Week 8 June 29, 2018

Week 9 July 6, 2018

Week 10 July 13, 2018

Week 11 July 20, 2018

Week 12 July 27, 2018

Last day of classes: July 27, 2018

Final exams: July 30- August 2, 2018

