

**Western University Canada
Graduate Program in English
Department of English and Writing Studies
Winter 2015
ENGL 9118B The Humanities in the Corporate University
Thursdays 9:30-12:30 in UC 377**

Instructor: Donna Palmateer Pennee, PhD

Office: Arts and Humanities Building (AHB) 2G19A Ext. 85825

E-mail: dpennee@uwo.ca (preferred mode of contact)

Office Hours: Tuesdays 5:30 -6:30pm; Thursdays 3:30-5:30pm; or by appointment arranged through dpennee@uwo.ca

Course Description

The daily experience of students and faculty in the academy has been shaped in part by the historical relationships between the rise of the nation-state, the production of citizenship, the rise of disciplinary and interdisciplinary studies, and the rise of capitalism to its current global hegemony in the form of governance by corporate management. Seldom, however, are these historical and current relationships the topics of study in humanities disciplines. Using a cultural studies approach, and the analytical skills that characterize the critical reading of cultural texts, this course will engage us in research and discussion of such keywords as collegial governance, autonomy, academic freedom, internationalization, globalization, and so on, as we study shifts in public values and expectations of higher learning and their effects on the humanities in university settings. We will be asking questions such as: how have we and how might we theorize and practice our activities in university settings as public and private “goods”? What are the particular narratives and tropes used in scholarly and other representations of universities at the present time, in times past, and in the future? What “counts” and how do methods for “counting” bear on disciplinary questions? Etc.

Objectives and Methods of Assessment

Through reading, questions, oral presentations, peer responses, and writing, we will conduct this course as a collaborative research seminar. We will read and discuss instructor-assigned work in the first third of the course, then read and discuss work brought to our attention by each member of the seminar, chosen for its relevance to that member’s work in progress towards an 18 to 20 page paper for the end of term. In general, our objective is to become better informed about the nature of debates about universities in “crisis;” in particular, our objective is to become skilled interlocutors in these debates and to produce our own analyses of the meanings of corporatization and globalization of public universities, all from our particular locations in a research-intensive institution of higher learning.

Methods of assessment and their timing will be determined in consultation with the members of the class, as will the reading list subsequent to completion of the assigned readings for in-class work for the first third of the term.

We will use Bloom's taxonomy of educational objectives to consider assignments that will assess knowledge, comprehension, application, analysis, evaluation, and synthesis of the course materials, as well as metacognitive abilities. For a useful revision and updating of Bloom's taxonomy, see the following:
<http://www.celt.iastate.edu/pdfs-docs/teaching/RevisedBloomsHandout.pdf>)

As a graduate seminar, this course requires preparedness, professionalism, engagement, responsiveness, and commitment from everyone enrolled. The more prepared, professional, engaged, responsive, and committed we are, the better our facilitation of our own and each other's learning and academic enrichment. For the course productivity to be of graduate caliber, everyone must attend all classes having read with care and on time all required course materials.

Required Reading

Readings, Bill. *The University in Ruins*. Cambridge, MA: Harvard UP, 1996.
(ISBN 9780674929531 paperback)

Donoghue, Frank. *The Last Professors: The Corporate University and the Fate of the Humanities*. New York: Fordham UP, 2008. (ISBN: 9780823228607 paperback)

On-line readings licensed through Western University Libraries (e.g., special editions of scholarly journals on the corporate managerial university's effects on literary studies and/or the humanities)

On-line readings via the OWL course website (educational access to materials available only in print, such as excerpts from books on globalization and universities, on corporate management models, etc.)

Statement on 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 the following Web site:

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

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>)."

Late or Missed Work will not be considered in the absence of documentable extenuating circumstances of the sort recognized by the School of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies and the English Graduate Program.

Message from SGPS on Health and Wellness

As part of a successful graduate student experience at Western, we encourage students to make their health and wellness a priority. Western provides several on campus health-related services to help you achieve optimum health and engage in healthy living while pursuing your graduate degree. For example, to support physical activity, all students, as part of their registration, receive membership in Western's Campus Recreation Centre. Numerous cultural events are offered throughout the year. For examples, please check out the Faculty of Music web page <http://www.music.uwo.ca/> and McIntosh Gallery on campus <http://www.mcintoshgallery.ca/>. Information regarding health- and wellness-related services available to students may be found at <http://www.health.uwo.ca/>. Students seeking help regarding mental health concerns are advised to speak to someone they feel comfortable confiding in, such as their faculty supervisor, their program director (graduate chair), or other relevant administrators in their unit. Campus mental health resources may be found at http://www.health.uwo.ca/mental_health/resources.html.