



**FACULTY OF ARTS
Department Of English**

COURSE OUTLINE

ENGL 387: Current Topics in English Studies: The Harlem Renaissance

Fall 2022

TR 12:30-1:45 pm, SS109, In-person

Instructor	Suzette Mayr
Email:	smayr@ucalgary.ca
Web Page:	D2L (access via MyUofC portal)
Office Hours:	Wednesdays, 2-4 pm via Zoom Meeting ID: 982 3226 6374 Passcode: 801686 https://ucalgary.zoom.us/j/98232266374?pwd=dUtwZXNEaUdCTi9XVDIGU0x1WF10dz09

Welcome to the University of Calgary:

On behalf of the University of Calgary Department of English, I would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge the traditional territories of the people of the Treaty 7 region in Southern Alberta. The City of Calgary is also home to Métis Nation of Alberta, Region III.

Course description:

The Harlem Renaissance refers to the explosion of African American cultural and intellectual life during the 1920s and 1930s. Centered in the Harlem neighborhood of New York City, the movement impacted urban centers throughout the US as well as cultures of the African diaspora throughout the world. This course will examine a selection of texts from the Harlem Renaissance and shortly afterward, highlighting key features of this historic movement and its monumental and continuing effects on contemporary arts and literature both within and outside the work of artists belonging to the African diaspora.

There are no 200-level pre-requisites for this course. This course may be repeated for credit.

Email policy:

I am happy to reply to short, specific questions via email and will answer as promptly as possible (usually it takes me several days to respond to a given email). However, I cannot guarantee that you will have a reply within a specific amount of time. If you have detailed questions on the course material it is more appropriate to meet with me via Zoom during office hours, or make an appointment to meet with me via Zoom at a different time.

Course learning outcomes:

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

1. Demonstrate intermediate-level knowledge of a range of literary writings from the Harlem Renaissance;
2. Understand and interpret literary texts in relation to their historical and cultural contexts;
3. Pay close attention to the language of a literary text;
4. Write a convincing academic paper using the conventions of English as an academic discipline;
5. Engage in meaningful conversations about literature with peers.

Texts and readings (available at the UCalgary bookstore):

Hughes, Langston. *The Weary Blues* (Dover Publications [Thrift Edition], 2022)

Hurston, Zora Neale. *Their Eyes Were Watching God* (Harper Perennial Modern Classics, 75th Anniversary edition, 2006)

Larsen, Nella. *Passing* (Dover Publications, 2004)

McKay, Claude. *Romance in Marseille* (Penguin, 2020)

Petry, Ann. *The Narrows* (Northwestern University Press, 2017)

Other assorted essays and short stories available on the course D2L site

Learning technology requirements:

Students will need to have access to a laptop computer during class time for the Essay #1 exam in October. There is a D2L site for this course which contains required readings and other relevant class resources and materials (see d2L.ucalgary.ca).

Assessments and Evaluation:

Readings will be assigned for most classes and I expect assigned work to have been read *before* we discuss it in class. Students will be assigned two major essays – one administered as an in-class exam in October – and one final, registrar-scheduled exam. If you want to discuss any class- or class assignment-related issues, please do not hesitate to come see me (note: I will not edit your work, but I will discuss more general topic- and writing-related issues with you).

There is a Registrar-scheduled Final Examination in this course. Students must be available for examinations during the entire examination period (10-21 Dec. 2022).

There are no extra-credit assignments in this course.

Students must complete all essay assignments and exams (see the note regarding missed quizzes below) in order to receive a passing grade on the course. Essay #1 and Essay #2 are to be submitted through D2L as Word documents. The specific criteria for the class are as follows:

In-class Essay #1 (open book) Thurs., 06 Oct. 2022	30%
Essay #2 (1200-1500 words) due Fri., 04 Nov. 2022	35%

Final Exam (Registrar-scheduled: 10-21 Dec. 2022)	30%
Reading Quizzes (administered in person during class time)	5%

Assignments submitted after the deadline will be penalized with the loss of a third of a grade (e.g., an A- to B+) for each calendar day (not class meeting) that the assignment is overdue. No assignments will be accepted two weeks past the assignment deadline without the prior consent of the instructor.

In-class quizzes:

In-class reading quizzes will be administered throughout the semester as additional assessment of student engagement with the assigned reading. It is not sufficient to attend class only to write the quiz and then leave class upon completion of the quiz – quizzes completed in this manner will result in an F grade.

The lowest quiz grade will be dropped and the remaining quiz grades averaged to determine your grade for this component of the course. This is to account for unfortunate absences from class, such as those due to illness. Consequently, **there will be no rewrites or alternate scheduling of quizzes** except in the case of accommodation arranged ahead of time through Student Accessibility Services. The Student Accessibility Services website is available [here](#).

Attendance and participation expectations:

Students are expected to attend class regularly and to be fully present and engaged in class activities and discussions. Discussions in class will form the basis of the work expected in the written assignments.

Conduct:

Students, employees, and academic staff are also expected to demonstrate behaviour in class that promotes and maintains a positive and productive learning environment. As members of the University community, students, employees, and academic staff are expected to demonstrate conduct that is consistent with the University of Calgary Calendar, the Code of Conduct and Non-Academic Misconduct policy and procedures, which can be found at: <http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/k.html>

Policy on use of electronic devices:

The use of laptop and mobile devices in class is acceptable when used in a manner appropriate to the course and classroom activities. Please refrain from accessing websites and resources that may be distracting to you or for other learners during class time. Students are responsible for being aware of the University's [Internet and email use policy](#). Electronic devices are not permitted during the Final Examination.

Grading System:

Final grades will be determined using a combination of percentages and letter grades.

90 + %	A+	4.0	67 – 69 %	C+	2.3
85 – 89 %	A	4.0	64 – 66 %	C	2.0
80 – 84 %	A–	3.7	60 – 63 %	C–	1.7
77 – 79 %	B+	3.3	55 – 59 %	D+	1.3
74 – 76 %	B	3.0	50 – 54 %	D	1.0
70 – 73 %	B–	2.7	0 – 49 %	F	0

- The interpretation of the undergraduate university grading system can be found at <https://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/f-1-1.html>

Students must reach the minimum percentage threshold for the grade range to receive that letter grade. For example, to receive an A-, a student must have surpassed the minimum threshold of 80.00% in the course.

Although the A+ is solely an honorific that entails no additional points in the 4-point system, the course instructor will employ this mark to distinguish superlative work that exceeds expectations in style, correctness, intellectual depth and breadth, sophistication, and originality.

A range: Outstanding or Excellent Work

The essay's thesis is clearly stated and obvious; ideas are original and focused; all main points are clearly stated and supported with specific examples from the primary and/or secondary texts; ideas are organized logically and flow easily; if applicable, research draws from reputable sources and uses the sources appropriately; writing has either minimal or no spelling and grammatical errors; "Works Cited" page is correctly formatted and in good order. This paper goes above and beyond the regular requirements for the assignment.

B range: Good Work

The essay topic is clear, and the essay has a definite thesis; ideas may show some glimmers of originality; specific examples from the text are used to support the main arguments; spelling and grammatical errors are at a minimum; the research sources used are for the most part reputable; perhaps some sections could be more clearly stated but clarity overall is not a problem; formatting errors at a minimum.

C range: Satisfactory Work

The essay's thesis is not as clear as it could be or is incomplete; ideas not necessarily original but are still competent; essay needs work with recurring spelling and grammatical errors; occasional muddled logic; some points not clearly supported by evidence from the text;

contains other errors that perhaps get in the way of keeping the central argument as tight as it could be; too many formatting errors are distracting for the reader.

D range: Minimal Pass

Language is often unclear because of grammatical errors; thesis unclear or muddled or missing; topic wanders into unrelated or extremely tangential territory; when required, research sources are questionable or nonexistent; ideas are unsupported or unfocused; flow between ideas hard to discern; sloppy formatting.

F: Unsatisfactory

Writing has no cohesion and ideas are scattered or unclear; thesis may be unclear or missing entirely; main topic hard to discern; no textual support for central arguments; major grammatical errors interfere with clarity.

Academic Integrity:

This course, like all courses at the University of Calgary, holds students to high standards of honest and responsible scholarship. Please consult the [Academic Integrity website](#) for a detailed description of university policies, which will be enforced in this course. Cases of suspected academic misconduct will be referred to the Associate Dean of Arts for a ruling.

Plagiarism is a type of academic misconduct. Plagiarism occurs when a student presents the ideas, expression of ideas, or work of another person as their own. Another equally serious form of plagiarism occurs when a student submits something they have written themselves for credit in two or more courses without first securing written permission from all those course instructors. Consequences for plagiarism include failure on the assignment, failure in the course, and possible suspension or expulsion from the university. Using any source whatsoever without clearly documenting it is a serious academic offense.

Deferral of term work and final examinations:

Should you require an extension for completion of term papers or assignments beyond the deadline of five days after the end of lectures, an [Application of Deferment of Term Work](#) must be completed. It is the student's responsibility to initiate this process with the instructor. The University also has regulations governing the [deferral of final examinations](#).

Grade appeals:

To pursue a Reassessment of Graded Term Work or a Reappraisal of an Academic Assessment, Consult the [University Calendar](#) and request advice from the English Department at engl@ucalgary.ca. Please note that mere dissatisfaction with a grade is not sufficient grounds for an appeal.

[English Department Website:](#)

For more information about courses, programs, policies, events and contacts in the Department of English.

Scribe and Muse Club for English Students:

The [Scribe and Muse Reading and Writing Club](#) fosters and champions reading and writing through community service, leadership, and engagement. Our email address is smecuofc@gmail.com.

Writing support:

[The Student Success Centre](#) offers both online and workshop writing support for U of C students.

[Academic regulations and schedules](#)

Student Academic Accommodations:

The Student Accessibility Services website is available [here](#). University accommodation policies can be found at the following links:

<https://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/b-6-1.html>

<https://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/b-6.html>

<https://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/b-6-2.html>

Program Advising and Student Information Resources is done through the Faculty of Arts Students' Centre. Office location: SS102; phone: 403-220-3580; email: ascarts@ucalgary.ca
Website: <http://arts.ucalgary.ca/undergraduate>

Instructor's Intellectual Property

Course materials created by instructors, including presentations, posted notes, labs, case studies, assignments, and exams, remain the intellectual property of the instructor. These materials may not be reproduced, redistributed or copied without the explicit consent of the instructor. The posting of course materials to third party websites such as note-sharing sites without permission is prohibited. Sharing of extracts of these course materials with other students enrolled in the course at the same time may be allowed under fair dealing.

Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy

Student information will be collected in accordance with usual classroom practice. Students' assignments will be accessible only by the authorized course faculty and teaching assistants. Private information related to the individual student is treated with the utmost regard by the faculty at the University of Calgary.

Sexual violence policy:

<https://www.ucalgary.ca/legal-services/sites/default/files/teams/1/Policies-Sexual-and-Gender-Based-Violence-Policy.pdf>

Other important information:

- [Wellness and Mental Health Resources](#)
- [Student Success](#)
- [Student Ombuds Office](#)
- [Student Union \(SU\) Information](#)
- [Graduate Students' Association \(GSA\) Information](#)
- [Emergency Evacuation/Assembly Points](#)
- [Safewalk](#)

Universal Student Ratings of Instruction (USRI):

Please participate in [USRI Surveys](#) toward the end of the course. The feedback they provide helps us evaluate teaching, enhance student learning, and guide students as they select courses.