

FACULTY OF ARTS
DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH

ENGL201 L 14: Approaches to Literature: Representations of Reality **Fall 2013**

Class: Monday/Wednesday 3:30-4:45 PM, Room EDC 388
Instructor: Rachel Zolf
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Office hours: Monday 1–3 pm or by appointment

Homepage/course website: <http://english.ucalgary.ca/courses>

Course Description:

Through the study of a selection of texts that enact representations of reality in various genres, this course examines the “production of truth” (Steyerl) as the work of perspective and politics. Engaging with a variety of literary, documentary, and media forms, including a graphic novel and poetry and drama texts that grapple with visuality, we will discuss how difficult it is to define reality due to the blurred lines between truth, ideology, fact, and fiction. We will look at how the concept of reality is portrayed and troubled in literary texts by Art Spiegelman, Daphne Marlatt, Marie Clements, and Juliana Spahr, alongside related photo, documentary and essay work by Edward Curtis, Walker Evans, Robert Minden, Errol Morris, Hito Steyerl, Susan Sontag, and others. Finally, we will ask how to represent what may be unrepresentable, and why some literary works compel readers to bear witness to real events they may rather wish to deny. The course materials, lectures, and collaborative discussions model the skills and strategies required at the post-secondary level, especially methods of composition, critical reading, and writing.

Required Texts (available in the University Bookstore):

Clements, Marie and Rita Leistner. *The Edward Curtis Project: A Modern Picture Story*. Vancouver: Talonbooks, 2010. Print. 978-0889226425

Marlatt, Daphne and Robert Minden. *Steveston*. Vancouver: Ronsdale Press, 2001. Print. 978-0921870807

Spahr, Juliana. *this connection of everyone with lungs* Berkeley: U of California P, 2005. Print. 978-0520242951

Spiegelman, Art. *The Complete Maus*. New York: Pantheon Books, 2011. Print. 9780679406419

**N.B. Students are responsible for all materials discussed and viewed in class. Students are also responsible for all material the instructor classifies as required reading or viewing.

Supplementary Texts and Websites:

Fowler, Ramsey, et al. *The Little, Brown Handbook*. 6th ed. Toronto: Pearson, 2011. Print.

Gibaldi, Joseph. *MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers: Seventh Edition*. New York: The Modern Language Association of America, 2009. Print.

Oxford Dictionary

Student's Guide to the Presentation of Essays:

<http://www.ucalgary.ca/UofC/eduweb/grammar/guide.htm>

<http://www.utoronto.ca/ucwriting/organizing.html>

Assignments

Percentage of Final Grade

Close Reading (300 words)	10%
Response paper (400 words)	10%
Essay (1200 words)	30%
Test	10%
Visual project (image and 250-word analysis)	10%
Exam (registrar-scheduled)	30%

Assignment Descriptions:

*All assignments must use the MLA methodology. No extra-credit assignments will occur in the course for any reason. All assignments must use the assigned course texts on the syllabus.

Close Reading Assignment: 10%

After in-class practice and modeling of close reading strategies, students will provide a 300-word close reading of a selected quotation, passage, or image from an instructor-prepared list on a course text.

Response Paper: 10%

The response paper builds on the close reading strategies practiced in-class and on the close reading assignment. Students will select ONE question and/or textual quotation from an instructor-provided list and write a 400-word response on *two texts from the course syllabus*. This brief response requires comparative critical analysis of two primary texts from the course syllabus along with a critical commentary in response to a quotation from a related article (secondary source).

Essay: 30%

The 1200-word research essay requires critical analysis of two primary texts and a minimum of three secondary sources. Students must attend the library research and writing skills sessions on the dates indicated in the course schedule.

Test: 10%

An in-class test will occur on November 20th, 2013. The test is out of 10. Students must be available for the test on the scheduled date. The exam is not open book; examinations will not be conducted on computers or laptops.

Visual Project with Analysis: 10%

This project requires students to select a particular image and problematizes the image through various assemblage techniques such as framing, re-arrangement, staging, collage, or other documentation procedures. Students write a brief 250-word analytical response on the image and how it relates to the text.

Registrar Scheduled Final Exam: 30%

Students must be available (on campus) for examinations on the scheduled exam date and up to the last day of the examination period scheduled by the registrar (December 19, 2013). Please check the registrar's schedule of examinations on the University of Calgary's website. As noted

above, the final exam is cumulative. Examinations will not be conducted on computers or laptops; exams are not open book.

General Submission Instructions/Expectations:

- Students are expected to attend class prepared to participate actively in class activities and discussions. Students must read and prepare notes on all required readings for the class.
- Assignment work (any written work) must adhere to university-level standards—a minimal number (5) of errors per page—with MLA format.
- Evaluation: The instructor uses a rubric and/or specific requirement criterion to calculate grades on assignments. The grade given is the grade for the assignment. Grades will not be adjusted for any reason.
- I do not teach material twice. Students must attend classes to obtain lecture material or contact their student colleagues.
- Extensions for assignments are on a case-by-case basis.
- All assignments and exams must be submitted to qualify for a passing grade.

Guidelines on E-mail Etiquette and Electronic Submissions policy:

<https://www.ucalgary.ca/it/help/articles/email/etiquette>

Assignments and course work must be submitted at the beginning of class, on the due date and in printed form (typed, double-spaced, 12 point font, stapled), unless other specific arrangements have been made. Assignments must be in MLA format with a works cited attached. In particular, submitting work by e-mail without prior agreement is not an acceptable alternative to handing in work in class.

I am happy to reply to short specific questions via e-mail and will answer as promptly as possible (usually it takes me approx. one week to respond to a given e-mail). 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 visit me during office hours or make an appointment to see me personally in my office.

*Note: Please make all efforts to take assignments directly to the instructor. If it is not possible to do so, take your assignment to SS1152 and place it in the drop-box. Your assignment will then be date-stamped and placed in your instructor's mailbox. To retain confidentiality, place your assignment in an envelope. Please keep a copy of your assignment in case of loss by any cause. It is your responsibility to do so. **Assignments cannot be returned by staff in the Department office.***

Policy on late assignments:

All written assignments must be submitted in hard copy. Assignments submitted after the deadline will be penalized with the loss of a third of a grade (an A- to B+) for each day [not each class] that the assignment is overdue, unless a written proof of medical reasons is provided.

Undergraduate Grading System:

The following grading system will be used for final grades. Percentage/Letter grades will be given for all assignments and will be based on the following grade conversion chart.

Grading system: Here is the grading system used in this course:

A+/90+%; A/85-89% ; A-/80-84% ; B+/77-79%; B/74-76; B-/70-73%; C+/67-69%;C/64-66%; C-/60-63; D+/55-59; D/50-54; F/0-49%.

Format of class work:

The class will be a combination of lecture, discussion and group work. Because note-taking skills are important to develop, and taking notes aids in comprehension and memory of course material, *lecture notes and power points will not be posted to Blackboard*. You are encouraged to get to know your student colleagues in class – and I will assign occasional group work to facilitate this – in order that if you miss a class you have someone you can contact about what was covered.

Expectations of Behaviour:

This is a university, which means we treat people as adults, and expect people to behave as adults in return. Talking during class is not acceptable outside of responses to questions, in discussion exercises, or the occasional group assignment. Please turn off all communication devices during class. Laptop computers are acceptable in class as long as they do not present a distraction to others or the instructor. I reserve the right to ban computers from the class if anyone's computer presents a distraction. Once you are in class, please do not leave unless it is important (the class is only 75 minutes long).

Plagiarism:

Using any source whatsoever without clearly documenting it is a serious academic offense. Consequences include failure on the assignment, failure in the course and possible suspension or expulsion from the university. Please refer to the following information and make sure you are familiar with the statement below on plagiarism.

<http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/k-2-1.html>

Scribe and Muse Club for English Students:

The Scribe and Muse Reading and Writing Club (SMRWC) fosters and champions reading and writing through community service, leadership, and engagement. We strive to enhance the academic and social experience of undergraduate students by promoting academic excellence and interaction between students, faculty, and the community, through social, cultural, and academic events. <http://english.ucalgary.ca/content/scribe-and-muse-reading-and-writing-club>
Our email address is smrwc@ucalgary.ca.

English Department Website:

For more information about courses, programs, policies, events and contacts in the Department of English, please go to our website at <http://english.ucalgary.ca>. Please note that the course outlines posted on the English Department website constitute the official course outline for purposes of appeals. Students should verify any hard copies against this posted version. For courses which employ numerical grades, the official departmental percentage to letter grade conversion scale is also posted on the department website.

Writing support:

The Student Success Centre offers both online and workshop writing support for U of C students. <http://www.ucalgary.ca/ssc/writing-support>

Follow the Department of English on Facebook & Twitter:**Academic regulations and schedules:**

Consult the Calendar for course information, university and faculty regulations, dates, deadlines and schedules, student, faculty and university rights and responsibilities. The homepage for the University Calendar is

<http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/index.htm>

Guidelines on e-mail Etiquette:

<https://www.ucalgary.ca/it/help/articles/email/etiquette>

Grade appeals:

Consult the following University Calendar link and request advice from the English Department office, SS 1152. Please note that “mere dissatisfaction with a decision is not sufficient grounds for the appeal of a grade or other academic decision.”

<http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/i.html>

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 form must be completed. The University also has regulations governing the deferral of final examinations. See Calendar: <http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/g-6.html>,

<http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/g-7.html>.

Academic Accommodation:

It is the students' responsibility to request academic accommodations. If you are a student with a documented disability who may require academic accommodations and have not registered with Student Accessibility Services, please contact them at 403-220-6019. Students who have not registered with Student Accessibility Services are not eligible for formal academic accommodations. More information about academic accommodations can be found at www.ucalgary.ca/access.

Emergency Evacuation/Assembly Points:

<http://www.ucalgary.ca/emergencyplan/assemblypoints>;

Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act:

<http://www.ucalgary.ca/legalservices/foip/>

“Safewalk” Program:

Campus Security will escort individuals day or night: call 220-5333 for assistance. Use any campus phone, emergency phone or the yellow phone located at most parking lot pay booths.

<http://www.ucalgary.ca/security/safewalk/>

Faculty of Arts Program Advising and Student Information Resources:

Have a question, but not sure where to start? The new Faculty of Arts Program Information Centre (PIC) is your information resource for everything in Arts! Drop in at SS110, call us at

403-220-3580 or email us at artsads@ucalgary.ca. You can also visit the Faculty of Arts website at <http://arts.ucalgary.ca/undergraduate> which has detailed information on common academic concerns.

For program planning and advice, contact the Student Success Centre (formerly the Undergraduate programs Office) at (403) 220-5881 or visit them in their new space on the 3rd Floor of the Taylor Family Digital Library.

For registration (add/drop/swap), paying fees and assistance with your Student Centre, contact Enrolment Services at (403) 210-ROCK [7625] or visit them at the MacKimmie Library Block.

Contact for Students Union Representatives for the Faculty of Arts:

arts1@su.ucalgary.ca, arts2@su.ucalgary.ca, arts3@su.ucalgary.ca, arts4@su.ucalgary.ca

Contact for Students Ombudsman's Office: <http://www.ucalgary.ca/provost/students/ombuds>

PLAGIARISM

Plagiarism is an extremely serious offence. Please read the following information carefully. The penalty routinely recommended by the English Department for documented plagiarism is failure of the course in which the offence occurred; academic probation is also routinely applied at the Faculty level. Suspension or expulsion can result from severe or repeated plagiarism.

The University Calendar states:

1. Plagiarism - Essentially plagiarism involves submitting or presenting work in a course as if it were the student's own work done expressly for that particular course when, in fact, it is not. Most commonly plagiarism exists when:

- (a) the work submitted or presented was done, in whole or in part, by an individual other than the one submitting or presenting the work (this includes having another impersonate the student or otherwise substituting the work of another for one's own in an examination or test),
- (b) parts of the work are taken from another source without reference to the original author,
- (c) the whole work (e.g., an essay) is copied from another source, and/or,
- (d) a student submits or presents work in one course which has also been submitted in another course (although it may be completely original with that student) without the knowledge of or prior agreement of the instructor involved.

While it is recognized that scholarly work often involves reference to the ideas, data and conclusions of other scholars, intellectual honesty requires that such references be explicitly and clearly noted.

Plagiarism occurs when direct quotations are taken from a source without specific acknowledgement, or when original ideas or data from the source are not acknowledged. Citing your sources in a bibliography is not enough, because a bibliography does not establish which parts of a student's work are taken from other sources. MLA (Modern Language Association) documentation or other recognized forms of citation must be used for this purpose. Advice on adequate documentation can be found at the following web sites:

<http://www.dianahacker.com/resdoc/>

<http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/747/01/>

DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH STATEMENT ON PRINCIPLES OF CONDUCT

According to the University Calendar, (<http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/j.html>) "The University of Calgary community has undertaken to be guided by the following statements of purpose and values: to promote free inquiry and debate, to act as a community of scholars, ..., to respect, appreciate, and encourage diversity, [and] to display care and concern for community". The Department of English, like the university as a whole, is committed to a "positive and productive learning and working environment." This environment is characterized by appreciation and encouragement of diversity and respect for the dignity of all persons: students, support staff, and faculty. The department will not tolerate unacceptable behaviour, such as threatening gestures, threatening or abusive verbal or written communication (including e-mails), or any conduct that "seriously disrupts the lawful education and related activities of students and/or university staff". Any cases of such misconduct should be reported immediately to the department Head, who, depending on the nature and severity of the incident, may then take further appropriate action.