

FACULTY OF ARTS  
DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH  
COURSE OUTLINE

**ENGLISH 201.01** Approaches to Literature

Fall 2016

**Course Title:** Writing Our Selves: Explorations of Sexuality and Gender  
M/W/F 8:00-8:50 ST127

**Instructor:** Peter Forestell

**Office:** SS1117

**Phone:** 403-220-2137

**E-mail:** pforeste@ucalgary.ca

**Office hours:** Wednesdays, 10 – 11 AM and by appointment

**Course description:** In this course, we will read, discuss, and write about texts that explore the intersection of sexuality, gender, and identity. What possibilities—and what limitations—do these authors imagine for themselves or their characters by writing about this often fraught relationship? Can marginalized peoples create new, better worlds for themselves by asserting their identities and resisting sexual and gender norms? These questions will take us to the red muck of Prince Edward Island, across to the gutters of Paris, back to a funeral home in Pennsylvania, up to the AIDS-ridden streets of New York City, and beyond. These questions will take us back in time as far as Shakespeare’s England, through Emily Dickinson’s Civil War Era America, and into today. Through engagement with many forms of literature—fiction, comics, drama, poetry, memoir—students will explore these questions and more, all while learning and applying techniques of close reading and critical writing.

**Texts and readings:** All texts, except for the selections of poetry, are available at the University Bookstore. The selections of poetry are available online.

Lucy Maude Montgomery, *Anne of Green Gables*

James Baldwin, *Giovanni’s Room*

Alison Bechdel, *Fun Home*

Tony Kushner, *Angels in America, Part I: Millennium Approaches*

Janet Mock, *Redefining Realness*

Selections of poetry (available online)

- William Shakespeare, “A woman's face with Nature's own hand painted”
- Emily Dickinson, “Wild nights - Wild nights!”
- Elizabeth Bishop, “One Art”
- Adrienne Rich, “Diving into the Wreck”
- Thom Gunn, “The Man with Night Sweats”

**Assignments and Evaluation:**

**Reading Quizzes (10%)**

Students will be asked to complete six short multiple choice-quizzes, given on unannounced dates. Each quiz will be worth 2%, with the lowest mark dropped at the end of the semester. These quizzes are designed to test students' knowledge of the texts.

### **Initial Writing Assignment (20%)**

As a class, we will read and discuss one critical essay about *Anne of Green Gables*. Then, students will be asked to write a short essay (700 words total) that briefly summarizes the critic's argument (200 words) and provides two additional pieces of textual evidence that support or challenge the critic's argument, with a brief explanation of the selection (500 words). Marks will be based on the succinctness of the summary, the relevance of the selected evidence, the clarity of the explanation, and proper MLA formatting.

### **In-Class Test (15%)**

Halfway through the term, students will write a test that consists of multiple-choice and short-answer responses to passages selected from texts discussed up until that point. The multiple-choice questions will mirror the types of questions on the reading quizzes and the short-answer questions will ask students to apply techniques of close-reading learned in class.

### **Essay (30%)**

This assignment will occur in two stages. Over the course of both stages, students will develop and sustain an argument supported by relevant textual evidence in a well-organized essay.

In the first stage, worth 10%, students will be asked to develop a debatable thesis statement and one body paragraph (totalling 300 words) in response to one of several essay topics given out in class. Marks will be based on the clarity of the thesis statement, the relevance of the textual evidence, the organization and style of the body paragraph, and proper MLA formatting.

In the second stage, worth 20%, students will revise their initial thesis statement and body paragraph into an argumentative essay (1000 words) that incorporates instructor feedback. Students will be encouraged to meet with the instructor to discuss the initial draft, which they will attach to the complete essay. Marks will be based on the clarity of the revised thesis statement, the revisions to the initial body paragraph, the relevance of the textual evidence, the organization and style of the body paragraphs, and proper MLA formatting.

### **Final Exam (25%)**

There will be a closed book, Registrar scheduled exam in this course. The format of this exam will be short answer questions and a short essay. Students must be available for examinations up to the last day of the examination period (Dec 12-22).

### **Additional Information on Assignments**

Students must complete all assignments, except for the reading quizzes, in order to receive a passing grade in the course. There will be no extra-credit assignments given. Assignments submitted after the deadline will be penalized with the loss of a third of a grade (an A- to B+) for each business day [not class] that the assignment is overdue. No assignments will be accepted one week past the assignment deadline without the prior consent of the instructor.

Please make every effort to take assignments directly to the instructor. If it is not possible to do so, take your assignment to SS 1152 and put it in the dropbox. Your assignment will be date-stamped and placed in

the instructor's mailbox. It is your responsibility to keep a copy of all assignments in case of loss by any cause. Assignments cannot be returned by staff in the Department office.

### **Grading system:**

In this course, all writing assignments, essays, and exams will be marked on the University of Calgary's four-point Grading System, as described in the Calendar:

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

A+/A (4.0); A- (3.7); B+ (3.3); B (3.0); B- (2.7); C+ (2.3); C (2.0); C- (1.7); D+ (1.3); D (1.0); F (0)

All quizzes will receive a numerical grade, to be converted using the following scale:

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

Please note that, according to the University Calendar (F.1), instructors may use their discretion when rounding upwards or downwards when the average of term work and exams is between two letter grades.

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.

### **Policy on the Use of Electronic Devices**

As a courtesy to the instructor and fellow students, please only use electronic devices to perform class related tasks, like taking notes. If for any reason you must respond to a text, call, or email during class time, please try to notify the instructor before class begins, and quietly leave the classroom to use your phone.

### **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/scribe-and-muse-english-club>.

Our email address is [smecuofc@gmail.com](mailto:smecuofc@gmail.com).

**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>

**Guidelines on e-mail Etiquette:**

<http://www.enough.utoronto.ca/computeruse/eetiquette.htm>

**Library and Research Support:**

Christie Hurrell, Interim Librarian for English, offers research support to students, including strategies for finding articles, books, and other library materials. Contact: [christie.hurrell@ucalgary.ca](mailto:christie.hurrell@ucalgary.ca).

Find The English Pages research guide here: <http://libguides.ucalgary.ca/english>

**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>

**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>.

**Student Accommodations:**

Students seeking an accommodation based on disability or medical concerns should contact Student Accessibility Services; SAS will process the request and issue letters of accommodation to instructors. For additional information on support services and accommodations for students with disabilities, visit [www.ucalgary.ca/access/](http://www.ucalgary.ca/access/).

Students who require an accommodation in relation to their coursework based on a protected ground other than disability should communicate this need in writing to their Instructor.

The full policy on Student Accommodations is available at [http://www.ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/student-accommodation-policy\\_0.pdf](http://www.ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/student-accommodation-policy_0.pdf).

**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 Arts Students’ Centre (ASC) is your information resource for everything in Arts! Drop in at SS102, call us at 403-220-3580 or email us at [ascarts@ucalgary.ca](mailto:ascarts@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 3<sup>rd</sup> 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](mailto:arts1@su.ucalgary.ca), [arts2@su.ucalgary.ca](mailto:arts2@su.ucalgary.ca), [arts3@su.ucalgary.ca](mailto:arts3@su.ucalgary.ca), [arts4@su.ucalgary.ca](mailto:arts4@su.ucalgary.ca)

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

**Universal Student Ratings of Instruction (USRI):**

"At the University of Calgary, feedback provided by students through the Universal Student Ratings of Instruction (USRI) survey provides valuable information to help with evaluating instruction, enhancing learning and teaching, and selecting courses ([www.ucalgary.ca/usri](http://www.ucalgary.ca/usri)). Your responses make a difference - please participate in USRI Surveys."

## **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.