

FACULTY OF ARTS
DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH
COURSE OUTLINE

ENGLISH 201-03

Fall 2016

COURSE TITLE: Approaches to Literature: Second-Hand Stories
M/W/F 10:00-10:50 SA 124A

Instructor: Rebecca Geleyn

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Office hours: Wednesdays 11am-12 (or by appointment)

Course description: Stories about oneself—from confessional poetry to letter-writing to autobiography—commonly appear in English literature. But what happens when an author or narrator takes on the task of relaying someone else’s story? When a protagonist cannot speak for him or herself, what factual, political, and ethical issues arise in the second-hand narrative? This course examines the messy knot of storytelling that occurs in framed narratives, the biography of a deceased person, and even a story of the lives of animals. Through close reading of texts and formal and informal writing, students will develop fundamental skills in literary study. No prerequisites are required for this course.

Texts and readings: All texts are available at the University Bookstore.

Mary Shelley, *Frankenstein* (1818)

Barbara Gowdy, *The White Bone* (1999)

Thomas King, *The Truth about Stories* (2003)

Junot Díaz, *The Brief Wondrous Life of Oscar Wao* (2007)

Assignments and Evaluation:

Responses: 10%

In-class group work: 10%

Midterm: 15%

Written assignment: 15%

Essay: 25%

Final exam: 25%

Responses:

Throughout the term, students will be expected to submit both reading responses (worth 5%) and class responses (worth 5%). Students may only submit one response per class. These must be handed in at the beginning of class, and no late responses will be accepted.

Reading responses:

Students should hand in a total of FIVE (5) reading responses, worth ONE (1) point each. Reading responses may only be submitted on certain days, which will be specified on the course schedule and will correspond to the days we begin reading new texts or new sections of texts. A reading response is a paragraph (5-6 sentences) that engages with the day's reading and may take the form of a discussion question, a critique, a short analysis of a character or theme, or a creative response to the text. These responses are designed to deepen students' engagement with the texts and develop close reading skills.

Class responses:

Students should also hand in a total of FIVE (5) class responses, worth ONE (1) point each. Class responses may be handed in on any class day other than the days the reading responses are due (these will be specified on the course schedule). A class response will consist of a short paragraph (3-4 sentences) that responds to any aspect of our previous class's discussion. This could be a question, something you found interesting, something you disagree with, or something you want to discuss further. We will occasionally use these responses in class to spark new discussions. These are designed to encourage students to take careful notes and to regularly reflect on the course content.

In-class group work:

Students are expected to engage in group work throughout the course. On SIX (6) scheduled dates, they will complete short, graded in-class group assignments. Each assignment is worth TWO (2) points and the group as a whole will receive the same grade. A student can receive a maximum of TEN (10) points for the in-class group assignments, so there is no penalty if a student must miss one of the six classes. There will be no make-up opportunities for these assignments.

At the beginning of the group assignment, I will send around a sign-up sheet for each group. If a student arrives after the sheets have been passed around, he or she will not be given a grade for that group assignment, so it is important for students to arrive to class on time.

Midterm:

The midterm will consist of short answer questions and short passage analyses of texts we will have discussed. The test will take place in class.

Written Assignment (600-700 words):

This assignment is a building block toward writing a strong essay. Students will choose one of several thesis statements that will be provided and write 2-4 body paragraphs based on this argument (600-700 words). They will make specific claims, gather evidence from texts, and write clear paragraphs with topic sentences and logical transitions.

Essay (1400-1500 words):

Students will submit a formal essay based on a choice of given topics. Each essay will be graded on the strength of its argument, the relevance of textual evidence, the clarity of the writing, the organization and flow of paragraphs, and the proper use of MLA style. Students are expected to use and apply the instructor's feedback from their first written assignment.

Final Exam:

The course's final exam is scheduled by the Registrar and will take place during the exam period (December 12-22). The **closed-book** exam will consist of a mix of short answer questions, passage analyses, and a longer essay question.

Additional Information on Assignments

Students must complete the midterm, the written assignment, the essay, and the final exam in order to receive a passing grade in the course. There will be no extra-credit assignments. 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, at the beginning of class. 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. Electronic submissions will not be accepted.

Grading system:

In this course, the essay, the written assignment, 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 responses and in-class group work 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

Students are encouraged to use their laptops and tablets for the purposes of in-class group research and exercises, but cell phones should be switched off and stored away during class. As a courtesy to the instructor and fellow students, please only use electronic devices to perform class related tasks.

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.

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.

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/.

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.

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. 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>

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). 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.