

FACULTY OF ARTS
DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH
COURSE OUTLINE

ENGLISH 201 (Sec. 16)
Approaches to Literature

Fall 2017
TR 3:30-4:45pm, ST 127

Instructor: Dr. Derritt Mason

Office: SS 1112

Phone: 403-220-3395

Email: derritt.mason@ucalgary.ca

Office hours: Wednesdays 12-1pm, or by appointment

Course description:

Through a variety of genres and forms (including poetry, graphic narrative, film, and a novel), this course will introduce students to post-secondary studies in English. In addition to developing a critical vocabulary for analyzing a variety of texts, students will spend the term sharpening their close reading and writing skills. The theme of this section, “Truth, Lies, and Storytelling,” invites students to consider how we tell stories and produce meaning through generic and formal conventions.

Prerequisites: None.

Required texts:

- 1) Gord Downie and Jeff Lemire, *The Secret Path* (Simon & Schuster, 2016)
- 2) Thomas King, *The Truth About Stories: A Native Narrative* (You can purchase the 2003 House of Anansi print version from the bookstore and stream the audio version via the CBC website)
- 3) Sarah Polley, *Stories We Tell* (National Film Board of Canada, 2012, to be screened in-class)
- 4) R.L. Stevenson, *Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde* (I strongly recommend the Broadview Press Third Edition, ed. Martin Danahay, 2015, available at the bookstore)
- 5) Mariko Tamaki and Jillian Tamaki, *Skim* (Groundwood, 2008)
- 6) An assortment of poetry, all of which is available online (see reading schedule for details & links)

Assignments and Evaluation:

Essay #1 (750-1000 words, 15%)

For this assignment, you will close read and write a short analytical essay on a song of your choice, focusing on the question of what the song (as lyric poem) is about and drawing attention to its formal elements and language. Detailed instructions will be distributed separately.

Reading Journal and In-Class Assignments (25%)

Throughout the term, using the “Reflections” feature on D2L ePortfolio, you will log weekly (min. 150-word) responses to and reflections on our course texts and in-class discussions. Your entries should be

informal, written in the first person, and focused on making observations and raising questions instead of offering formal arguments. This journal will be invaluable for gathering your ideas about course themes and questions (which will serve you in preparing for your essay-writing and the exam), so you are encouraged to maintain a regular, consistent journal-writing schedule! In addition to these entries, you will be given in-class assignments throughout the term (that you must be present to complete).

All entries must be posted to D2L *before* the start of class on Thursday (i.e. 3:30pm), and the instructor will grade three of them (/5) without prior notice (a score of 5/5 will be reserved for exceptional results only). Your final grade will reflect the quality and consistency of these entries, as well as the overall completeness of the journal, which will be scored /10. One point will be deducted from this total per missing entry (including in-class assignments), to a maximum of 10 points. Late entries (i.e. those submitted after the start of class on Thursday) will result in an automatic deduction of one point. Please note that extensions will not be permitted except under exceptional (i.e. emergency, medical) circumstances.

Essay #2 (1500 words, 25%)

This essay assignment will invite you to close read and respond to the first chapter of Thomas King's *The Truth About Stories* in the context of at least one other text we studied this term. Detailed instructions will be distributed separately.

Final Exam (35%)

Closed book and registrar-scheduled. Students must be available for the entire exam period (Dec. 11-21). Please see the Academic Schedule: <http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/academic-schedule.html>

Assignment Policies:

- Assignments submitted after the deadline will be penalized with the loss of 3% for each day that the assignment is overdue. No assignments will be accepted one week past the assignment deadline without the prior consent of the instructor. Extensions are only granted under exceptional circumstances, but please do let me know in advance of the deadline if something arises.
- Unless otherwise specified, assignments will be submitted electronically via D2L Dropbox. In the case of a late assignment, you are responsible for notifying the instructor by email as soon as the assignment has been uploaded. Otherwise, the assignment will be presumed incomplete.
- You must complete the final exam in order to qualify for a passing final grade.
- There will be no assignments given for extra credit.
- For university regulations on attendance, see: <http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/e-3.html>

Grading System:

The University of Calgary's four-point Grading System, as described in the Calendar; (<http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/f-2.html>) will be used in this course.

All assignments in this class 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, I will employ this mark to distinguish superlative work that exceeds expectations in style, correctness, intellectual depth and breadth, sophistication, and originality. **Please do not contact me to request an adjustment to your final grade unless (1) you suspect I have made an error, or (2) you are planning to formally appeal your results.**

Classroom Policy on Electronic Devices, Email, and Internet Use:

You are welcome to use electronic devices in class. However, please be mindful to use your devices appropriately: checking Facebook, sending personal messages, and other online activities unrelated to class distracts you and those around you. Cell phones should be stowed in a pocket/bag during class time, unless they are required for an activity. Should I happen to observe you using a device in a way that contravenes this policy, I will politely remind you of its tenets.

Please check D2L and email regularly for updates, assignment instructions, and other course related information. Email is the best way to contact me. Although I do my best to respond to emails promptly, please allow up to 48 hours for a response. I will not summarize class discussion or lectures through email— if you miss class, please gather any missing information from your fellow students. Email is not a substitute for attending class or office hours!

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:
ACADEMIC ACCOMMODATIONS**

The student accommodation policy can be found at: [ucalgary.ca/access/accommodations/policy](http://www.ucalgary.ca/access/accommodations/policy).

Students needing an Accommodation because of a Disability or medical condition should communicate this need to Student Accessibility Services in accordance with the Procedure for Accommodations for Students with Disabilities [ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/student-accommodation-policy](http://www.ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/student-accommodation-policy).

Students needing an Accommodation based on a Protected Ground other than Disability, should communicate this need, preferably in writing, to the course 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.