

FACULTY OF ARTS  
DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH  
COURSE OUTLINE

ENGLISH 201–10: Approaches to Literature  
COURSE TITLE: Civilization and its Discontents

Fall 2018

Instructor: Dr. David Sigler

Office: SS 1014

Phone: (403) 220-6573

E-mail: dsigler@ucalgary.ca

Office hours: Tuesdays and Thursdays, 11:00–12:00

Homepage/course website: D2L

**Course description:**

*What is ENGL 201, generally speaking?*

ENGL 201 is for students, often in their first year of University, who are interested in learning the basics of literary studies but who aren't necessarily planning to be English majors. (Yet never fear: the course will still prepare you to become an English major, in case you decide want to jump ship from that other thing). The course emphasizes fundamental skills: how to read a text accurately and critically; how to write logically, clearly, and persuasively. It offers studies in selected works of poetry, prose, and/or drama; individual sections may vary in choice of genre and theme. This course may not be repeated for credit.

*Is there a theme in ENGL 201–10?*

Quite so. We take our title from Sigmund Freud, who, in 1930, asked: why do people feel a lingering dissatisfaction with their place in the world? What does it mean to “fit in” in a community? Who is able to do this and who isn't? Surprise answer: no one can. Or rather, although everyone is asked to do this, and although some can people fit in more completely than others, there isn't anyone who can do it wholly successfully. There is always something extra in a person that can't fit in or won't conform. Freud's theory of how and why that is, entitled *Civilization and its Discontents* (1930), is one of those influential books that an educated person is supposed to have read and thought about. So, no time like the present, let's read and think about it together, along with literary texts (fiction, non-fiction, poetry, and drama) that ask similar questions. We'll think about characters and authors who feel out of place in their “civilization,” so-called, or who bear the brunt of its violence and hostility. We will ask: what is a community? What does it mean to join a community? Where would a sense of belonging come from? To what extent does social cohesion depend upon the repression or exploitation of the people trying to live in that community? What does a community ask from its individual members, and why? What does it mean to “fit in” somewhere, and to what extent is that possible, or admirable?

*What we want you to learn in this course (adapted from Department guidelines):*

- 1) the skill of close reading, which, among other things, requires you to realize that a text is constructed, and not a straightforward reflection of reality;
- 2) a range of technical terms and critical strategies with which to interpret texts;
- 3) how to write a strong, well-supported, clearly written academic essay. This includes learning the process of writing, meaning the various stages of composition and learning how to create effective arguments;
- 4) proper documentation, including what constitutes plagiarism;

- 5) library research skills: how to search and locate reference works, books and articles, both electronic and print; and how to use print and online resources responsibly and thoughtfully;
- 6) to begin to engage with secondary sources in your written work.

### **Texts and readings:**

#### *required books:*

- Sigmund Freud, *Civilization and its Discontents* (non-fiction). Penguin: 978-0141018997
- Kazuo Ishiguro, *Never Let Me Go* (novel). Vintage. ISBN: 978-0307400994
- Shirley Jackson, *The Haunting of Hill House* (novel). Penguin. ISBN: 978-0143039983
- Suzan-Lori Parks, *Top Dog/Underdog* (drama). Theatre Communications Group. ISBN: 978-1559362016
- Leanne Betasamosake Simpson, *This Accident of Being Lost* (poetry/stories). Astoria. ISBN 978-1487001278

#### *other readings (on D2L):*

- Matthew Arnold, “Dover Beach”
- James Baldwin, “Stranger in the Village” and “A Talk to Teachers”
- William Blake, “The Book of Thel”
- Daljit Nagra, “Look We Have Coming to Dover!”
- Sandra Simonds, “When you think about it, mostly, a cage is air—”
- William Carlos Williams, “The Fool’s Song”
- Phillis Wheatley, “On Being Brought from Africa to America”

Students are required to bring the day’s text to class with them, because this facilitates good discussion.

### **Assignments and Evaluation:**

- 6 reading quizzes (in class, lowest score dropped): 10%
- Freud response (250 words): 5%
- Major paper (on Freud + Baldwin, Parks, or Jackson), in three phases:
  - problem statement (200 words) + basic outline + secondary source info (7%), due Oct. 23
  - completion of Academic Integrity workshop (3%, graded pass/fail), October 25
  - complete paper (c. 1400 words, incl. works cited) (25%), due November 1
- Ishiguro assignment (500 words): 15%, due Dec. 4
- Final exam (2 hours, date TBD): 35%  
(format: multiple choice & essay. Relative weights: multiple choice 65%, essay 35% of exam score)

The final exam will be scheduled by the Registrar. The examination period is December 10–20, 2018. Students must be available for examinations through the last day of the examination period.

The written assignments are to be submitted electronically as a Word document or .pdf to D2L. Assignments submitted after the deadline will be penalized with the loss of a third of a grade (e.g., a B+ becomes a B) for each day—not class or business day—that the assignment is late. Each 24 hour period after the deadline incurs a further penalty. No assignments will be accepted one week past the assignment deadline without the prior consent of the instructor.

Students must complete at least the major paper and final exam in order to receive a passing grade in the course. There are no extra credit opportunities available in this course.

**Grading system:**

Assignments will be graded on a letter-grade basis, which will then be converted to a percentage for the purposes of calculating grades. As per the Department of English standard, the following conversion scale is used.

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

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.

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)

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 four-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.

Although I will not ban the use of a laptop in class for note-taking purposes, I do strongly encourage you to take notes by hand instead. Research has shown that taking notes by hand significantly improves student learning, and performance in grades (e.g., Mueller and Oppenheimer, 2014). To read about this research, you might check out the following links:

<http://pss.sagepub.com/content/25/6/1159.full?keytype=ref&siteid=sppss&ijkey=CjRAwmrlURGNw>  
<http://www.psychologicalscience.org/news/releases/take-notes-by-hand-for-better-long-term-comprehension.html#.WEhLPpKSUUI>

Except with prior permission, students are not permitted to make video- or audio-recordings of class sessions. Cell phones must be silenced during class time, including the vibrate function, and may not be used for communication or web browsing. Computers and calculators are prohibited during exams.

**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:**

Melanie Boyd, the Librarian for English, offers research support to students, including strategies for finding articles, books, and other library materials. Contact: [maboymd@ucalgary.ca](mailto:maboymd@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>.

**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](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 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](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.