

Instructor: Michael Tavel Clarke
Fall 2018
TuTh 2:00-3:15
Science Theatres 127
Course Web Page: <https://d2l.ucalgary.ca/login.asp>

Office: Social Sciences 1016
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FACULTY OF ARTS
DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH
COURSE SYLLABUS
201.11 APPROACHES TO LITERATURE:
LOVE AND ROMANCE IN LITERATURE

Course Description

Do concepts of love and romance vary over time and across social groups? What can romance stories tell us about our culture(s), including differences across cultures and the power of our social environment to shape some of our most intimate desires and beliefs?

In this course we will explore contemporary notions of romantic love that sustain the romance novel, arguably the most popular form of North American literature today. We will also consider the origins and development of those notions and the history of the romance genre. Our readings will begin with a pioneering modern romance, Charlotte Brontë's *Jane Eyre*. Next we will study its descendants, Harlequin romances of the middle of the twentieth century. We will end with a novel that challenges the romance tradition, Xiaolu Guo's *A Concise Chinese-English Dictionary for Lovers*, considering how and why it intervenes in the romance tradition.

This course will use assigned texts to introduce students to literary studies as an academic discipline on the university level. Through close reading, critical writing and rewriting, and thoughtful discussion of specific texts, students will develop the practical skills necessary in the discipline. Writing will be considered as both a process of discovery and an academic practice with particular forms and conventions.

Required Texts

Charlotte Brontë, *Jane Eyre*
Xiaolu Guo, *A Concise Chinese-English Dictionary for Lovers*
A Harlequin novel of your choice from the UC Library's Special Collections
Course Pack available at Bound and Copied

Recommended Texts

Wolfe and Wilder, *Digging into Literature* (2016)
A good dictionary and thesaurus
A good grammar manual

Course Requirements

Percentage of Final Grade

Essay 1 (600 words).....	30%
Essay 2 (600 words).....	30%
Writing Exercises (1,000-2,000 words in total).....	15%
Final Exam.....	25%

About the Assignments

Essay 1 requires a close reading of a selected passage from Brontë's *Jane Eyre*. Essay 2 demands engagement with a scholarly argument about Harlequin romances. Writing exercises include 6 or more in-class and out-of-class assignments designed to help you practice the major skills in the course. Essays are graded with a letter (A-F). A separate document on D2L explains the grading criteria for essays in more detail. Writing exercises are due in a portfolio submitted no later than Dec. 6 and evaluated on the basis of

completeness and care. Some of the exercises will be described in assignments posted on D2L, while others will be announced in class only, so attendance is important for success on these exercises. No books are allowed at the final exam.

Grading System

You must complete both essays and the final exam to qualify for a passing grade. Students must be available for examinations up to the last day of the examination period, Dec. 20.

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.

Late Assignments

Assignments may not be submitted late without prior permission. If a legitimate emergency (illness, death in the family, etc.) prevents you from submitting an assignment on time or getting prior permission for an extension, you must provide supporting documentation and contact Dr. Clarke as soon as possible to discuss alternative arrangements. Assignments submitted late without permission or documentation of emergency will be penalized a third of a grade for each late day (e.g., an A paper that is one day late will receive an A-, two days late a B+, and so on; weekend days and holidays are counted in this total).

Turning in Assignments

Essays should be submitted through the digital dropbox on D2L. Writing exercises should be submitted as a portfolio (do not submit writing exercises individually) in hard copy no later than the last day of class. If these submission methods are not possible, you may deliver assignments in hard copy to Social Sciences 1152 and put them in the drop box, where your work will be date-stamped and placed in Dr. Clarke's mailbox. Please keep a copy of your assignment in case of loss. Assignments cannot be returned by staff in the department office. Assignments may not be delivered by email without prior permission.

Students with Disabilities

I will be happy to make appropriate accommodations for students with disabilities. Please contact me during my office hours and coordinate with the Student Accessibility Services (220-6019) if you have a disability that requires some modification of seating, evaluation, or other class requirements. Students who have not registered with the Disability Resource Centre are not eligible for formal academic accommodation. Please make requests for accommodation within fourteen (14) days after the commencement of the course. A link to the Disability Resource Centre is provided below.

<http://www.ucalgary.ca/access>

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>

The English Department offers useful information about expectations for student essays at the following website:

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

Finally, the University of Toronto offers a very useful website for university writing expectations:
<http://www.writing.utoronto.ca/advice/general/transition-to-university>

English Department Website

For more information about courses, programs, policies, events and contacts in the Department of English, please go to our website below.

<http://english.ucalgary.ca>

Follow the Department of English on Facebook & Twitter



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. It strives 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. The website is below:

<http://english.ucalgary.ca/scribe-and-muse-english-club>

The email address is smec@ucalgary.ca.

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 below.

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

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. If you are concerned about the possibility of plagiarism in any work you do in this class, talk to me before handing it in and/or consult *The MLA Handbook*. Plagiarism is both easy to commit and easy to avoid.

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

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, you must complete an Application of Deferment of Term Work form. The University also has regulations governing the deferral of final examinations. For further information, see the following Calendar links:

<http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/g-6.html>

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

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. More information on the Safewalk Program is available at the following link.

<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 them at (403) 220-3580, or email them at artsads@ucalgary.ca. You can also visit the Faculty of Arts website below; it has detailed information on common academic concerns.

<http://arts.ucalgary.ca/undergraduate>

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), fee payment, and assistance with your Student Centre, contact Enrolment Services at (403) 210-7625 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 Student Ombuds 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.