

FACULTY OF ARTS
DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH

ENGLISH 201-09

Winter 2014

COURSE TITLE: Approaches to Literature

Instructor: Dr. Katherine Zelinsky

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Office hours: M/W: 10:00-11:00

Course description: This section of “Approaches to Literature” will explore the importance of race, class and/or gender issues and representations in selected literary works. We will examine how writers address race, class and gender as central themes in the construction of the text, as social and cultural constructions, and as commentaries on social and cultural realities.

Texts and readings:

Thomson Highway, *The Rez Sisters*

William Shakespeare, *Othello*

University of Calgary Course Pack of Readings (compiled by Katherine Zelinsky)

Assignments and Evaluation:

Analytical/Research Essay (30%), Due March 26

Group Presentation (20%), March 28—April 11

Quiz (15%), February 10

Quiz (10%), March 12

Registrar-Scheduled Final Exam, **Open Book** (25%)

Descriptions of Assignments

Analytical/Research essay: This assignment requires you to provide a close, detailed and persuasive reading of some aspect of one of the course texts connected to gender, race and/or class (the text may or may not have already been discussed in class). I will provide you with a selection of essay topics from which you will choose one. The required length is 1350-1450 words. The paper must have a title, be double-spaced and stapled. You will be required to use the MLA format for quotations from the work that you analyze as well as from the critic’s article. You will also be required to provide a Works Cited page in MLA format. You will be assessed for your ability to read closely and carefully, to organize your ideas around a central argument/thesis, and to argue your position convincingly. In addition to providing a close reading, you will be required to incorporate one critic’s analysis of your chosen text. You will be asked to provide a brief summary of the critic’s response and go on to point out how your reading/analysis distinguishes your position from his/hers. The critical article must be from a peer-reviewed academic journal, an article in a collection of essays or from a chapter from a book. Your paper will also be assessed for grammar, sentence structure, word choice, paragraphing, and overall organization.

Group Presentation: For this project you will be asked to choose one text from the course readings and focus on a minor detail, minor character, or image/symbol that connects to class, race or gender. You might, for example, argue that a minor character's action or an image in a poem or work of fiction demonstrates a key aspect of the text's representation of social class. You must have a clear, specific, focused argument based on a **close analysis** of textual details. You may use visual materials such as powerpoint, but make sure that they support and highlight your central argument. The presentation will be 15 minutes in length. There will likely be 3 students per group, depending on class size. This is **not a research project, so DO NOT consult secondary sources.**

The quizzes will be a combination of multiple choice and identification questions.

Registrar-Scheduled Final Examination: This will be an **open book** exam. You will be allowed to use your course readings. No notes allowed. Details of this exam will be discussed in class. The University of Calgary Calendar states that students must be available for examinations up to the last day of the examination period (April 17, 19-29).

N.B. All assignments must be completed in order to qualify for a passing grade.

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.

Please submit your assignments directly to the instructor in class on the dates due. 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:

The following grading system will be used in this course. I will assign both a percentage and a letter grade for each assignment. There is no D-grade.

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 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.

Internet and electronic communication device information

Please turn off cell phones! Laptops are allowed in class as long as they are being used to take notes or to assist you in the planning of class presentations. Students who use their laptops for other purposes, especially if such activities distract other students, will be asked to remove them from the classroom. It is also important that the classroom be a safe place in which students and instructor can engage in respectful discussion, exchange and debate. That means a safe space for everyone! Please familiarize yourself with the University's policy on classroom etiquette and academic misconduct.

Additional Information

Please exercise decorum, discretion and judgment if you email me. That means using correct grammar and appropriate salutations (for example, Dear Professor Zelinsky or Dear Katherine). Although I expect that you will ask most of your questions in class (and I will answer them there or on Blackboard), you may feel the need to email me occasionally. I will do my best to respond within 48 hours. I will not, however, respond to emails after 6:00 p.m. or on weekends.

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 **smec@ucalgary.ca**.

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>

Library and Research Support:

Melanie Boyd, Librarian for English, offers research support to students, including strategies for finding articles, books, and other library materials. Contact: maboyd@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 Accommodation:

It is the students' responsibility to request academic accommodations. If you are a student with a documented disability who may require academic accommodations and have not registered with Student Accessibility Services, please contact them at 403-220-6019. Students who have not registered with Student Accessibility Services are not eligible for formal academic accommodations. More information about academic accommodations can be found at www.ucalgary.ca/access.

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 Faculty of Arts Program Information Centre (PIC) is your information resource for everything in Arts! Drop in at SS110, call us at 403-220-3580 or email us at artsads@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.