

FACULTY OF ARTS
DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH
COURSE OUTLINE

**ENGLISH 201:07 APPROACHES TO LITERATURE
GENIUS LOCI: SPIRIT OF PLACE**

Winter 2016

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Class Schedule: M/W 6:00 to 7:15
Location: EDC 388
Office Hours: Monday 1:00 to 2:00

Strong regional literatures may be the only fortresses left standing against the holocaust of homogenization. — Donald Snow

If you don't know *where* you are, you don't know *who* you are. – Wendell Berry

Calendar Description: English 201 emphasizes fundamental skills in critical reading and writing.

Section Description. All sections of English 201 are topics courses. In this section of 201 we will examine literature strongly associated with place, primarily of our own part of the world in western North America. Most human beings naturally bond with a particular landscape during their childhood. What does a sense or spirit of place (*genius loci*) consist of, and how does one acquire it? How does having the concept of a sense of place help one to feel and articulate our relationship to our home place? What is homesickness? How does capitalism's desire for a highly mobile work force work against rooting deeply into a given place and getting to know it intimately? Can a person be attached to a highly polluted or denuded landscape? What are some of the effects of racism on place? In what ways might one enter into a lifelong 'conversation' with a particular terrain? Much is made of eating locally: what are some of the values of reading locally? Who are some of the writers that live in my region, and in what ways does reading their work enhance my knowledge and emotional connection with the place? To what extent are "universal meanings" universal, and to what extent is the ideal of universality one which we need to dismantle? What is the relationship between literature and the 'real'? What is it like to read a book set in the area where you live? What is it like to walk around in the actual setting of a work of fiction or poetry?

Keywords: spirit of place (*genius loci*); sense of place; belonging; places defined by agriculture, oil and gas, recreation; extirpation and extinction; the home place; homesickness; nostalgia and solastalgia; being or becoming native to a place; country, town and city spaces and places; stolen land; toxic spaces; bioregionalism;

Required Text List:

The Broadview Pocket Guide to Writing, 4th ed. (IF AND ONLY IF you already have a good grammar, punctuation and style manual, you need not buy this one also. Most such texts contain essentially the same information. However, this one is the best, least expensive one currently available, and it is locally made right here in Calgary.)

Robert Kroetsch, *Seed Catalogue* (a long poem)

Fred Stenson, *Who by Fire* (novel)

Carrie Tiffany, *Mateship with Birds* (novel)

Kathleen Dean Moore, *The Pine Island Paradox: Making Connections in a Disconnected World* (nonfiction)

Richard Wagamese, *Medicine Walk* (novel)

James MacKinnon and Alisa Smith, *The 100-Mile Diet: A Year of Eating Locally* (nonfiction)

ASSIGNMENTS:

Postcard story (250 - 500 words, 1 to 2 pp.): 10%

Essay: application of a critical article (750 words, 3 pp.): 15%

Mid-term examination (March 2): 25%

Essay (1000 words, 4 pp.) 20%

Registrar-scheduled final examination (two hours; date set by registrar): 30%

TOTAL: 100%

IMPORTANT NOTES:

ALWAYS BRING THE TEXT(S) OF THE WEEK WITH YOU TO CLASS unless instructed to do otherwise by the professor! Consult the class and reading schedule every week so that you know which materials we will be using that week or even that day.

If you aren't bringing to class the book or other text(s) we are studying in any particular week, then you are totally mistaking the purposes and methodologies of studying literature. That is, "just getting the general drift" of a book or lecture is far from sufficient to pass a literature course: all literature courses – indeed all courses – begin from a close and detailed reading of the assigned texts and materials.

Late penalties: Late penalties will be deducted for late assignments. Late penalties can and sometimes do result in a failing grade on an assignment so students will want to start assignments well in advance of the due date. The late penalty for written work is one mark per day late. That is, if your assignment merits a 12/15 (80%) but comes in two days late, the mark will drop two marks to

10/15 (67%) in order to ensure a level playing field for everyone in the class and so that the professor can meet her deadlines.

Class participation: Attending classes regularly, participating respectfully in class, and in general playing your part in creating an intellectually engaging, friendly and positive classroom environment will enhance your own learning and pleasure in the classroom and beyond, as well as that of others. A very important part of intellectual work is being able to speak about it with others. Students will be expected to assume the role of active and engaged participants in the construction, absorption, evaluation, critique, and dissemination of knowledge rather than merely passive consumers of it. This includes participation in group or pair discussion and in credit-free assignments and activities carried out in class.

Occasionally one will get a student who decides, erroneously, that talking to one's peers is a "waste of time" and leaves the class when the instructor implements some small group work or discussion. Such activities are designed for precise pedagogical purposes such as helping students to truly absorb complex ideas. If we are engaged in group work, chances are it is because that work or material is very important and more complex, not peripheral or something that could not possibly be on an exam. Walking out is both disrespectful to all and it is noticeable. Instead let's all play a part in helping to make this course a resounding success.

Attention and Etiquette: Using your computer, phone or other 'smart' device for any purpose other than note-taking or instructor-designed activities during class is not permitted. It detracts from your ability and that of others to pay attention and concentrate. The instructor reserves the right to eject anyone causing any kind of disruption from the classroom, including electronic disruption. Recent studies have shown that handwritten notes are significantly more effective in terms of recollection and memory and therefore understanding of the material than notes typed on an electronic device. Please read this article from *The Chronicle of Higher Education*:
<http://chronicle.com/blogs/linguafranca/2014/08/25/why-im-asking-you-not-to-use-laptops/>

Take notes. Again, just "getting the main drift" or "the main points" is far, far from sufficient to pass a course. In fact, "the general drift" may not even exist.

Please try to arrive a couple of minutes early for class in order to get unpacked and settled and prepared to work. With approximately ninety students in the class, late arrivals cannot help but be anything but noisy, intrusive and disruptive. Such disruptions result in lost productive class time for all of us.

Although this class takes place at what is probably your dinnertime, eating in class is discouraged. If you must eat something, kindly move to one of the tables outside the classroom and then quietly return when you're done. However, eating in advance of class is highly preferred.

Email communication: Please note that it is impossible for me to carry on an individual email correspondence with 90 people. If you have any course- or assignment-related questions, please ask them in class at the beginning of class time. If you have a particular question, chances are others will be wondering about that point too so you are doing us all a favour in asking.

As per the regulations for all sections of English 201, there will be a registrar-scheduled examination during the regular exam period. The registrar, not individual professors, schedules the examination, and we have zero input into when it is held.

Students are required by the University of Calgary to be available for examinations up to and including the last day of the examination period (April 16-27, 2016).

The final examination will NOT be an open book exam. No books or notes of any kind will be allowed.

There will be no extra credit assignments or opportunities to re-do and resubmit your work. That is simply impossible with current class sizes. Do the best work you possibly can on each assignment before you submit it for a grade.

A word about genre: Please do not refer to nonfiction or poetry books as fiction. I.e., do not call nonfiction or poetry books novels. Novel does not mean “book”; it is a specific literary genre. You can refer to them as nonfiction, literary nonfiction, creative nonfiction, works of prose, a poetry book, or simply books, but do not refer to them as fiction because they are not. Logically, nonfiction is not fiction. I have indicated the genres of the books on the text list, plus you ought to be able to discern genre.

We cannot possibly accept handwritten assignments. All work must be typed, and properly formatted. Using incorrect formatting or trying to fudge assignment length by using a larger or smaller font than required (12 point font is required) and/or putting additional spaces between paragraphs or widening or narrowing page margins is unprofessional and is noticed instantly. Improperly formatted assignments may be penalized in terms of grade and/or returned to the student for reformatting, in which case a late penalty will be applied.

Double-sided printing is very highly encouraged in order to save paper and trees. Paper has two sides: use both. Using factory recycled paper or even paper that has already been used on one side only is permissible and even admirable. Just draw a line diagonally through the material printed or written on the “wrong” side and make sure your pages are stapled in the proper order.

Please DO NOT use any plastic cover sheets. They have an annoying tendency to flap shut constantly while one is trying to read them, for one thing, and for another using more plastic than is absolutely necessary contributes to waste and pollution. Just a simple staple in the upper left-hand corner of the pages is perfect. (Please staple your work before handing it in. I do not carry a stapler around with me.)

Written assignments are due in class at the beginning of class on their respective due dates, and they must be physically handed to the instructor. I cannot accept any electronic submissions (which is too bad as it would save paper and trees). If you absolutely cannot hand me your work, then do not shove professional work under my (or anyone else’s) office door. It can and does get trampled, lost, put under the wrong professor’s door, etc. Instead hand them in via the English Dept. office between 8:30 and 4:30 (the office is closed from 12:00 to 1:00) or the Essay Drop Box just outside the English Department office. However, if you hand it to me, you can be 100% assured that it will not be lost, and you will not incur a late penalty.

However you submit your work, both your name and mine must be on the first page. If my name is not on the front page, the office staff cannot possibly know into whose mailbox to place your work.

Grading System: Course grades are based on the University of Calgary four-point Undergraduate Grading System and the standard percentage conversion chart of the Department of English:

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.

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:

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