

FACULTY OF ARTS  
DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH  
COURSE OUTLINE

ENGLISH 201-06  
COURSE TITLE: Approaches to Literature

Winter 2018

Instructor: Dr. Katherine Zelinsky

Office: SS 1024

Phone: (403)220-4682

E-mail: zelinsky@ucalgary.ca

Office hours: 9:45-10:45, T and R

Classroom: Social Sciences 109

Homepage/course website:

**Course description:** This section of “Approaches to Literature” will explore representations of gender, sexuality, race/ethnicity, and social class in selected literary works. We will examine the ways in which writers incorporate these identity categories into thematic, structural, and characterological elements of the text. We will also look at how these constructions offer points of inquiry into and commentaries on the social and cultural contexts of the works. There is no prerequisite for this course.

**Texts and readings:**

*A Doll's House*, Henrik Ibsen

*Othello*, William Shakespeare

*University of Calgary Bookstore Coursepack of Readings*, compiled by Katherine Zelinsky

**Assignments and Evaluation:**

Analytical/Close Reading Essay (20%), Due February 8<sup>th</sup>

Analytical/Close Reading+ Research Essay (20%), Due March 22

Multiple Choice Quiz (15%), March 15

Group Presentation (20%), to be scheduled from March 29-April 12

Registrar-Scheduled Final Exam, OPEN BOOK, (25%)

**Descriptions of Assignments:**

**Analytical/Close Reading Essay (February 8<sup>th</sup>)**

For this paper, you will be required to provide a close, detailed, persuasive reading of some aspect of one of the course works, which you will connect to gender, sexuality, race/ethnicity, and/or social class. I will provide you, in advance, with a selection of topics for this assignment. **The required length for this paper is 1200 words.** The paper must have a title, be double-spaced, and stapled (no folders please). You will be expected to use the latest MLA format (8<sup>th</sup> edition) for quotations from the work that you choose to analyze. You will also be required to provide a Works Cited page in MLA format. You will be assessed on your ability to read the text closely and perceptively, to organize your ideas around a central

argument/thesis, and to argue your position convincingly. Your paper will also be assessed for grammar, sentence structure, word choice, paragraphing, and overall organization. **You are asked NOT to consult secondary sources for this assignment.**

### **Analytical/Close Reading+ Research Essay (March 22<sup>nd</sup>)**

This assignment requires you, again, to provide a close, detailed, and persuasive analysis of some aspect of one of the course works, connected to gender, sexuality, race/ethnicity, and/or social class. I will provide you with a selection of essay topics. **The required length is 1300-1450 words.** The paper must have a title, be double-spaced, and stapled. You will be required to use the MLA format (8<sup>th</sup> edition) for in-text quotations from your selected reading as well as for quotations from the critic's work that you choose. You will also need a Works Cited page. In addition to providing a close reading and analysis, you will be asked to incorporate one literary critic's analysis of your chosen text. You will need to provide a brief overview of the critic's argument and go on to point out how your analysis distinguishes your position from the critic's. The critical work must be from a scholarly peer-reviewed academic journal, an article in a collection of essays, or a chapter from a book. The critic's article must be written about the text that you select from the course readings. Your paper will be assessed for the clarity of your argument in relation to the critic's, grammar, sentence structure, word choice, paragraphing, and overall organization of ideas.

### **Group Presentation (see above for scheduling dates)**

For this project, you will be expected to choose one text that we have discussed in class from the course readings and focus on a **minor** detail such as a symbol, an image or image pattern, a line or two from the text, or a seemingly incidental scene or event that you will connect to gender, sexuality, race/ethnicity, and/or social class. Students' choice of the textual detail must be approved by me, and each group must consult with me when you are preparing your group presentation well in advance of the date on which you are scheduled to present. You must have a clear, specific, focused argument based on a close analysis of the text. You may use visual aids such as powerpoint, but make sure that they support and highlight your central argument. The presentation must be 8-9 minutes in length. There will likely be 3 students per group. **This is not a research project, so DO NOT consult secondary sources.** Students in each group will be assigned a common grade. However, to ensure that the presentation grade reflects the equal efforts of all members, I will consult with each group periodically.

### **Multiple Choice Quiz (March 15)**

This quiz will consist of 20 multiple choice questions based on the readings covered in class up to that point.

### **Registrar-Scheduled Final Examination**

This will be an open book exam. You will be allowed to bring the course readings to the exam. No loose notes are allowed. The exam will consist of one essay, worth 50% of the overall exam grade; the remaining 50% will consist of a combination of short answer and multiple choice questions.

The University of Calgary Calendar states that students must be available for examinations up to the last day of the examination period, April 16-April 26.

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

Assignments submitted after the dates due will be penalized with the loss of a third of a grade (an A- to B+, for example) for each business day (not class) that the assignment is overdue. No assignments will be

accepted one week past the assignment deadline without the prior consent of the instructor. Please make every effort to take assignments directly to the instructor. 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 letter and a percentage 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 your cell phones in the classroom!** 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 or the instructor, will be asked to remove them from the classroom. It is important to remember that the classroom should be a learning environment in which students and instructor can engage in respectful discussion, exchange, and debate. Please familiarize yourself with the University's policy on classroom etiquette and academic misconduct.

### **Emailing the Instructor: Guidelines**

Please exercise decorum, discretion, and judgment if you email me. That includes using appropriate salutations (for example, Dear Dr. or Professor Zelinsky or Dear Katherine). Although I expect and will encourage you to ask general questions that you may have in class, 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-5.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>

**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](mailto:maboym@ucalgary.ca).

Find The English Pages research guide here:

[https://library.ucalgary.ca/sb.php?subject\\_id=52619](https://library.ucalgary.ca/sb.php?subject_id=52619)

**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.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.