

FACULTY OF ARTS
DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH

English 203.01

Winter 2013

Introduction to Literary Analysis

The American Slave Narrative: Visions and Revisions

Professor Faye Halpern

Office Hours: Mondays 9:30-10:30 and by appointment

Email: fhalpern@ucalgary.ca

Course Web Page:

<http://blackboard.ucalgary.ca>

MWF 10-10:50

Office: Social Sciences 1108

Phone: 220-4436 (I check e-mail much more often than phone messages)

Course Description

Slavery, “the peculiar institution” as many nineteenth-century Americans called it, considered Black men and women property: things instead of people. How did slaves counter this kind of representation through their own narratives of lives in bondage? How do contemporary Black authors revise these earlier ways of representing slavery? We will begin by close reading some “peculiar” short stories about slavery and its aftermath, stories that invite us to investigate just what they’re saying about race and power. Then we’ll compare two of the most famous nineteenth-century slave narratives ever written, Harriet Jacobs’ *Incidents in the Life of a Slave Girl* and Frederick Douglass’ *Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass* and ask, among other things, how gender affects the way authors tell the story of slavery. We’ll end by considering how Toni Morrison’s masterpiece *Beloved* rewrites these earlier representations, taking our place among critics of Morrison who interpret her complex “neo-slave narrative.”

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

By the end of this course, successful students will be able to do the following:

- ✓ Think about the slave narrative as a genre with certain conventions;
- ✓ Know what English professors mean by “close reading” and be able to perform one on a piece of literature;
- ✓ Make a debatable claim about a literary text;
- ✓ Revise (rather than just copy-edit) your own work and think about writing as a process of discovery;
- ✓ Become helpful readers of your peers’ work;
- ✓ Read your own work with a critical eye;

- ✓ Write sentences clearly (and perhaps with flair) and avoid many common grammatical errors;
- ✓ Engage with professional scholars who are writing on the same texts as you are;
- ✓ Cite sources correctly and understand the thinking behind the rules.

Required Texts (available at the University bookstore unless otherwise noted):	Recommended Texts (available at the University bookstore):
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Incidents in the Life of a Slave Girl</i> by Harriet Jacobs. Eds. Nellie Y. McKay and Frances Smith Foster. Norton Critical Edition. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>MLA Handbook</i>, 7th edition
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass, An American Slave</i> by Frederick Douglass. Eds. William L. Andrews and William S. McFeely. Norton Critical Edition. 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Beloved</i> by Toni Morrison. Vintage International Edition, 2004. 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Course Pack (available from Bound and Copied) 	

Course Requirements

Percentage of Final Grade

Essay 1 (3-4 pages) with draft	20%
Essay 2 (4-6 pages) with draft	25%
Final Essay: (5-7 pages) with draft (including critical annotations).....	30%
Quizzes.....	15%
Class Participation (including participation in workshops).....	10%

There is no Registrar-scheduled final exam in this course.

Grading System

You must complete all written work (including drafts but excluding quizzes) to qualify for a passing grade. Professor Halpern uses a combination of letter grades and percentages.

Grade conversions follow the English department's standard rubric:

90 + %	A+	67 – 69 %	C+
85 – 89 %	A	64 – 66 %	C
80 – 84 %	A–	60 – 63 %	C–
77 – 79 %	B+	55 – 59 %	D+
74 – 76 %	B	50 – 54 %	D
70 – 73 %	B–	0 – 49 %	F

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 intellectual depth, sophistication, originality, and style.

Components of the Course:

- **Drafts:** Each essay will be preceded by a draft, which should be roughly the same length as the final essay. You will receive feedback, either from me or some of your classmates or both. Your draft will not be graded, only the revision will be (although you must turn the draft in on time to avoid late penalties). Keep in mind, though, that thoughtless or incomplete drafts often result in weaker revisions.
- **Workshop Letters/Workshops:** To help us go from the draft to the revision, we'll write letters to a few of our classmates responding to their drafts in preparation for one of our draft workshops. If you need to miss a workshop, you can get at least partial credit by still writing your group workshop letters and e-mailing them and me a copy on or before the day of the workshop.
- **Quizzes:** This course requires you to read three slave narratives, learn some facts about slavery, and follow certain grammatical rules and stylistic guidelines. To that end, there will be a few quizzes over the course of the semester that test you on these things.
- **Extra Credit Assignments:** There will be 2-3 extra credit opportunities over the course of the term, which, if done successfully, will add points to your quiz total.

Class Participation

Because much of this course will be motored by discussion, your effort and involvement are essential both for your learning and that of your classmates. You should come to class with all the readings assigned that day carefully read, prepared to take part in small and large-group discussions. It's completely fine to ask questions, say when you're confused, try to articulate an idea that's only half-formed in your own head, or build on something someone just said. A good way to gauge your level of participation is to ask yourself, "How would this class function if everyone participated exactly as much as I do?"

For any readings posted on Bb, I'll expect you to print them out and bring them to class.

Attendance

You are expected to come to class every day. If you miss more than three classes for whatever reasons, your final grade will go down 1/3 of a grade for every additional day missed. Be strategic: don't miss class for not-so-important reasons in case you have emergencies later in the semester. If you are absent for legitimate reasons, such as illness, family emergencies, or religious holidays, please contact me in advance, if possible, and we'll arrange for you to make up the work you miss. You may also use the late assignment option explained below for assignments that are due on that day. If you are absent for unexcused reasons, you will not be allowed to make up class work from the day you were absent (e.g., a workshop). You are responsible for proving that a given absence is for a legitimate reason. Whether you miss class for reasons that are excused or unexcused, you are responsible for finding out about assignments given on that day.

Missed Quizzes & Late Drafts and Revisions

If you're absent on a day one of the quizzes is given out, you will have until the next class to make it up (you can do this for only one missed quiz). It's your responsibility to contact me to make arrangements to take it. In terms of the essays, although the draft will not be graded, it must be turned in; a late or incomplete draft will result in a grade penalty on the revision (1/3 of a grade deduction for every day a complete draft is late, including weekend days). Late revisions will also result in a 1/3 grade deduction for every day late. However, you are allowed to take up to a two-day extension on any one written assignment in the class.

Turning in Essays

I will ask you to turn in a hard copy of some of your essay drafts and all of your essay revisions directly to me. I'll also ask you to post copies of all assignments to Blackboard and e-mail copies of your essay drafts to fellow students. If it's not possible to turn in a hard copy directly to me, take your assignment to Social Sciences 1152 and put it in the drop box, where your work will be date-stamped and placed in my mailbox. Please keep a copy of your exercises and essays in case of loss. Papers cannot be returned by staff in the Department office.

Computers and Electronic Devices

Students are welcome to use computers to take notes or look up a fact that Dr. Halpern does not have at her fingertips. However, checking e-mail, updating your Facebook profile, or other non-course-related electronic activity, is not permitted. Other electronic devices—phones, etc.—must be put away once class begins.

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/content/scribe-and-muse-reading-and-writing-club>
Our email address is smrwc@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>.

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>

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>

Guidelines on e-mail Etiquette:

<https://www.ucalgary.ca/it/help/articles/email/etiquette>

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 a student’s responsibility to request academic accommodation. If you are a student with a disability who may require academic accommodation and if you have not registered with the Disability Resource Centre, please contact their office at 220-8237. Your academic accommodation letters should be provided to your instructor no later than fourteen (14) days after the commencement of this course. Students who have not registered with the Disability Resource Centre are not eligible for formal academic accommodation.

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

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>

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.