

Faculty of Arts  
Department of English  
**English 203.02: Introduction to Literary Analysis**  
**The American Slave Narrative**  
**Dr. Faye Halpern**

Changes made to the course outline from switching to an online format are highlighted.

Winter '20

**No in-person meetings; please see D2L for details on what you should do each week starting in Week 9**

**Office Hours: Th. 11-11:30 via Zoom**

**Office: Social Sciences 1108**

Email: [fhalpern@ucalgary.ca](mailto:fhalpern@ucalgary.ca)

D2L:

<https://d2l.ucalgary.ca/d2l/home/294147>

Blog page:

<http://english203.ucalgaryblogs.ca/>

Course Description

The American slave system considered Black men and women property: things instead of people. How did enslaved people fight against slavery through their own narratives of their lives in bondage? How do contemporary authors revise these earlier narratives? We will begin by close reading some short stories about slavery and race. 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 discuss how gender affects the experience of the enslaved. We'll end by considering how Toni Morrison's masterpiece *Beloved* rewrites these earlier representations and develop our own contributions to the critical conversation about this neo-slave narrative.

This course will introduce students to literary studies and the kinds of questions it asks and methods it uses. Through class discussion and assignments, students will develop a foundation in the strategic knowledge necessary to succeed as an English major at the University of Calgary.

**By the end of this course, students will be able to:**

- ✓ Identify the generic convention of the slave narrative and use the historical context of slavery to enrich their interpretations of particular slave narratives;
- ✓ Deploy their close reading skills, including using their close readings as evidence in their essays;
- ✓ Enter into a scholarly conversation about a text and make a debatable claim about it;
- ✓ Revise (rather than just copy-edit) their essays and provide their classmates with helpful feedback on their work;
- ✓ Cite sources correctly and understand the thinking behind the rules;
- ✓ Write sentences that are clear to their readers and free of distracting errors.

Required Texts (available at the University bookstore unless otherwise noted):	Recommended Texts (available at the University bookstore):
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Incidents in the Life of a Slave Girl</i> by Harriet Jacobs. Modern Library Ed., 2004.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>MLA Handbook</i>, 8th edition</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass, An American Slave</i> by Frederick Douglass. Modern Library Ed., 2004.</li> </ul>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Beloved</i> by Toni Morrison. Vintage International Edition, 2004.</li> </ul>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There will be other required readings on D2L.</li> </ul>	

<u>Course Requirements</u>	<u>Percentage of Final Grade</u>
Class Participation (including workshop letters and participation in workshops).....	15%
Blog posts.....	15%
Quizzes.....	15%
Close Reading Essay (4 pages) with draft .....	20, 25, or 45%*
(Optional) Final Essay: (5-6 pages) with draft .....	20, 25, or 0%*
Contributions to Discussion board (2x/week from Week 9-Week 12) .....	10%

\*The final essay is now optional. If you choose not to do it, then your first essay will be worth 45% of the final grade. If you do choose to do it, it will be worth either 20 or 25% depending on whether you do better or worse on it than you did on the first essay; this will work only to your benefit, i.e., if you get a C on the first essay and an A on the final essay, then the final essay will be worth 25% and the first essay 20%.

[No final exam]

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

- **Quizzes:** There will be a series of quizzes over the course of the semester that will help you keep up with the readings, disciplinary skills, and lessons in clear and grammatical prose; they will also help Dr. Halpern see where you and your classmates are in your understanding. Note that the quizzes will ask questions that ask you to engage in analysis and other higher-level kinds of thinking, not just memorization.
- **Final Essay:** The final essay is now optional. You can choose to just hand in the first essay, in which case, it will be worth 45% of your final grade. If you choose to do the final essay, then the two essays will be worth 20% and 25% of the grade or the other way around. That is, whichever essay you do better on will be worth 25% of the grade, and the other one will be worth 20%. If you do choose to do a final essay, you will still do a draft of it, trade drafts with a group of your classmates, and get feedback from them.
- **Drafts:** Each of the two essays will be preceded by a draft, which should be roughly the same length as the final essay. You will receive feedback on this draft, either from me or some of your classmates or both. It will not be graded (although you must turn the draft in on time to avoid late penalties). Keep in mind, though, that rushed or incomplete drafts often result in weak revisions.
- **Critical Annotations:** The second essay asks you to enter into a critical conversation, a crucial move for an English major to be able to make. To help you do this, you will be asked to analyze two critical articles and find a way to talk back to them.
- **The Course Blog & Blog Posts:** The course blog will provide a forum, apart from class discussion, to explore the literature we read and find and test out ideas for your essays. I'll ask you to post and comment at least four times over the course of the term according to a set of guidelines and deadlines whose details will be given out in class. Your posts will not be individually graded, but if you write three that meet the standards for a good

post, you'll receive a "B" for this portion of the grade; if you write four or more good posts, you'll receive an "A" for this part of the grade.

- **Workshop Letters/Workshops:** To help you go from the draft of your two essays to the revision, we'll have two peer workshops. To prepare for them, we'll write letters to some of our classmates responding to their drafts. If you need to miss a workshop, you can still receive partial credit by writing your group workshop letters and e-mailing them and me a copy on or before the day of the workshop.
- **Extra Credit Assignments:** There will be 2 extra credit opportunities over the course of the term, which, if done successfully, will add points to your quiz total.
- **Contributions to Discussion Board (Week 9-Week 12):** Since we can't talk to each other in person anymore, we'll keep up the discussion via the D2L discussion board. Starting in Week 9, Dr. Halpern will ask you to post twice to the discussion board. She'll give directions each week on what to post. Posts will not be individually graded, but if they meet the standards for a good post, you will receive credit on it. She will let you know if a post does not and give you the chance to revise it. 8 posts=A; 7 posts=B; 6 posts=C; 5 posts=D; 4 posts=F

### Class Participation

It's been shown that students learn more when they're actively thinking about and doing things with the readings rather than just listening to lectures about them. We'll discuss how we can make the classroom a safe and comfortable intellectual place since the class depends on everyone's participation. Please come to class with all the readings assigned that day carefully read, prepared to take part in the small and large-group discussions and activities we'll be doing.

### Attendance

You are expected to come to class every day. If you miss more than three classes for whatever reasons, you will forfeit your class participation grade. Be strategic: don't miss class for not-so-important reasons in case you have an illness or emergency later in the semester. If you are absent because of illness, a family emergency, or religious holiday, please contact me in advance, if possible, and we'll arrange for you to make up the work you miss. If you are absent for other reasons, you will not be allowed to make up class work from the day you were absent (although you are allowed to make up to one missed quiz regardless of what reason you had for missing it; see below). You are responsible for proving that a given absence is for a legitimate reason by [handing in a statutory declaration](#). Regardless of why you need to miss a class, please ask a classmate for their notes and what happened in class that day.

### Missed Quizzes & Late Drafts and Revisions

You're allowed to make up one missed quiz. But it is your responsibility to contact Dr. Halpern about making it up, and you must make it up before the next class after it was given. 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, other than essay drafts (which need to be turned in on time to enable your peers' to give you feedback), as long as you let me know you are taking it at least twenty-four hours before it's due.

### Turning in Essays

I will ask you to turn in a hard copies of your essay drafts revisions directly to me. I'll also ask you to post copies of all assignments to D2L 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 and the quizzes. However, please refrain from using them to check email or engage in any other screen activity that pulls you out of the class and will likely also distract your classmates.

### **Plagiarism (see more details at the end of this document):**

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 <https://arts.ucalgary.ca/english>. 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: [maboymd@ucalgary.ca](mailto:maboymd@ucalgary.ca).

Find The English Pages research guide here:

<https://library.ucalgary.ca/sb.php?subjectid=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://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://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:** <https://www.ucalgary.ca/student-services/ombuds/role>

**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://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/747/01/>

Students who are absent from class assessments (tests, participation activities, or other assignments) should inform their instructors as soon as possible. Instructors may request that evidence in the form of documentation be provided. If the reason provided for the absence is acceptable, instructors may

decide that any arrangements made can take forms other than make-up tests or assignments. For example, the weight of a missed grade may be added to another assignment or test. For information on possible forms of documentation, including statutory declarations, please see <https://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/m-1.html>.

## **DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH STATEMENT ON PRINCIPLES OF CONDUCT**

According to the University Calendar; <https://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/k-2.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.