



UNIVERSITY OF  
CALGARY

FACULTY OF ARTS  
Department of English

### COURSE OUTLINE

**ENGL203.02 Introductory Seminar**  
**Winter 2022**  
**Class Schedule: T/TH 12:30-13:45 SS1153**

<b>Instructor</b>	Dr. J. McKenney
<b>Email:</b>	mckennej@ucalgary.ca
<b>Web Page:</b>	D2L (access via MyUofC portal)
<b>Office Hours:</b>	Zoom Office Hours, 9-10 Thursdays

#### **Course description:**

An intensive introduction to the field of English emphasizing critical reading and writing as well as discussion. Expectations for writing and research will be higher than in other junior English courses. **Please note that this is a reading intensive junior course.**

In this section we will be exploring works from a range of authors—American, Blackfoot, British, and Nigerian--whose works engage in complex and magical ways with the question of identity. These works question what it means to be human, and sometimes more.

#### **Course learning outcomes:**

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

1. Engage in close reading, which, among other things, requires a student to realize that a text is constructed, and not a transparent reflection of reality;
2. Use a range of technical terms and critical tools with which to interpret texts;
3. Write a strong, well-supported, clearly written academic essay;
4. Participate in meaningful conversations about literature with peers;
5. Appreciate how literary works foster the exploration of questions of difference, otherness, and identity

#### **Texts and readings:**

All books are available at the University of Calgary Bookstore. Hard copies are preferable, but you may also use an electronic version. Used copies are fine too.

- Angela Carter, *The Bloody Chamber and Other Stories*
- Akwaeke Emezi, *The Death of Vivek Oji*
- Shirley Jackson, *We Have Always Lived in the Castle*
- Stephen Graham Jones, *Mongrels*
- Madeline Miller, *Circe*

### **Learning technology requirements:**

There is a D2L site for this course which contains required readings and other relevant class resources and materials (see [d2L.ucalgary.ca](http://d2L.ucalgary.ca)). If the course moves online for health and safety reasons, students are expected to have a computer and internet connection available.

### **Assessments and Evaluation:**

Prep papers (2 x 750 words): First paper: 20%; Second Paper 25%

Final Paper (1500 words): 35%

Reading Quizzes (best 5 of 6—see note below): 5 x 2%=10%

Exit Interview (Oral Group Project): 10%

### **Notes:**

- There is no registrar-scheduled examination for this course.
- There are no extra-credit or make-up assignments for this course.
- There are no particular assignments that students must complete in order to qualify for a passing grade in this class.
- Late assignments may be penalized one third of a letter grade for each business day late (e.g. A+ becomes an A). If you anticipate difficulties completing assignments on time please contact the instructor ASAP.
- All assignments must be uploaded to the appropriate D2L Dropbox. No email submissions will be accepted.
- Because students will be assessed on the best five out of six quizzes, **no make-ups will be administered**. Students who anticipate prolonged absences that may have an impact on grades should contact the instructor as soon as possible.

### **Grading:**

In this course, all essays and projects will be marked on the University of Calgary's four-point Grading System, as described in the Calendar:

Undergraduate: <http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/f-1-1.html>

A+/A (4.0); A- (3.7); B+ (3.3); B (3.0); B- (2.7); C+ (2.3); C (2.0); C- (1.7); D+ (1.3); D (1.0); F (0)

When necessary, quizzes and other numerically based assessments will be converted to a letter grade on the basis of the following Department of English percentage to letter grade conversion scale.

90 + %	A+	4.0	67 – 69 %	C+	2.3
85 – 89 %	A	4.0	64 – 66 %	C	2.0
80 – 84 %	A-	3.7	60 – 63 %	C-	1.7
77 – 79 %	B+	3.3	55 – 59 %	D+	1.3
74 – 76 %	B	3.0	50 – 54 %	D	1.0
70 – 73 %	B-	2.7	0 – 49 %	F	0

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, intellectual depth and breadth, sophistication, and originality.

Calculation note: Letter grades are calculated in D2L at the midpoint of the percentage scale above (e.g. an A is calculated at 87%). Split grades calculated at the numerical threshold of the higher grade (e.g. A-/B+ = 80%). Grades will not be rounded.

Please refer to the chart below for an explanation of the university grading system.

#### F.1.1 Undergraduate Grading System

Grade	Grade Point Value	Description
A+	4.00	Outstanding performance
A	4.00	Excellent performance
A-	3.70	Approaching excellent performance
B+	3.30	Exceeding good performance
B	3.00	Good performance
B-	2.70	Approaching good performance
C+	2.30	Exceeding satisfactory performance
C	2.00	Satisfactory performance
C-	1.70	Approaching satisfactory performance.
D+	1.30	Marginal pass. Insufficient preparation for subsequent courses in the same subject
D	1.00	Minimal Pass. Insufficient preparation for subsequent courses in the same subject. The Faculty of Law utilizes a "D" grade that does not carry weight in calculating the grade point average. This will be noted in the calendar description as "Not Included in GPA" where applicable.
F	0.00	Failure. Did not meet course requirements. Several Faculties utilize an F grade that does not carry weight in calculating the grade point average. This will be noted in the calendar description as "Not Included in GPA" where applicable.
I	0.00	Incomplete. Sufficient work has not been submitted for evaluation, unable to adequately assess. May also be used when a final exam is not submitted.
CR		Completed Requirements. Carries no weight in calculating the grade point average. This will be noted in the calendar description as "Not Included in GPA" where applicable

**Reaching Me:**

Academic folks are usually best reached by email. Students can expect to receive replies to email enquiries within 24 hours during the business week and 48 hours over the weekend. Please note that your instructor may not respond to email after 5 p.m. or on the weekend. I also cannot guarantee that you will receive email replies within 48 hours of assignment due dates. Students should remember, also, that email is not a substitute for attending class or using regular office hours. Missed assignments will not be sent over email, nor should email be used to ask questions otherwise answered in class or on the course outline. Students are responsible for gathering their own notes on missed classes. The instructor will not conduct tutorials by email. If you have not received a response to your email within the timelines specified above, consider whether your message lacks a clear question or the politeness of a professional letter. If it passes muster, please don't be shy about sending it again.

### **How to Succeed in this Class:**

My best advice is to stay on top of the reading and attend all classes to the best of your ability. If you have recurring or persistent issues regarding attendance, please make sure to contact the instructor.

Your best written work is usually the product of planning and reflection. Give yourself enough time to review your written work before submission and make an appointment with the instructor if you have questions about your performance after you have thoroughly read all feedback.

You will find that you have the best experience in a seminar when you participate fully in the class discussion. Challenge yourself to join the conversation. Write down a couple of comments on the reading in advance if that makes you feel more secure. Do not assume that everyone knows more than you do. It's rarely true.

### **Conduct for Students and Faculty:**

Students, employees, and academic staff are also expected to demonstrate behaviour in class that promotes and maintains a positive and productive learning environment. As members of the University community, students, employees, and academic staff are expected to demonstrate conduct that is consistent with the University of Calgary Calendar, the Code of Conduct and Non-Academic Misconduct policy and procedures, which can be found at: <http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/k.html>

My goal is to create an intellectually stimulating classroom where all people feel respected and safe to test new ideas. Please note that literature is not always polite: books deal with real life subjects in frank and fearless ways. I expect that all students will engage in thoughtful and mature ways with the course texts and with each other. Kindness and collegiality will be guiding principles in all our interactions. If, at any time, you have concerns about the classroom environment please make an appointment with me.

**Students who have preferred names or forms of address (including non-gendered pronouns) are welcome to bring this to the attention of the instructor.**

**Policy on use of electronic devices:**

The use of laptop and mobile devices in class is acceptable when used in a manner appropriate to the course and classroom activities. Please refrain from accessing websites and resources that may be distracting to you or for other learners during class time. Students are responsible for being aware of the University's [Internet and email use policy](#). Electronic devices are not permitted during the Final Examination.

**Academic Integrity:**

This course, like all courses at the University of Calgary, holds students to high standards of honest and responsible scholarship. Please consult the [Academic Integrity website](#) for a detailed description of university policies, which will be enforced in this course. Cases of suspected academic misconduct will be referred to the Associate Dean of Arts for a ruling.

Plagiarism is a type of academic misconduct. Plagiarism occurs when a student presents the ideas, expression of ideas, or work of another person as their own. Another equally serious form of plagiarism occurs when a student submits something they have written themselves for credit in two or more courses without first securing written permission from all those course instructors. Consequences for plagiarism include failure on the assignment, failure in the course, and possible suspension or expulsion from the university. Using any source whatsoever without clearly documenting it is a serious academic offense.

**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](#) must be completed. It is the student's responsibility to initiate this process with the instructor. The University also has regulations governing the [deferral of final examinations](#).

**Grade appeals:**

To pursue a Reassessment of Graded Term Work or a Reappraisal of an Academic Assessment, Consult the [University Calendar](#) and request advice from the English Department at [engl@ucalgary.ca](mailto:engl@ucalgary.ca). Please note that mere dissatisfaction with a grade is not sufficient grounds for an appeal.

**[English Department Website:](#)**

For more information about courses, programs, policies, events and contacts in the Department of English.

## **Scribe and Muse Club for English Students:**

The [Scribe and Muse Reading and Writing Club](#) fosters and champions reading and writing through community service, leadership, and engagement. Our email address is [smecuofc@gmail.com](mailto:smecuofc@gmail.com).

## **Writing support:**

[The Student Success Centre](#) offers both online and workshop writing support for U of C students.

[Academic regulations and schedules](#)

## **Student Academic Accommodations:**

The Student Accessibility Services website is available [here](#). University accommodation policies can be found at the following links:

<https://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/b-6-1.html>

<https://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/b-6.html>

<https://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/b-6-2.html>

**Program Advising and Student Information Resources** is done through the Faculty of Arts Students' Centre. Office location: SS102; phone: 403-220-3580; email: [ascarts@ucalgary.ca](mailto:ascarts@ucalgary.ca)

Website: <http://arts.ucalgary.ca/undergraduate>

## **Instructor's Intellectual Property**

Course materials created by instructors, including presentations, posted notes, labs, case studies, assignments, and exams, remain the intellectual property of the instructor. These materials may not be reproduced, redistributed or copied without the explicit consent of the instructor. The posting of course materials to third party websites such as note-sharing sites without permission is prohibited. Sharing of extracts of these course materials with other students enrolled in the course at the same time may be allowed under fair dealing.

## **Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy**

Student information will be collected in accordance with usual classroom practice. Students' assignments will be accessible only by the authorized course faculty and teaching assistants. Private information related to the individual student is treated with the utmost regard by the faculty at the University of Calgary.

## **Sexual violence policy:**

<https://www.ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/sexual-violence-policy.pdf>

## **Other important information:**

- [Wellness and Mental Health Resources](#)

- [Student Success](#)
- [Student Ombuds Office](#)
- [Student Union \(SU\) Information](#)
- [Graduate Students' Association \(GSA\) Information](#)
- [Emergency Evacuation/Assembly Points](#)
- [Safewalk](#)