

## ENGLISH 233.01 FUNDAMENTALS OF LITERARY STUDIES: NONFICTION

Dr. P. Banting

Office: SS 1010, 220-5480\*

Office Hours: T/Th 3:30 to 4:30

[pbanting@ucalgary.ca](mailto:pbanting@ucalgary.ca)

Class Hours: Tu/Th 2:00 to 3:15 in ST 130

**CALENDAR DESCRIPTION:** Selected works of nonfictional prose. Emphasizes fundamental skills: how to read a text accurately and critically; how to write logically, clearly, and correctly.

**ADDITIONAL COURSE DESCRIPTION:** In this section of the course we will begin by reading selections from an anthology of nonfiction and exploring different types of creative nonfiction (e.g., essays, memoirs, personal reportage, personal cultural criticism, and various alternative forms of nonfiction) and the processes of writing creative nonfiction. Then we will read individual books of nonfiction (Nikiforuk, Gill, and Snyder) with a view to further examination of the genre and subgenres of nonfiction and learning more about writing that focuses on the natural world and social and environmental issues.

### REQUIRED TEXTS:

Diana Hacker, *The Canadian Pocket Style Manual*

Robert L. Root, Jr., and Michael J. Steinberg, eds., *The Fourth Genre: Contemporary Writers on/of Creative Nonfiction*, 6<sup>th</sup> ed.

Andrew Nikiforuk, *Tar Sands: Dirty Oil and the Future of a Continent*

Charlotte Gill, *Eating Dirt: Deep Forests, Big Timber, and Life with the Tree-Planting Tribe*

Gary Snyder, *The Practice of the Wild*

### Assignment Portfolio:

|  |      |
|--|------|
| A Reading Journal (13 entries X 2 pp. each = 26 pp.) | 50%  |
| Quizzes (2 X 10% )                                   | 20%  |
| Test   | 30%  |
| TOTAL  | 100% |

## IMPORTANT NOTES

**Students must complete and submit ALL of the assignments in order to be eligible for a passing grade for this course. Failure to do so will result in an automatic failure (F) of the course.**

**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 an assignment that merits a 19/25 (76%) comes in two days late, the actual mark will drop two marks to 17/25 (68%):  $19 - 2 = 17$ .**

**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. An important part of intellectual work is being able to speak about it with others. Students will be expected to assume the role of active participants in the construction and dissemination of knowledge rather than merely passive consumers of it. This includes participation in discussion, group work and any other credit-free assignments and activities carried out in class.

**If you miss a class** during which we view a documentary film or portion thereof, you will want to **borrow the film, if they have it**, from the Taylor Digital Library and watch it as the films are required texts on the course too, not just 'frills'. (I believe there are screening facilities at the Library.) Students will be expected to address quiz and examination questions about the films as well as the books and other course materials.

**Reading Journal:** I will give you a separate handout with guidelines for keeping a journal/diary/notebook of your reading, thinking, responding, and I will from time to time give you particular topics or assignments for a specific journal entry, especially at the beginning of the course. Please do not confuse this assignment with your course notes, which I will NOT ask you to submit. This is a separate project that will allow you to explore a myriad of ideas, topics and your own responses to the texts and class discussions. You must keep your journal weekly.

There will be no final examination in this course. Your grade will be based entirely on the quality of your term work. Therefore it is crucial to attend classes and to make your journal entries weekly and not fall behind schedule. Experience has shown that skipping classes and thereby becoming disengaged from the material and the lectures typically results in markedly poor quality and late assignments.

**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](mailto: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](mailto: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 3<sup>rd</sup> 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>

## **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.

## **Class and Reading Schedule:**

The instructor reserves the right to make changes to the schedule, if necessary. Any changes will be announced in class. Responsibility for class attendance lies with the student (obviously).

Week 1: Intro to the course, course materials, assignments and intro to genre and nonfiction

*The Fourth Genre: Contemporary Writers on/of Creative Nonfiction*, 6<sup>th</sup> ed.:

Read the Introduction to the text and under Essays, please read: Jo Ann Beard, "Out There," p. 3

Week 2: *The Fourth Genre: Essays*

Steven Church, "I'm Just Getting to the Disturbing Part," p. 46

Steven Harvey, "The Art of Self," p. 274

Robert L. Root, Jr., "Collage, Montage, Mosaic, Vignette, Episode, Segment," p. 318

Philip Lopate, "Portrait of My Body," p. 107

Diana Hacker, *The Canadian Pocket Style Manual*: commas

Week 3: *The Fourth Genre: Essays cont'd.*

Sherry Simpson, "Natural History, or What Happens When We're Not Looking";

Nancy Lord, "I Met a Man Who Has Seen the Ivory-Billed Woodpecker and This is What He Told Me," p. 115

Personal reportage:

Shari Caudron, "Befriending Barbie," p. 35

Vivian Gornick, "A Narrator Leaps Past Journalism," p. 261

*The Canadian Pocket Style Manual*: semi-colons, colons

Week 4: *The Fourth Genre: Memoir*

Mary Clearman Blew, "The Art of Memoir," p. 250

Patricia Hampl, "Memory and Imagination," p. 264

Patricia Hampl, "Red Sky at Morning," p. 91

*The Canadian Pocket Style Manual*: TBA

Week 5: *The Fourth Genre: Alternative Nonfictions*

David Gessner, "Into the Gulf: A Journal—Day 10: Beyond the Oiled Pelican," p. 79 [blog]

Maggie McKnight, "Mother's Day," p. 120 [graphic memoir]

Lia Purpura, "Glaciology," p. 162 [lyric essay]  
Judith Kitchen, "Mending Wall"  
Kathryn Winograd, "(Note to Self): The Lyric Essay," p. 342  
Sonja Huber, "The Digital Essay: An Introduction," p. 276

Week 6: *The Fourth Genre: Personal Cultural Criticism*  
Jonathan Lethem, "13, 1977, 21," p. 101  
Marianna Torgovnick, "Experimental Critical Writing," p. 337

**Quiz 10%**

Reading Week – No Classes

Week 7: Gary Snyder, *The Practice of the Wild*: "The Etiquette of Freedom" and "The Place, the Region and the Commons"

Week 8: Andrew Nikiforuk, *Tar Sands: Dirty Oil and the Future of a Continent*

Week 9: Warren Cariou and Neal McArthur, *Land of Oil and Water* (45 minutes)

Week 10: Andrew Nikiforuk, *Tar Sands*

**TEST (30%): Bring paper and pens to class.**

Week 11: Gary Snyder, *The Practice of the Wild*: "Ancient Forests of the Far West" and "On the Path, Off the Trail"

Week 12: Charlotte Gill, *Eating Dirt: Deep Forests, Big Timber, and Life with the Tree-Planting Tribe*

Week 13: Charlotte Gill, *Eating Dirt: Deep Forests, Big Timber, and Life with the Tree-Planting Tribe*

**QUIZ: 10%**

**READING JOURNAL DUE IN CLASS**