

**FACULTY OF ARTS**  
**DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH**

**ENGLISH 239-14**

**WINTER 2013**

**COURSE TITLE:** What's Form Got to Do with It? Introducing Genre in Writing in English

**Instructor:** Dr. Jennifer Kelly

Office: SS1204

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Office hours: Wednesdays, 2:00 - 3:00 p.m. or by appointment

email office hour: Mondays, 2:00 - 3:00 p.m.

Class Meeting Times: Tuesdays and Thursdays 11:00 am - 12:15 p.m. SA 121

**Course description:**

This course invites participants to engage with a variety of texts in a range of forms and genres. We will do so in order to appreciate the particular effects that particular forms generate, and so that we can better recognize how our experiences of reading (and listening, and 'seeing') may be shaped by our expectations about particular genres and the conventions that surround and support them.

This course will introduce some critical approaches to textual analysis (feminist, postcolonial, Indigenous) and will develop skills in close reading and responding to and writing about literature and other forms of cultural expression. Assignments will include response journals, creative writing, short group presentations/facilitations, and the preparation of a short paper.

The course will include guest talks by local writers, and the opportunity to attend book launches and readings on and off-campus.

**Texts and readings:**

Richard Van Camp, *The Lesser Blessed* (novel) (Toronto/Vancouver: Douglas and McIntyre, 1996)

Victoria Bouvier, *Nipin and the Rocks* (children's story) (Winnipeg: Pemmican, 2012)

Various publicly accessible items on the internet (see reading schedule)

Course pack of readings (bookstore)

**Assignments and Evaluation:**

The majority of the course work/grading comprises your portfolio. Your portfolio will include your response journal (responses to assigned readings and materials) and in-class writing/analytical exercises. You will be given specific guidelines for your response journals, in which you will be invited to work with a variety of responses in terms of form and critical approach.

Portfolio 1: 25% Due Feb. 5

Portfolio 2: 25% Due March 4

Paper: 15%: Due March 21

Portfolio 3: 25% Due April 11

Participation: 10%

- E-mailed assignments are NOT accepted unless by prior agreement in extenuating circumstances
- You must complete ALL assignments in order to pass this course
- There is NO registrar scheduled final exam
- There are NO extra-credit assignments for this course

Assignments submitted after the deadline will be penalized (with the loss of a third of a grade (an A- to B+) for each business day [not class] that the assignment is overdue.

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:**

Grades in this course will be calculated using a combination of percentages converted to letter grades. The following is the percentage conversion scale standardized for the Department of English:

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

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.

### **Email response policy:**

Ideally you will have the opportunity to ask most of your questions during class time. If your question is detailed and will take some time to respond, I ask that you make an appointment to see me or drop by my office during office hours. I will, of course, answer short, specific questions via email. However, it is not realistic for you to expect that I will be able to answer immediately, or on weekends. Therefore, I have created "email office hours," during which time I will review all of the emails sent to me from people in our course. (It may be that several people have the same question, for example, and I can then send a reply to everyone at once.) Please note that I generally extend my office hours near the end of term.

## Policy on Personal Technology Use in the Classroom:

As a general policy I do not allow the use of personal electronic communications devices (cellphones, laptops) in the classroom as, typically, this interferes with collaborative learning and active listening. However, as we will at times be engaging in small-group discussion of materials available on the internet, there will be times when this usage will be encouraged. Bring your laptop (or phone if it has appropriate internet access) to every class in case it is needed; at the same time, be prepared to engage in the class without technology.

Regarding CELLPHONE use:

There may be times that a phonecall/email message is indeed urgent (i.e. medical appointments, child care); in such cases, please inform your instructor of your concern prior to class, and leave the classroom quietly at the required time.

Regarding EMAILING and TEXTING during class time:

Within the context of our collaborative learning environment, this is considered inappropriate and unacceptable.

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>

You must document not only direct quotations but also paraphrases and ideas where they appear in your text. A reference list at the end is insufficient by itself. Readers must be able to tell exactly where your words and ideas end and other people's words and ideas begin. This includes assignments submitted in non-traditional formats such as Web pages or visual media, and material taken from such sources.

Please consult your instructor if you have any questions regarding how to document sources.

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.