



UNIVERSITY OF
CALGARY

FACULTY OF ARTS
Department Of English

COURSE OUTLINE

ENGL 251-08: LITERATURE AND SOCIETY
Fall 2021, Tuesdays & Thursdays 12:30-1:45 PM, Room SS006

Instructor	Kaitlyn Purcell
Email	kaitlyn.purcell@ucalgary.ca
Instructor Email Policy	I will respond to emails sent via students' @ucalgary addresses within two business days. Please note that all course communication must occur through the students' @ucalgary email.
Office Location	SS 1117
Office Hours	Tuesdays & Thursdays 3-4 PM (via Zoom, and by appointment only)

DECOLONIAL STORIES FROM MOHKINSTIS TO THE MILKY WAY

Course Description:

Since the pandemic began, numerous human rights movements have found momentum within the collective consciousness, from the Black Lives Matter to Free Palestine. In 2015, the Truth & Reconciliation and Idle No More movements created some momentum for Indigenous rights but plateaued for some time until this last year. In a society living in a worldwide pandemic, we seem to have become far more deeply connected to each other through iPhones, TikTok, and social media. With this, we have widespread access to video testimonies and witnesses of medical, systemic, and historical genocide here on Turtle Island. Society moves across these infinite cycles of transformation and liberation. But what does that mean for us, here, in Mohkinstis? What does this mean for us, here, in the cosmos?

We will be exploring the stories of Indigenous, Inuit, and Metis peoples across diverse fields of study, such as astronomers, botanists, poets, visual artists, literary scholars, etc. Meditating on the themes and elements of these texts, we can begin to construct our own visions for what a decolonial present and future might look like.

In this course, you will be close-reading texts and exploring your own voice as a writer and as a part of the collective. Through this process, you will learn a holistic foundation for academic writing through what Shawn Wilson calls the Indigenous research paradigm (*Research is Ceremony*).

Please be aware that the texts in this course will contain some sensitive subject matter. I will provide some content warnings in advance.

Tuesdays will primarily be for lecture periods on the weekly texts, but with some space for discussion, writing exercises, and/or questions. Thursdays are for reciprocity, community, creativity, and healing/restorative conversations about the texts that week. We will also have some short writing exercises periodically.

I will hold online office hours every week on Mondays and Wednesdays from 10:30 – 11:30am (MST), by appointment only. Please set up appointments with me via email. Students are encouraged to attend office hours for assistance with their critical thinking and academic writing, and with any questions they may have regarding the course readings.

It is quite possible that, given the ongoing pandemic and the university's requirements for self-quarantine, there may be a time when you cannot come to class. If and when this happens, please contact me and we will make a plan to keep you involved in the work of the course.

The course is designed to develop students' skills in critical reading and effective, logical writing. Students will produce at least 2000 words of formal, academic writing during the semester. Finally, there will be a registrar-scheduled exam. Only ISAP students can take this course. There are no prerequisites.

Course Learning Outcomes:

1. Demonstrate a holistic understanding on a range of critical and creative literary writings from Indigenous, Inuit, and Metis authors.
2. Understand and interpret literary texts in relation to their historical and cultural contexts.
3. Learn how to write a strong, well-supported, and clearly written academic essay, which involves introducing students to the notion of writing as a process that requires multiple stages of composition.
4. Learn how to cite sources according to MLA style and learn about what constitutes plagiarism.
5. Develop library research skills: how to search and locate reference books and articles (both electronic and in print), and how to use print and online resources responsibly and thoughtfully.
6. Engage in meaningful conversations about literature with peers.

Texts and Readings:

Available for purchase at UCalgary Bookstore:

- *Research is Ceremony*, Shawn Wilson
- *NISHGA*, Jordan Abel
- *Letters in a Bruised Cosmos*, Liz Howard
- *Jonny Appleseed*, Joshua Whitehead

Accessible digitally through UCalgary Library or D2L:

- “Indigenous Knowledge and Western Science” (D2L)
 - “Dr. Leroy Little Bear Talk”
 - “Dr. Gregory Cajete Talk”
 - “Rob Cardinal Talk”
 - “Contrasts and Similarities Panel Discussion”
- “Forts, Curriculum, and Indigenous Métissage: Imagining Decolonization of Aboriginal-Canadian Relations in Educational Contexts,” Dwayne Donald (D2L)
- *Braiding Sweetgrass*, Robin Wall Kimmerer
 - “Skywoman Falling”

- “The Council of Pecans”
- “Asters and Goldenrod”
- “Learning the Grammar of Animacy”
- “Homage to Smallboy: Where Were You in July Hercules” & “There is No Hercules (Homage to Robert Smallboy)” by Joanne Cardinal-Schubert (*The Writing on the Wall*)
- “Hidden Pictures,” Nasogaluak Kablusiak (D2L)
 - “What is Your Emergency”
 - “Annual Fundraiser”
 - “It Never Ends (but thats ok)”
- *Flood*, Dir. Amanda Strong (D2L)

Learning Technology Requirements:

While our class will be in-person, please be prepared to have access to a laptop computer, tablet, or phone during class time. There is a D2L site for this course which contains required readings and other relevant class resources and materials (see d2L.ucalgary.ca).

Assignments and Evaluation:

1. Drafting and Peer Editing (30%)	
I.	First Draft Essay (10%): Draft your own 1–2-page response to one (or more) texts. Cite any sources you use in-text and on a Works Cited page according to MLA style.
II.	Feedback Received (15%): There will be a peer editing workshop date, and the class will be divided into groups of 3 to 5. When you submit your final updated draft, include a single marked up draft with all the edited feedback OR one page with the collected written feedback from your editors.
III.	Final Updated Draft (5%): 1–2-page response to one (or more) texts. Cite any sources you use in-text and on a Works Cited page according to MLA style. More details on this assignment will be posted on D2L.
2. Creative-Critical Reflexivity Project (30%)	
I.	Research-Creation Piece (1-4 pages) (10%): Create a response to any text on the syllabus (formal critical essay, short story, poem(s), painting(s), sculpture, series of memes, series of TikTok videos, podcast, etc.). More details on this assignment will be posted on D2L.
II.	Critical Reflection on Process (2-4 pages) (20%): Bring in at least one additional text from the syllabus for this reflection process. Cite any sources you use in-text and on a Works Cited page according to MLA style.
3. Journal Portfolio (20%)	
Keep a weekly or daily journal about your own impressions, experiences, insights, stories, dreams, visions, thoughts, or anything, in response to the texts, lectures, and/or conversations. Remember to cite your sources and use in-text citations.	
Submit an edited version of 4 pages on at least four texts. Cite any sources you use in-text and on a Works Cited page according to MLA style. More details on this assignment will be posted on D2L.	

4. Final Exam (20%)

In person registrar-scheduled exam that will take place during the official exam period. This will be a critical reflexive writing period to pull together notes from your own experience within the course that explores at least two of the texts. For the exam you will be allowed one piece of paper with notes. More information will be provided closer to the end of term.

Additional Regulations:

- Submit all assignments to D2L as a .pdf document. Any creative portions of assignments that cannot be submitted on D2L should be submitted in class, or by email, on the deadline date.
- Assignments will follow MLA formatting, except for creative portions.
- Assignments submitted after the deadline will be penalized 2% each day late and will not be accepted a week past the due date. If you cannot make the deadline due to unforeseen circumstances, please email me to make a request for a deferred deadline.
- All assignments do not have to be completed to receive a passing grade. However, failure to attend the final examination or to submit the research paper will make passing the course extremely difficult.
- There will be no extra-credit assignments in this course.
- If you feel unwell, please email the instructor and refrain from attending in-person instruction. If I feel unwell, I will notify the class immediately and move class to Zoom until I receive a negative test result.
- The final exam is a registrar scheduled exam, and it is not open book. You may bring a single piece of paper with notes.

Attendance and participation expectations:

Students are expected to attend class regularly and to be fully present and engaged in class activities and discussions. If you must miss a class, please notify the instructor as soon as possible or within 48 hours to explore options to make up that component. Typically, participation grades are counted from attendance and participation in group discussions. Instead, the Journal Portfolio assignment will represent your participation grades.

Conduct:

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>

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.

Grading System:

Course grades are based on the University of Calgary four-point Undergraduate Grading System and the standard percentage conversion chart of the Department of English:

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 four-point system, the course instructor will employ this mark to distinguish superlative work that far exceeds expectations in style, correctness, intellectual depth and breadth, sophistication, and originality.
- The interpretation of the undergraduate university grading system can be found at <https://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/f-1-1.html>
 - Or, for graduate courses: please refer to the Graduate Grading System at the following link: <http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/grad/current/gs-h-1.html>
- There is no D- grade.

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. 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.

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
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](#)

Universal Student Ratings of Instruction (USRI):

Please participate in [USRI Surveys](#) toward the end of the course. The feedback they provide helps us evaluate teaching, enhance student learning, and guide students as they select courses.