



COURSE TITLE: Literature and Society			
Course Number	ENGL 251		FALL 2022
Faculty / Department	Faculty of Arts/Department of English		
Website:	https://d2l.ucalgary.ca/d2l/home/471120		
Instructor Name	Hebe Tocci Marin	Email	hebe.toccimarin@ucalgary.ca
Instructor Email Policy	Please note that all course communications must occur through the students' @ucalgary email. I will respond within two business days and during business hours.		
Office Location	SS1117		
Office Hours	Drop in on M 3:00-4:00 p.m. or by appointment via Zoom. If you'd like to book an appointment, please include in your email time slots that would work for you.		
Class Times/Location	MWF 2-2:50 p.m. in ST 127		

Course description:

An examination of the relationship of literature to the world around us, with instruction in close reading and critical writing. Considers how literature as a cultural practice responds to and reflects its social context. Includes the study of at least one text by an Indigenous author.

“... abnormality is the other of the norm, deviation the other of law-abiding, illness the other of health, barbarity the other of civilization, animal the other of the human, woman the other of man, stranger the other the native, enemy the other of friend, ‘them’ the other of ‘us’, insanity the other of reason, foreigner the other of state subject, lay public the other of the expert.”

- Zygmunt Bauman, *Modernity and Ambivalence* (1921)

Have you ever felt like you didn't belong in a certain place or situation? Have you ever labelled someone or been labelled as “different”? But what does “different” even mean? With these questions in mind, this course will explore representations of Otherness in various literary forms focusing on issues related to race, social class, and gender and sexuality. One of our goals is to think and write critically about how authors from different periods and regions represent the

experience of Othering. We will also reflect about how we make meaning from various textual forms – What tools and strategies do you already know? How can you explore different perspectives in your readings? - as well as the role of literature within conversations about social issues – How can literature impact our understanding of “community” and “difference”?

This course is a combination of lectures, workshops, debates, and other practical components that will allow you to develop a range of essential skills: from analytical thinking to proper quoting, styling, and formatting.

Readings:

All readings listed are a requirement and will be included in the assignments. Students are expected to have done all required readings before watching lectures. Students are also expected to be prepared to participate actively and appropriately in class discussions and in in-class exercises.

- Agha Shahid Ali’s “Land”
- Dionne Brand’s “verso 2.2”, “verso 4”, “verso 55” from *The Blue Clerk*
- Kate Chopin’s “Desiree’s Baby”
- F. Scott Fitzgerald’s “Bernice Bobs Her Hair”
- Hiromi Goto’s “Stinky Girl”
- Nathaniel Hawthorne’s “The Birth-Mark”
- Langston Hughes’ *Mulatto: Tragedy of the Deep South*
- Sonnet L’Abbe’s “CXIV”
- Doris Lessing’s “The Antheap”
- Katherine Mansfield “Doll’s House”
- Lee Maracle’s “Arrest this Memory”
- Nnedi Okorafor’s “Africanfuturist 419”
- Trish Salah’s “Subclinical Routine #11, or “the True Story of a Miraculous Transformation””, and “diagnostic detour”
- Melissa Scott’s *Trouble and her Friends*

Except for the novel *Trouble and Her Friends*, links or pdfs to all the other texts will be posted in D2L. The novel can be acquired through the Ucalgary bookstore, Amazon, or any bookstore of your preference. Consider getting it from local and independent bookstores. You may also use the e-book edition.

Any complementary and optional readings will also be provided.

Course learning outcomes:

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

1. Demonstrate intermediate-level knowledge of different literary forms and critical terms;
2. Understand and interpret literary texts in relation to their historical and cultural contexts;
3. Write a convincing academic paper using the conventions of English as an academic

discipline;

4. Adequately format and style an academic paper, including appropriate quoting and citing;

5. Express their critical thoughts about a literary text as well as engage in meaningful dialogues and discussions about literature.

Assignments and evaluations:

- Quizzes: 3 x 5% (15%)

The three multiple-choice quizzes will be available in D2L. They will be open for 3 days and you can take them at your best convenience. Once started, you have 60 minutes to complete each quiz.

- Close-reading paper (30%)

You can write this assignment on any of the texts read prior to the due date. You will choose one text and you must present a clear thesis statement about it, supported by textual evidence. You must include at least three meaningful quotations. This paper must use a close-reading based interpretive approach in order to generate an argument about a text. You are only allowed to quote the text itself. This 1000-word paper will be submitted in the appropriate dropbox in D2L by 11:59 pm of the due date. A rubric will be provided.

- Comparative paper (30%)

You will choose two texts with different forms each (a short story and a poem, or a play and a novel, for example) and you will compare or contrast relevant thematic and structural elements. You cannot write about the same text you used for your first paper. You must analyse how similarly or differently both texts present a common topic, and you should also engage with the different nuances each text's approach might have. You must include at least two meaningful quotations of each text. You are only allowed to quote the texts themselves. This 1000-word paper must be submitted in the appropriate dropbox in D2L by 11:59 pm of the due date. A rubric will be provided.

- Final exam (25%)

A registrar-scheduled cumulative exam.

→ D2L dropboxes are always open since the beginning of the course and will close during the examination period, which means you can upload your work at any point during this period.

→ All the assignments should be submitted online through D2L, with the exception of specific class activities and the final exam. Unless instructed otherwise, do not submit your papers via email or shared cloud storage.

→ Late assignments handed in after the submission deadline will face a penalty deduction of a third of a grade per business day (from B+ to B, etc). Submissions will not be accepted after 7 days past a submission deadline.

→ You are allowed 50 words above or below the assigned word limit in a paper.

→ You must complete both papers and the exam to pass the course.

Additional Regulations:

→ Students must be available for examinations up to the last day of the examination period (Dec 10-21).

→ Students should retain a copy of their papers in the event of technical glitch. All students have access to Office 365 and OneDrive via the University of Calgary. Consider keeping backups in different places.

→ There are no extra-credit assignments in this course.

→ All assignments must adhere to MLA style guidelines (most recent edition).

→ No extensions will be granted for course work except in cases of illness or personal distress. Assignments submitted after the deadline will be penalized with the loss of one third of a grade for each business day that the assignment is overdue. No assignments will be marked one week past the assignment deadline without the prior consent of the instructor.

→ The use of recording devices is not permitted in this class without the permission of the instructor.

→ Although you are welcome to use your laptops and mobile devices in class, please be mindful of how you make use of them and do not access websites or resources during class that are distracting to you or to other learners. You are expected to know the University's Internet and email policies. www.ucalgary.ca/policies

Grading system:

This course employs a combination of percentages and letter grades. The Department of English has a standardized percentage conversions scale, provided here:

90 + %	A+	4.0
85 – 89 %	A	4.0
80 – 84 %	A–	3.7
77 – 79 %	B+	3.3
74 – 76 %	B	3.0
70 – 73 %	B–	2.7
67 – 69 %	C+	2.3
64 – 66 %	C	2.0
60 – 63 %	C–	1.7

55 – 59 %	D+	1.3
50 – 54 %	D	1.0
0 – 49 %	F	0

In calculating final grades, students must have surpassed the minimum grade threshold to qualify for any letter grade — that is, grades will never be rounded up into the nearest grade category even if very close to that minimum threshold.

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.

The interpretation of the undergraduate university grading system can be found at:

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

There is no D- grade.

Academic Integrity:

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/>

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

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/legal-services/sites/default/files/teams/1/Policies-Sexual-and-Gender-Based-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.