



UNIVERSITY OF
CALGARY

FACULTY OF ARTS
Department Of English

COURSE OUTLINE

ENGL 251, L03
Literature and Society: Second-Hand Stories
Spring 2022
Mondays and Wednesdays, 1:00-3:45pm, SS 113 (in person)

Instructor	Rebecca Geleyn (she/her)
Email:	rgeleyn@ucalgary.ca
Web Page:	D2L (access via MyUofC portal)
Office Hours:	Mondays and Wednesdays, 11am-12pm or by appointment in my office (SS 1130)

Course description:

Stories about oneself—from confessional poetry to letter-writing to autobiography—are common in English literature. But what happens when an author or narrator takes on the task of relaying someone else's story? When a protagonist cannot speak for her or himself or themselves, what factual, political, and ethical issues arise in the second-hand narrative? This course examines the messy knot of storytelling that occurs in framed narratives, the biography of a deceased person, and even a story of the lives of animals. Through close reading of texts and formal and informal writing, students will develop fundamental skills in literary study.

Course learning outcomes:

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

1. Understand a range of technical terms and critical tools with which to interpret different kinds of narratives;
2. Perform close readings of texts;
3. Understand and interpret literary texts in relation to their historical and cultural contexts;
4. Locate and thoughtfully use reference works, books and articles;
5. Write a convincing academic paper using the conventions of English as an academic discipline;
6. Engage in meaningful conversations about literature with peers.

Texts and readings: All texts are available at the University Bookstore.

Required texts:

- Shelley, Mary. *Frankenstein*. 1818. Third Norton Critical edition, edited by J. Paul Hunter, Norton, 2021.
- Gowdy, Barbara. *The White Bone*. 1998. Harper Perennial, 2007.
- King, Thomas. *The Truth about Stories*. Anansi, 2003.
- Díaz, Junot. *The Brief Wondrous Life of Oscar Wao*. Penguin, 2008.

Recommended text:

- Wolfe, Joanna, and Laura Wilder. *Digging into Literature*. Bedford/St. Martin's, 2015. (Only available digitally)

Learning technology requirements:

There is a D2L site for this course which contains relevant class resources and materials (see d2L.ucalgary.ca).

Assessments and Evaluation:

Discussion board questions and responses: 5%

Written assignment: 20%

Midterm exam: 20%

Essay: 30%

Final exam: 25%

Discussion board questions and responses (5%):

Throughout the term, students will submit TWO (2) discussion board questions and THREE (3) discussion board responses to other students' questions on D2L. The questions and responses must relate to the text we will be discussing in the next class. Students may only submit one question OR response per class. Discussion board questions are due by 12pm (noon) **on the day before class**, and responses are due by 12pm (noon) **on the class day that text is to be discussed**. No late questions or responses will be accepted. A schedule of when responses may be submitted will be distributed to students with the reading schedule.

Questions and responses are worth ONE (1) percent each, and they will be graded for completion at the end of the term. In order to obtain the percentage point for each question or response, the post must be at least 100 words, engage with the day's reading, and, in the case of responses, engage with the initial question asked. Vague summaries of the text will not be accepted. These questions and responses are meant to be used as starting points for small group work and discussion in class, so we will regularly pick up on these questions in our class time.

Written assignment (20%):

This assignment is a building block toward writing a strong essay. Students will choose one of several thesis statements that will be provided and write 2-4 body paragraphs based on this argument (600 words). They will make specific claims, gather evidence from texts, and write clear paragraphs with topic sentences and logical transitions.

Midterm test (20%):

The midterm will consist of short answer questions and short passage analyses of texts we will have discussed. The test will be closed-book and take place in class.

Essay (30%):

Students will submit a formal essay of 1400 words based on a choice of given topics. Each essay will be graded on the strength of its argument, the relevance of textual evidence, the clarity of the writing, the organization and flow of paragraphs, and the proper use of MLA style.

Final exam (25%):

The course's final exam is scheduled by the Registrar and will take place during the exam period (20-22 June). The closed-book exam will consist of a mix of short answer questions, passage analyses, and a longer essay question.

Additional Information on Assignments:

Students must complete the written assignment, the midterm, the essay, and the final exam in order to receive a passing grade in the course. There will be no extra-credit assignments. For both the written assignment and essay, there is a grace period of THREE (3) calendar days (not class meetings) in which students will not be penalized for late submissions. Assignments submitted after the three-day grace period will be penalized with the loss of three percentage points (e.g., 82% to 79%) for each calendar day (not class) that the assignment is overdue. No assignments will be accepted one week past the end of the grace period without the prior consent of the instructor.

The written assignment and the essay should be submitted electronically through D2L as either a .docx or .pdf file. The discussion board questions and responses should be posted on the D2L discussion board. It is students' responsibility to keep a copy of all assignments in case of loss by any cause.

Attendance and participation expectations:

Students are expected to attend class regularly (barring illness or physical isolation due to COVID-19) and to be fully present and engaged in class activities and discussions. Readings must be completed in advance of class meetings, according to the reading schedule. Other classroom policies, including note-taking and note-sharing with students who must absent themselves, will be discussed together as a group.

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. Students may take notes on a laptop or tablet, but mobile phones should be stowed away in students' bags when not specifically in use for a class exercise. 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 midterm test or final examination.

Grading System:

This course will use percentages for grades. Please see the following percentage 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

Students must reach the minimum percentage threshold for the grade range to receive that letter grade. For example, to receive an A- a student must have surpassed the minimum threshold of 80.00% in the course.

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>

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/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.