



**UNIVERSITY OF
CALGARY**
FACULTY OF ARTS
Department Of English

COURSE OUTLINE

ENGL 251 Lecture 05: Literature and Society: Literature and/as Resistance
Spring 2023

Class Schedule: TR 16:00-18:45

<https://ucalgary.zoom.us/j/95213083564?pwd=czlyVVQ5b2VaSl00NHQ1M3l1SmxEZz09>

Meeting ID: 952 1308 3564

Passcode: 705078

Instructor:	Jamie Michaels
Email:	jamie.michaels@ucalgary.ca Please note that all course communications must take place through your @ucalgary email address. Please allow 48 business hours for a response. I will not summarize lectures or restate information that is already mentioned in the course outline.
Web Page:	D2L (access via MyUofC portal)
Office Hours:	Thursdays at 18:45-19:45 via Zoom https://ucalgary.zoom.us/j/91293587187?pwd=ZVdqL3RhOTJpVXIWZmM2cytiZC85QT09 Meeting ID: 912 9358 7187 Passcode: 629860

Course description:

To the barricades! This course will examine how literature might challenge the dominant ideas of society, both through its depictions of resistance and through creative work that challenges social norms. Through an exploration of various forms, including comics and novels, we will examine the following questions: What is a dominant/hegemonic narrative? How might these narratives be challenged? Is this process political, cultural, or both? How is this process depicted in creative work? How do these creative depictions influence ‘real world’ change? In answering these questions, you will develop skills in analyzing literature and writing academic essays. Employing literary analysis, you will be challenged to connect texts to their contexts, explore the deeper meanings within the creative works we study, and interpret the social relevance of these works.

This course is a **synchronous class** that will take place **online** via D2L and Zoom. To best succeed in the course, you are encouraged to participate in the learning tasks using the D2L learning environment and synchronous sessions on Zoom. I encourage you to attend all scheduled synchronous classes as they will be participatory. Zoom recordings will not be posted.

Course learning outcomes:

1. Apply different strategies of literary analysis to generate non-obvious interpretations of a literary work.
2. Formulate a debatable thesis.
3. Persuade readers of this thesis using textual evidence.

4. Learn how to write a strong, well-supported, and clearly written academic essay, understanding writing as a process that requires multiple stages of composition.
5. Learn how to cite sources according to MLA style and learn about what constitutes plagiarism.
6. Develop library research skills.

Texts and readings:

- Brown, Chester. *Louis Riel: A Comic-Strip Biography*. Drawn & Quarterly, 2006.
- Evans, Kate. *Red Rosa: A Graphic Biography of Rosa Luxemburg*. Verso, 2015.
- Hall, Stuart. "Culture, Resistance, and Struggle." *Cultural Studies 1983*. Duke University Press, 2016.
- King, Thomas. *The Truth About Stories*. House of Anansi Press, 2003.
- Orwell, George. *1984*. Harper Perennial, 2014.
- Vonnegut, Kurt. *Player Piano*. The Dial Press, 1999.

Other required texts will be available through the University of Calgary library website and D2L. A reading schedule that shows the weekly readings will be provided.

Assessments and evaluation:

A detailed description of these assignments will be provided. All assignments must be submitted electronically via D2L.

Close reading (400-600 words): 10%

For this assignment, you will make **a specific argument about one the comics** we've studied in class. This argument must be supported by an intensive interpretation of specific evidence referencing at least one of the following: text, image, panel layout, interplay of text and image, use of dialogue balloons, or a comics-specific device of your choosing. The challenge is to come up with **your own unique argument**.

Introductory paragraph and annotated bibliography (400-600 words): 15%

For this assignment you should submit an introductory paragraph that contains your thesis for the final essay and three key points you will aim to make in support of that thesis. Following this paragraph please include an annotated bibliography in MLA format of five sources. At least **three of these sources must be articles in scholarly journals**. Each entry should include: a full citation, a brief explanation of the content of the source in your own words, and how you think engaging with this source might support your thesis.

Final essay (2000 words): 30%

Applying your skills in close reading and the feedback you received from the annotated bibliography, you will write an argumentative essay of 2000 words. You will be graded on the strength of your thesis, the ability to engage in a critical debate, the clarity of your arguments, and your ability to incorporate quotations in support of your arguments. This essay should include **at least three sources in addition to your primary text/s**.

Final exam: 25%

Registrar-scheduled **open book exam**. You are advised to be available for the entire examination period (June 19-21).

In-class Assignments: 10%

You will complete 10 in-class assignments during the course and submit them via D2L. The assignments will build upon the lecture content, enabling you to work towards the course learning outcomes. Assignments will be pass/fail. The emphasis for these assignments is applying the concepts and terminology of the course as they are learned. Writing should be clear and comprehensible. However, due to time constraints there is no expectation for substantial revisions. Assignments will be **due on the same day they are assigned**.

Self-Reflection, Attendance, and Participation: 10%

You are asked to reflect on your overall engagement and attendance throughout the semester. This reflection is intended to help you situate yourself in the grading scheme. To achieve the highest grade, you are expected to attend class regularly and to be fully present and engaged in class activities and discussions. Any *unexcused* absences will reduce the final class participation and attendance grade. Please ensure you have made time to consult the **Attendance, Participation, and Engagement Self-Assessment Rubric on D2L**.

A = Student engages in all activities, *attends all synchronous sessions*, and frequently contributes thoughtful comments and questions to class discussions that enhance understanding of the material being discussed.

B = Student engages in most of the activities, *has a maximum of two absences during the synchronous sessions*, and sometimes offers a comment or question in class.

C = Student engages in *some* activities and/or class discussions and has a maximum of *three absences during the synchronous sessions*.

D/F= There is little evidence of engagement in class activities and discussions, *the student has four or more absences*.

Attendance and participation expectations:

Students are expected to attend class regularly and to be fully present to engage in class activities and discussions. **See the self-reflection assignment and participation rubric.**

Learning technology requirements:

There is a D2L site for the course that contains required readings and other relevant class resources and materials (please see d2l.ucalgary.ca).

To successfully engage in learning experiences at the University of Calgary, students taking online, remote and blended courses are required to have reliable access to the following technology:

- A computer with a supported operating system, as well as the latest security and malware updates;
- A current and updated web browser; Webcam (built-in or external);
- Microphone and speaker (built-in or external), or headset with microphone;
- Current antivirus and/or firewall software enabled;
- Broadband internet connection.

Most current laptops will have a built-in webcam, speaker, and microphone.

Guidelines for online sessions:

To help ensure sessions are private, please do not share conferencing links or passwords with others, or on any social media platforms. Course links and passwords are only intended for students registered in the class. Zoom recordings and materials presented on Zoom/D2L, including any teaching materials, must not be shared, distributed or published without the instructor's permission.

The use of video conferencing programs relies on participants to act ethically, honestly and with integrity, and in accordance with the principles of fairness, good faith, and respect (as per the Code of Conduct). When entering video conferencing sessions, you play a role in helping create an effective, safe and respectful learning environment. Please be mindful of how your behaviour in these sessions may affect others. Participants are required to use names officially associated with their UCID (legal or preferred names listed in the Student Centre) when engaging in these activities.

Instructors/moderators can remove those whose names do not appear on class rosters. Non-compliance may be investigated under relevant University of Calgary conduct policies (e.g [Student Non-Academic Misconduct Policy](#)). If participants have difficulties complying with this requirement, they should email the instructor of the class explaining why, so the instructor may consider whether to grant an exception, and on what terms. For more information on how to get the most out of your Zoom sessions visit: <https://elearn.ucalgary.ca/guidelines-for-zoom/>

Please be prepared, as best as you are able, to join class in a quiet space that will allow you to be fully present and engaged in Zoom sessions. Students will be advised by their instructor when they are expected to turn on their webcam (for group work, presentations, etc.).

The instructor may record online class sessions for the purposes of supporting student learning in this class – such as making the recording available for review of the session or for students who miss a session. Students will be advised before the instructor initiates a recording of a Zoom session. These recordings will be used to support student learning only and will not be shared or used for any other purpose.

Additional regulations:

- There will be a registrar scheduled exam, and it will be **open book**.
- Students must be available for examinations up to the last day of the examination period.
<https://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/academic-schedule.html>
- All assignments (except for the in-class assignments) must be completed in order to receive a passing grade.
- There are no extra credit assignments.
- Make-up assignments, excused absences, and extensions will only be issued by the instructor in the event of extenuating circumstances.
- Assignments must be submitted on the date that they are due. The late penalty for assignments is a third of a grade (an A- to B+) for each day (not a business day) that the assignment is overdue. No assignments will be accepted four days past the assignment deadline without the prior consent of the instructor.

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.
- Also, 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.
- 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.