



UNIVERSITY OF  
CALGARY

| COURSE TITLE: Wealth and Debt in English Language Literature |   |               |                        |
|--|---|---------------|------------------------|
| Course Number  | English 251.04 Literature and Society   | WINTER 2021   |                        |
| Faculty / Department   | Faculty of Arts/Department of English   |               |                        |
| Instructor Name  | Jon Rozhon  | Email         | Jon.rozhon@ucalgary.ca |
| Instructor Email Policy                                      | Please note that all course communications must occur through your @ucalgary email, and the instructor, Jon Rozhon, will respond to emails sent via students' @ucalgary emails within 48 hours. |               |                        |
| Office Location  | NA  | Telephone No: | NA                     |
| Office Hours   | ONLINE via zoom: Wednesdays 2:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. or by appointment.   |               |                        |
| Class Dates/Times/Location                                   | Lecture 4: M-W 1:00 p.m. to 1:50 p.m. ONLINE<br>Tutorial 4: F 1:00 p.m. to 1:50 p.m. ONLINE   |               |                        |

## Course description

Course pre-requisites: none.

Learning in this online course will occur synchronously through the Desire2Learn (D2L), Zoom, and Slack platforms. Students are expected to attend the online classes and tutorial throughout the week. When unable to participate live due to unforeseen circumstances, kindly inform me in advance.

Classes and tutorials will **not** be recorded and thus will be unavailable to students for later review. To get the most out of the educational experience, it is imperative to attend lectures and tutorials as often as possible.

## Course learning outcomes

The novelist Alistair Maclean once said that “authors write about what worries them”. Few writers ever manage to make a living by the pen, so is it any surprise that money is a central theme in many works of literature? This course is not an investments course, nor does it offer advice on how to manage debt. Instead, we will examine ethical and philosophical issues that surround wealth and debt. Questions I would like all course participants to ponder and attempt to answer concern the trade-offs people make when pursuing wealth. Is money in fact the root of all evil, as Chaucer’s Pardoner tells us? Or is there something to be said for Deng Xiaoping’s recent and famous pronouncement that “getting rich is glorious”? Many literary texts stress the negatives of the pursuit of wealth, but we will encounter several pieces that make persuasive arguments for the profit motive. Margaret Atwood’s *Payback* anchors this course, and we will consult it throughout the semester for insight and perspective.

Not only will this course encourage you to read works about wealth and debt, but it will offer examples from throughout history and in various genres. You will read texts from the 9<sup>th</sup> century CE to our 21<sup>st</sup> century and in the following genres: non-fictional prose, fictional prose, poetry, and drama.

By the end of this course, not only will you gain perspective on money in literature, you will also learn some basics of scholarly research, reading, and writing, including:

- why plagiarism in particular, and academic integrity in general, are important issues for undergraduates in all faculties;
- how to read texts closely to reveal underlying complexity;
- how to write a well-argued, organized, and literate undergraduate research paper;
- how to reflect critically on your research paper and other writing.

## Texts and readings

The first five texts listed below are mandatory and will be discussed in class and tutorial. They must be purchased through the University of Calgary bookstore or acquired by some alternative means.

The other texts, listed in point form, are mostly available for free online. We will **not** discuss all of the online texts, so you do not need to read them in advance; in most cases, you do not need to read them at all. However, you may select some of these texts for discussion in your audio-visual presentation and/or in your Research Paper. I will provide URL's as needed on D2L.

1. Atwood, Margaret. *Payback: Debt and the Shadow Side of Wealth*. Anansi.
2. Marlowe, Christopher. *Doctor Faustus and Other Plays*. Oxford World Classics edition.
3. Austen, Jane. *Mansfield Park*. Broadview Press edition.
4. Alexie, Sherman. *The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian*. Little Brown & Company
5. Smith, Zadie. *NW*. Penguin.

- Anon, *Beowulf*
- Other Old English poems in translation
- Chaucer, "The Pardoner's Tale"
- Spenser, *The Faerie Queene*
- Shakespeare, *The Merchant of Venice*
- Austen, *Northanger Abbey*
- Dickinson/ Thoreau/ Emerson, Essays and poetry
- Alger, *Julius, the Street Boy or Out West*
- Twain, *Huckleberry Finn*
- Wolfe, *The Bonfire of the Vanities*
- Smith, *White Teeth*

## Learning Technologies

There will be a D2L site set up for this course by the first day of classes. The site will contain required readings and other relevant class resources and materials (see [d2L.ucalgary.ca](http://d2L.ucalgary.ca)).

To engage successfully in their learning experiences at the University of Calgary, students taking online courses — such as this one — 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.

## Assignments and Evaluation

Participation Report: 10%

Audio-visual presentation: 20%

MLA research assignment: 10%

Midterm exam: 10%

Thesis statement and introductory paragraph assignment: 15%

Research Paper: 25%

Final Exam: 10%

I describe each assignment and course policies in the Assignment Details section below. There will be a Registrar-scheduled Final Exam in this course.

I will generally offer percentages for individual assignments and then calculate a final letter grade to submit to the university. See the following conversions in use at the University of Calgary.

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).

The university permits instructors discretion in rounding upwards or downwards the average of term work and exam grades that fall between two letter grades.

The A+ grade is an honorific bestowed on exceptional work. It does not represent a higher GPA than the A grade. Both the A+ and the A are calculated as 4.0/4.0 on the university's grade point scale. There is no D- grade.

## Assignment Details

### Assignment submission policies and deadlines

Assignments are always due at midnight of the day indicated on the course schedule. Every student may submit **one assignment only** 1 day late without penalty. Choose your extension wisely. If you feel you will be busy at the end of the semester, perhaps save your extension for the Research Paper or even the Participation Report.

All assignments must be submitted through D2L to me. In the event that D2L is down or not working properly, you may submit via email to me. Your final grade will be based on the average of all submitted assignments, the midterm exam, and the final exam. It is possible to pass the course without submitting all assignments, though not submitting assignments will, of course, hurt your final grade.

I penalize late Research Papers (i.e. papers submitted after midnight on the deadline date, April 14). The penalty is 5% per day for the first two days, and 1% daily from that point until midnight April 20. Anyone not submitting a Research Paper by midnight on April 20 receives a zero grade on the paper.

Besides the Research Paper, all other assignments must be submitted on the deadline date indicated on the course schedule. If you know you will be unable to submit on the deadline date, let me know as far in advance as possible. You may need to provide written evidence. If you do not let me know in advance that you will miss an assignment deadline, do tell me afterwards. Again, you may need to provide written evidence, depending on the circumstances.

I may grant extensions due to important family matters or medical emergencies. The decision to grant or not grant extensions will be at my discretion only. I may ask you for documentation.

As for missing the midterm exam, the final exam or the AV presentation, all of which will occur on set dates, you need to inform me of your absence as soon as possible. I may ask you for documentation. If I deem your reason for absence to be acceptable, I may decide on arrangements other than a make-up test or another AV presentation date. For instance, I may add the weight of the missed grade to another assignment.

### AV Presentation

Each student will create and upload to Slack a short (no less than 5 minutes; no more than 10 minutes) audio-visual presentation on one of the texts discussed in the course. Topics are up to you, but money matters will be part of your presentation. For example, you may choose to analyze how wealth and/or debt affect a certain character or relationship between characters. You could consider how money and religion interact in a work. In fact, the possibilities are almost endless. You will upload your presentation in advance of class or tutorial and then lead a 10-minute Slack discussion during class or tutorial time.

You may upload a PowerPoint presentation or a video or harness some other platform/technology. The important thing is to ensure that you communicate your ideas as effectively as possible and enable a robust discussion on Slack.

### **MLA Research Exercise**

Citing sources, or telling your reader where you find your information, is essential to academic integrity. We will discuss the various reasons, some obvious and others not obvious, why you need to learn how to write with academic integrity. The Modern Languages Association (MLA) produces a handbook of how to cite your sources properly, both in the body of your essay and in the Works Cited section that follows your paper. Purdue University also offers this information on a comprehensive research website called *Owl*. The research exercise for this course asks you to conduct basic research through the U of C online library and compile your results. The exercise will also ask you short-answer and multiple-choice questions about academic integrity to ensure you are aware of the ethical issues at stake when you write research papers and produce other work at university.

### **Midterm exam**

You will have 75 minutes to write the midterm on the exam date. You may select any 75-minute span within a 24-hour window to complete the exam. The midterm will be a multiple-choice test based on concepts and texts covered in class and tutorial up to and including the previous class.

### **Thesis Statement and Introductory Paragraph**

Several weeks prior to the Research Paper due date, you will submit to me a thesis statement and introductory paragraph based on the topic you decide to write about. I will read through all students' paragraphs and make suggestions about possible improvements. These thesis statements and introductory paragraphs should form the basis for the Research Papers. However, I will permit any student to alter or even completely change topic, thesis statement, and introductory paragraph after I return this assignment and before they submit the Research Paper.

### **Participation Report**

Between April 7, 2021 and April 14, 2021 (the last day of classes), you will submit to the designated D2L Dropbox a 1-page (maximum) report of how you engaged with the texts, the class, and your assignments. For example, did you do more than the minimum in reading, analyzing, questioning ideas, and getting involved in Slack and Zoom sessions? Did you conduct research on the library website for your research paper? Were you present at and participating in lectures and tutorials? Tell me not only what you did to justify your participation grade, but also what you could have done to receive a higher grade. I will reward you the grade if I agree with your self-assessment. I will adjust appropriately if I feel the evidence does not justify your participation grade or if I believe the evidence supports a higher grade.

### **Research paper**

We will spend the semester preparing for the final assignment: a 1,500-word Research Paper. I will provide to you some possible essay topics, and you will plan, research, and write your paper. If you have a different topic you would like to tackle, that is completely fine (in fact, I encourage it), but discuss with me first. The paper will be written according to MLA guidelines and will include references from at least two academic sources.

### **Registrar-scheduled Final Exam**

This exam will be similar in structure to the midterm: it will consist of multiple-choice questions. I will provide details closer to the final exam date.

## **Student 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 Code of Conduct and Non-Academic Misconduct policy and procedures. This information may be found at:

<http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/k.html>

## **Use of Internet and electronic communication devices in class and tutorial**

The use of laptop and mobile devices 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, which can be found at

<https://www.ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/electronic-communications-policy.pdf>

<https://ucalgary.ca/legal-services/university-policies-procedures/acceptable-use-electronic-resources-and-information-policy>

## **Guidelines for Zoom and Slack sessions**

Zoom is a video conferencing program that will allow us to meet at specific times for a "live" video conference, so that we can have the opportunity to meet each other virtually and discuss relevant course topics as a learning community. Slack is another platform that permits us to meet live. Slack also allows us to upload content to a common site that all course participants may access at any time.

To help ensure Zoom and Slack sessions are private, do not share the links or passwords with others, or on any social media platforms. Zoom and Slack links and passwords are only intended for students registered in the course. Recordings and materials presented in Zoom and Slack, 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 Zoom, Slack or other Online conferencing sessions (such as MS Teams), 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/>.

If you are unable to attend a Zoom or Slack session, please contact your instructor to arrange an alternative activity for the missed session (e.g., to review a recorded session). 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. 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 Zoom 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.

## **Final note**

If Covid-19 or other issues dictate changes to this course information, I will do my utmost to inform you or discuss with you those changes as far in advance as possible.

### **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.

“Plagiarism” occurs when a Student presents the ideas, expression of ideas or work of another individual as the Student’s own. Work may include algorithms, code, composition, data, methods, design, formulae, images, indigenous oral teachings, art and ceremonies, organization of ideas, and scientific and mathematical concepts.

<https://ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/student-academic-misconduct-policy.pdf>

### **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/scribe-and-muse-english-club>.

Our email address is [smecuofc@gmail.com](mailto:smecuofc@gmail.com).

### **English Department Website:**

For more information about courses, programs, policies, events and contacts in the Department of English, please go to our website at <https://arts.ucalgary.ca/english>. Please note that the course outlines posted on the English Department website constitute the official course outline for purposes of appeals. Students should verify any hard copies against this posted version. For courses which employ numerical grades, the official departmental percentage to letter grade conversion scale is also posted on the department website.

**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>

**Library and Research Support:**

Melanie Boyd, Librarian for English, offers research support to students, including strategies for finding articles, books, and other library materials. Contact: [maboyn@ucalgary.ca](mailto:maboyn@ucalgary.ca).

Find The English Pages research guide here:

[https://library.ucalgary.ca/sb.php?subject\\_id=52619](https://library.ucalgary.ca/sb.php?subject_id=52619)

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 <https://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/welcome.html>

**Grade appeals:**

Consult the following University Calendar link and request advice from the English Department office, SS 1152 or email [adveng@ucalgary.ca](mailto:adveng@ucalgary.ca). 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>

**Student Accommodations:****ACADEMIC ACCOMMODATIONS**

The student accommodation policy can be found at:

<https://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/b-6-1.html>

Students needing an Accommodation because of a Disability or medical condition should communicate this need to Student Accessibility Services in accordance with the Procedure for Accommodations for Students with Disabilities

<https://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/b-6.html>

Students needing an Accommodation based on a Protected Ground other than Disability, should communicate this need, preferably in writing, to the course instructor.

The full policy on Student Accommodations is available

at <https://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/b-6-2.html>

**Faculty of Arts Program Advising and Student Information Resources:**



Have a question, but not sure where to start? The new Arts Students' Centre (ASC) is your information resource for everything in Arts! Drop in at SS102, call us at 403-220-3580 or email us at [ascarts@ucalgary.ca](mailto:ascarts@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.

**\*RESEARCH ETHICS (if applicable)**

If a student is interested in undertaking an assignment that will involve collecting information from members of the public, they should speak with the course instructor and consult the CFREB Ethics (<http://www.ucalgary.ca/research/researchers/ethics-compliance/cfreb>) before beginning the assignment.

**\*INSTRUCTOR'S INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY**

Course materials created by instructors (including presentations and 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 typical (or usual) classroom practice. Students' assignments will be accessible only by the authorized course faculty. Private information related to the individual student is treated with the utmost regard by the faculty at the University of Calgary.

**\*COPYRIGHT LEGISLATION**

All students are required to read the University of Calgary policy on Acceptable Use of Material Protected by Copyright (<https://www.ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/acceptable-use-of-material-protected-by-copyright-policy.pdf>) and requirements of the copyright act (<https://laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/eng/acts/C-42/index.html>) to ensure they are aware of the consequences of unauthorised sharing of course materials (including instructor notes, electronic versions of textbooks etc.). Students who use material protected by copyright in violation of this policy may be disciplined under the Non-Academic Misconduct Policy <https://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/k.html>.

**\*MEDIA RECORDING (if applicable)**

Please refer to the following statement on media recording of students:

[https://elearn.ucalgary.ca/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/Media-Recording-in-Learning-Environments-OSP\\_FINAL.pdf](https://elearn.ucalgary.ca/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/Media-Recording-in-Learning-Environments-OSP_FINAL.pdf)

**\*Media recording for lesson capture**

The instructor may use media recordings to capture the delivery of a lecture. These recordings are intended to be used for lecture capture only and will not be used for any other purpose. Although the recording device will be fixed on the Instructor, in the event that incidental student participation is recorded, the instructor will ensure that any identifiable content (video or audio) is masked, or will

seek consent to include the identifiable student content to making the content available on University approved platforms.

**\*Media recording for self-assessment of teaching practices**

The instructor may use media recordings as a tool for self-assessment of their teaching practices. Although the recording device will be fixed on the instructor, it is possible that student participation in the course may be inadvertently captured. These recordings will be used for instructor self-assessment only and will not be used for any other purpose.

**\*Media recording for the assessment of student learning**

The instructor may use media recordings as part of the assessment of students. This may include but is not limited to classroom discussions, presentations, clinical practice, or skills testing that occur during the course. These recordings will be used for student assessment purposes only and will not be shared or used for any other purpose.

**SEXUAL VIOLENCE POLICY**

The University recognizes that all members of the University Community should be able to learn, work, teach and live in an environment where they are free from harassment, discrimination, and violence. The University of Calgary's sexual violence policy guides us in how we respond to incidents of sexual violence, including supports available to those who have experienced or witnessed sexual violence, or those who are alleged to have committed sexual violence. It provides clear response procedures and timelines, defines complex concepts, and addresses incidents that occur off-campus in certain circumstances. Please see the policy available at

<https://www.ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/sexual-violence-policy.pdf>

**\*OTHER IMPORTANT INFORMATION**

Please visit the Registrar's website at: <https://www.ucalgary.ca/registrar/registration/course-outlines> for additional important information on the following:

- 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):**

"At the University of Calgary, feedback provided by students through the Universal Student Ratings of Instruction (USRI) survey provides valuable information to help with evaluating instruction, enhancing learning and teaching, and selecting courses ([www.ucalgary.ca/usri](http://www.ucalgary.ca/usri)). Your responses make a difference – please participate in USRI Surveys."

## **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://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/747/01/>

Students who are absent from class assessments (tests, participation activities, or other assignments) should inform their instructors as soon as possible. Instructors may request that evidence in the form of documentation be provided. If the reason provided for the absence is acceptable, instructors may decide that any arrangements made can take forms other than make-up tests or assignments. For example, the weight of a missed grade may be added to another assignment or test. For information on possible forms of documentation, including statutory declarations, please see

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

## **DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH STATEMENT ON PRINCIPLES OF CONDUCT**

According to the University Calendar

“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.