



FACULTY OF ARTS
Department of English

COURSE OUTLINE

ENGL 251: Literature and Society
Winter 2022

Class Schedule: Until January 31, all classes will be conducted on Zoom.
After January 31: Tuesday/Thursday | 09:30-10:45 a.m. | Science Theatres 127

Instructor	Dr. Jonathon Wilcke, Ph.D.
Email:	jonathon.wilcke@ucalgary.ca
Web Page:	D2L (access via MyUofC portal)
Office Hours:	All consultations will be conducted via Zoom. Office hours: Monday 10 a.m. – 12 p.m. Wednesday 1 p.m. – 3 p.m. Or by appointment. Zoom Meeting ID: 814 949 9226 Passcode: 819783

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.

Expanded Description:

In ENGL 251, we will examine a body of literature in terms of its ability to critique, inhabit, reveal, and speak about the social world that humans live within. The works we will read focus on a variety of specific social categories, including race, gender, and class; they are drawn from a variety of eras and literary genres including 20th century drama, Restoration pastoral poetry, and contemporary poetry and fiction. In addition, we will develop critical reading and writing skills focusing on using “society” as a category of critical literary analysis.

Course learning outcomes:

During the semester, students will:

1. Learn and apply analytical skills to the practice of reading and writing about literature, including close reading, thematic/symbolic/pattern interpretation, and textual analysis.
2. Learn and apply concepts and skills related to academic writing about literature, including objective style, argumentation, developing evidence from literary texts, and writing about secondary sources.
3. Learn and practice research skills, including library research, using print and electronic sources, developing keyword searches, evaluating sources for scholarly merit.

4. Learn and apply MLA documentation practices, including using in-text citations, bibliographical documentation, and formatting.
5. Learn and apply writing skills related to research, including quotation, paraphrase, and summary, incorporating data gathered from secondary research into one's own writing, and avoiding plagiarism.
6. Engage with the work of literary scholars by responding to critical texts related to the course reading selections.

Texts and readings:

Joanna Wolfe and Laura Wilder. *Digging into Literature: Strategies for Reading, Analysis and Writing*.

Joshua Whitehead. *Jonny Appleseed*.

Trace Peterson. *Since I Moved In*.

Nancy Jo Cullen. *The Western Alienation Merit Badge*.

Tanya Tagaq. *Split Tooth*.

Additional texts will be provided in the course D2L site.

A documentation handbook, such as the one below, is highly recommended:

Bullock, Richard, Michal Brody, and Francine Weinberg. *The Little Seagull Handbook*, W.W. Norton, 4th edition.

Learning technology requirement:

Students will need to have access to computer equipment suitable for attending classes on Zoom, and accessing D2L for course materials and submitting assignments.

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

Students may also wish to have a laptop computer or tablet in the classroom to read any materials provided via D2L. Alternately, students may print electronic material for use in the classroom (use of technology in the classroom is not necessarily required).

Assessments and Evaluation:

Assignment 1: Close Reading and Analysis (500-750 words)	15%
Assignment 2: Source Development and Bibliography (500-750 words)	15%
Assignment 3: Critical Essay (1500 words)	20%
Mid-term Take-home Examination (750-1000 words)	15%
Registrar's Scheduled Final Exam	25%
3 Materials and Methods Exercises	10%

- Students need not receive a passing grade on any particular assignment in order to qualify for a passing grade in the course.
- There is a Registrar's Scheduled Final Exam for this course. Students must be available for examinations during the entire Examination Period (Tuesday, April 19th – Friday, April 29th).
- There are no extra credit assignments available in this course.

Description of assignments and exams

Detailed instructions will be provided via D2L. Deadlines appear on Reading Schedule

Assignment 1: Close Reading and Analysis (750-1000 words):

Students will choose one or more works from the Reading Schedule and write a close reading and analysis using the literary terms and concepts we are learning in *Digging into Literature*. Instructor will provide a template and demonstrate how to perform close readings.

Assignment 2: Source Development and Bibliography (750-1000 words)

This assignment is a prewriting assignment that prepares you to write assignment 3 by helping you develop critical sources. You will use these critical sources to write about the work you choose. For this assignment, choose one or more works from the reading schedule and locate two critical essays about the work using library resources. In the assignment, you will write annotations for the sources that both summarize the key concepts and demonstrate how you might apply these concepts to a discussion of your work.

Assignment 3: Critical Essay (1000 words)

This assignment is critical essay that incorporates the prewriting you did in assignment 2. You are expected to develop your discussion of the work you chose from the Reading Schedule by making connections between your close reading and analysis and your secondary sources. You may add further secondary sources if you wish, but you must use two secondary sources found through library research.

Midterm Exam (750-1000 words)

The Midterm Exam is a take home exam that consists of 3 short answer questions. Two of the questions will test your ability to apply literary concepts to works from the reading schedule. The third question asks you to perform a close reading on a short work that we have not studied. Students have a 48-hour window to complete the exam.

Registrar's Scheduled Final Exam (open book)

The Final Exam will consist of a mixture of multiple choice questions, short answer questions, and a brief critical essay.

Materials and Methods Exercises

Students will complete three short exercises that will teach library research skills, MLA documentation, and analysis.

Attendance and participation expectations:

1. This course is delivered in lecture format. Instructor will provide course notes on key concepts via D2L but no detailed lecture notes will be provided. Students are expected to attend every class (both online and in person) in order to learn course content.
2. If you miss a class, the instructor is happy to meet with you about any course material concerns you may have, but will not repeat missed lectures. Instructor will not provide updates or reviews of missed lectures via email.
3. Verbal participation in class is encouraged but not required.

Assignment Deadlines

1. All assignments are due on the date and time according to the reading schedule.
2. I will not notify you regarding missing assignments and will not remind you of deadlines if you have outstanding materials.
3. I will accept outstanding assignments (with no late penalty) up until I return graded assignments to the class. Turnaround time for assignments is generally two weeks with a maximum of three weeks.
4. Assignments that are submitted on the due date and within the first week of turnaround time will receive full comments. Assignments submitted after the first week will be read and graded but may receive minimal comments depending upon how late they have been submitted.
5. If I have graded and returned an assignment to the class but you have not yet submitted the assignment, you will receive a grade of F/O on the assignment.
6. If you feel that you need an extension, please let me know before the deadline, rather than before the turnaround time ends.

How to Submit EVERYTHING

1. Submit EVERYTHING via D2L unless otherwise instructed.
2. Submit EVERYTHING in MS Word format.
3. Assignments submitted in .pdf will be accepted but will not receive extensive feedback.
4. Documents that cannot be opened will not be graded.
5. Instructor will not inform students of submission problems and will not accept emailed assignments.
6. Label your **Assignments with your name in the document title**, for example: **ENGL 253.02 Assignment 2 Camilla Parron**.

Appointments

Please make appointments with instructor via email, preferably 24 hours in advance, in order to ensure availability. Same day appointments may be available but instructor shall not guarantee an opening in a same-day situation.

Email Use Guidelines

Feel free to email me with questions about course material and other concerns. If you have complex questions, make a consultation appointment. I read and respond to email on working days between 10AM - 4PM and will reply within three working days. I do not read email on weekends or holidays.

When you write to me, please observe the following communication standards:

1. Begin with a greeting. For example, "Hello Dr. Wilcke/Dear Dr. Wilcke" are acceptable greetings. "Hey Dr. Wilcke," "Hey man," "Hi Wilcke," or "Whasssup?" for example, are not suitable.
2. End with a closing.
3. Write in complete sentences using plain language as if you are writing a letter rather than sending a brief message.
4. Proofread your email to make sure it communicates.

Consultations, Communication, and Privacy

During consultations, I am available to assist with:

1. Reviewing drafts of assignments
2. Reviewing course content
3. General writing help
4. Concerns with course progress

Concerns with course progress

If you have medical, compassionate, or other concerns that affect your progress in this course, please inform me as soon as possible.

During the term, if you require an extension for *medical or compassionate reasons*, make a request for an extension. I consider all requests on a case-by-case basis. Making a request for an extension does not guarantee an extension.

Instructor insists that students protect their own and the instructor's privacy.

Please do not report extensive details about your reasons for making a request for extension. I will give due consideration to all reasonable requests for extensions and requests related to course progress. You do not have to provide extensive details in order to prove the legitimacy of your request. I may require a physician's letter or other relevant documentation and will inform you if I feel documentation is required.

Research and Scholarly Sources

Use only *scholarly sources* as research for your assignments. All sources must be documented in the bibliography and cited in your assignments using in-text citations.

1. Scholarly sources (or academic, peer-reviewed, or refereed sources) include books, articles, and other resources accessible through the UCalgary Library's databases. These sources will provide the most substantial information for your assignments.
2. Websites, including but not limited to *Wikipedia*, *Shmoop*, *Coles Notes*, *Merriam-Webster Online*, personal blogs, custom essay writing websites, and any online reference source (i.e. *The British Museum*), are not scholarly sources.
3. Reference sources in general, even reference sources found in the University library, are also not scholarly sources.

4. If the assignment includes research into websites or uses websites to gather context for a topic or as evidence, websites are acceptable. For example, an assignment investigating social media or referring to a *Globe and Mail* article would obviously reference the Facebook, Twitter, and the *Globe and Mail* website.
5. However: websites cannot take the place of scholarly secondary sources as research for your assignments.

Conduct:

Students, employees, and academic staff are 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:

Student work will be assessed using numerical grades according to the English Department’s 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

- The interpretation of the undergraduate university grading system can be found at <https://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/f-1-1.html>
- 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.

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.