



FACULTY OF ARTS
Department Of English

COURSE OUTLINE

ENGL 251 L03: Literature and Society
Winter 2023

Class Schedule (MWF/10:00-11:00/EDC386/In-person)

Instructor	Mahmoud Ababneh
Email:	Mahmoud.ababneh@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:	M 2:30-3:30

Course Description:

This course will examine Black, Indigenous and People of Color (BIPOC) Literatures, their interconnectedness and resistance to colonial discourse. As many of the histories and contexts that inform this course are unfamiliar and challenging, we, as a community, will engage in a process of filling in knowledge gaps about BIPOC texts and contexts. Therefore, analysis of contemporary novels, short stories and comics will be juxtaposed with various forms of media, articles and government policies. We will begin by identifying and researching basic terminologies and histories that facilitate and enlighten the reading of literary materials. We will address issues such as narrating Indigenous histories through literature and its relation to settler-colonial mainstream history. It becomes essential for this process of (un)learning to reflect on and critique what we know, or think we know, about BIPOC at home and around the world. In doing so, the course sets up an approach to introduce students to critical readings and, logical and persuasive writings that are required at this level. Along with these skills, there will be an introduction to research and documentation methods.

Course learning outcomes:

1. Demonstrate a holistic understanding of a range of critical and creative literary writings from BIPOC authors.
2. Understand and interpret literary texts in relation to their historical and cultural contexts.
3. Learn how to write a strong, well-supported, and clearly written academic essay, which involves introducing students to the notion of writing as a process that requires multiple stages of composition.
4. Learn how to cite sources according to MLA style and learn about what constitutes

plagiarism.

5. Develop library research skills

Texts and readings:

Selections From: *Read, Listen, Tell: Indigenous Stories from Turtle Island*. Edited by Sophie McCall et al., Wilfrid Laurier University Press, 2017 ([Available online](#))

Selections From: *This place: 150 years retold*. Highwater Press, 2019. ([Available online](#))

Selections From: *The Black Prairie Archives: An Anthology*. Edited by Karina Vernon, Wilfrid Laurier University Press, 2020. ([Available online](#))

Mayr, Suzette. *The Sleeping Car Porter*. Coach House Books, 2022. ([Available online](#))

Other required texts will be available through the UofC library website and D2L. A reading schedule, that shows the weekly readings with hyperlinks to the texts, will be provided.

Learning technology requirements:

All the course material will be available online. Students need to bring their devices to class or, if they prefer, print the weekly reading prior to class.

Assessments and Evaluation:

A detailed description of these assignments will be provided to students.

Analytical Essay: 15%

For this assignment, you will write a close reading essay of 700-750 words. You will be graded on the strength of your thesis, the clarity of your arguments, and your ability to incorporate quotations in support of your arguments.

Midterm exam D2L: 20%

A mix of short answers and multiple-choice questions.

Argumentative paper: 20%

You will write a close reading essay of 1300 words for this assignment. You will be graded on the strength of your thesis, the ability to enter a critical debate, the clarity of your arguments, and your ability to incorporate quotations in support of your arguments.

Final Exam: 30%

Registrar-scheduled exam. Students are advised to be available for the entire examination period, which is 15-26, April 2023.

Reflection, Attendance and Participation: 15%

Students are asked to reflect on their overall engagement and attendance throughout the semester. The reflection helps students to situate themselves in the grading scheme (see below). To achieve the highest grade, students 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.

A = Student engages in *all* activities, 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 and occasionally offers a comment or question in class.
 C = Student engages in *some* activities and/or class discussions
 D/F= There is little evidence of engagement in class activities and discussions.

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 reflection assignment.

Additional Regulations:

- There will be a Registrar scheduled exam, and it will be closed Book.
- Students must be available for examinations up to the last day of the examination period April 15 – April 26, 2023. <https://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/academic-schedule.html>
- All 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.