



**FACULTY OF ARTS  
Department Of English**

**COURSE OUTLINE**

**ENGL 253.01 L01: Short Fiction**

**Fall 2021**

**Class Schedule (T/Th 12:30-1:45pm / Synchronous Online)**

<b>Instructor</b>	Dr. Kirsten Inglis
<b>Email:</b>	<a href="mailto:kainglis@ucalgary.ca">kainglis@ucalgary.ca</a>
<b>Web Page:</b>	D2L (access via MyUofC portal)
<b>Office Hours:</b>	Tuesdays, 2-3pm via Zoom

**Course description:**

*Calendar Description:*

*The study of the conventions of a genre, with emphasis on close reading and critical writing skills. Includes the study of at least one text by an indigenous author.*

This course introduces students to the conventions of short fiction. We will trace the historical development of the short story and we will consider its manifestations in various cultures and literary traditions (all texts will be read in English, either as the original language of composition or in translation). Students will learn to read closely and analyze carefully the short fiction assigned for class. Students will develop a technical vocabulary for the study of literary texts and will learn to approach texts through various theoretical and contextual lenses. The development of critical reading and effective writing skills will be a central component of this course.

**Course learning outcomes:**

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

1. Understand the elements of short fiction and its historical development.
2. Close read short fiction in a variety of forms and genres. This process begins by understanding that a text is constructed, and not a transparent reflection of reality.
3. Employ a range of technical terms and critical tools with which to interpret short fiction.
4. Write strong, well-supported, clearly written academic essays with effective and persuasive analytical arguments.
5. Understand what constitutes plagiarism and use proper documentation in their written work.
6. Develop library research skills: how to search and locate reference works, books and articles, both electronic and print; and how to use print and online resources responsibly and thoughtfully.

7. Engage with other scholars by responding to critical texts.

### **Texts and readings:**

#### **Textbook**

- *The Broadview Anthology of Short Fiction*, Fourth Canadian Edition. Edited by Laura Buzzard; Marjorie Mather. Broadview, 2020. (Print or eBook available)
- Weinstock, *The Mad Scientist's Guide to Composition*, Broadview, 2019. (Print or eBook available)

#### **Online Resources**

- Supplementary assigned readings will be provided via D2L as links to websites or library resources, or as PDF files in accordance with copyright compliance regulations  
<https://library.ucalgary.ca/copyright>
- A detailed schedule of readings will be circulated during the first week of classes. Generally 2-3 short stories will be assigned reading for each class.

### **Course Delivery Mode**

This course will take place online via Desire2Learn (D2L) and Zoom. To best succeed in the course, students are encouraged to participate in all synchronous Zoom sessions and complete all asynchronous learning tasks using the D2L learning environment.

There will be approximately 15 synchronous Zoom sessions throughout the term; Tuesdays and Thursdays from 12:30-1:45pm. There will be instances when alternative (asynchronous) materials are provided in lieu of a synchronous class session. These will be indicated on the syllabus and I will post reminders in the 'news' function in D2L when this will be the case. Synchronous Zoom classes will not be recorded, and it is the student's responsibility to attend and participate in these 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.

To help ensure Zoom sessions are private, do not share the Zoom link or password with others, or on any social media platforms. Zoom links and passwords are only intended for students registered in the course. Zoom recordings and materials presented in Zoom, 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 or other video 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 session, please contact your instructor to arrange an alternative activity for the missed 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 in Zoom sessions. Students will be advised by their instructor when they are expected to turn on their webcam (for group work, presentations, etc.).

Zoom sessions will NOT typically be recorded. Students will be advised if the instructor initiates a recording of a Zoom session. If a Zoom session is recorded, it will be used to support student learning only and will not be shared or used for any other purpose.

#### **Learning technology requirements:**

There is a D2L site for this course which contains required readings and other relevant class resources and materials (see [d2l.ucalgary.ca](http://d2l.ucalgary.ca)). Students may be required to watch films or videos via services like CBC Gem, Films on Demand, or YouTube.

In order to successfully engage in their learning experiences at the University of Calgary, students taking online 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.

#### **Assessments and Evaluation:**

Mini-Presentation 10%

Discussion Board Assignments 15%

Comparative Close Reading Essay 20%

Research Essay 30%

Final Exam 25%

#### **Mini Presentation 10%**

- Students will prepare and deliver a mini presentation (of 7.5 minutes) on a specific section of or context relating to the assigned reading for that day. Students must be prepared to turn on their webcams to deliver their presentations and should provide supplementary resources like PowerPoint or other visual aids.
- Students are expected to use research sources for this assignment.
- Students will choose to work independently or with a partner (of their choice). If students choose to work with a partner, their presentation must be of longer duration (10 minutes). Students who choose to work as a team will receive a common grade for their presentation.

#### **Discussion Board Assignments 15% (3 posts @ minimum 300 words)**

- Students will be assigned 3 discussion posts over the course of the term.
- Students will write a formal discussion post in response to a question or prompt provided, and they will respond to a classmate's post.
- Initial posts will be worth 65% of the overall score; responses to classmates will be worth 35% of the overall score.
- Students **MUST** complete the discussion post and response during the specified timeframe. Discussion forums will lock at 11:30pm on the due date and there will be **NO opportunity to make up these posts. For this reason, students are encouraged to post well in advance of the deadline to avoid last-minute technology issues.**

#### **Comparative Close Reading Essay (750 words) 20%**

- Students will write a 750-word comparative essay on an assigned topic. This paper will not require the use of secondary sources.
- Specific guidelines will be distributed in class.

#### **Research Essay (1500 words) 30%**

- Students will write a 1500-word essay on one of the assigned topics, incorporating specific textual examples from primary readings and secondary (research) sources.
- Specific guidelines will be distributed in class.

#### **Registrar-scheduled Final Exam 25%**

- The exam will be **open book** and will be scheduled by the registrar's office.
- It will be written in D2L during a specified period of time.
- The exam may include short and long answer questions.
- The exam will be cumulative (cover all material from the beginning of the semester).

#### **Additional Regulations:**

- This course will have a Registrar scheduled final exam, and the exam will be **Open Book**, written in D2L.
- **Students must be available for examinations up to the last day of the examination period December 13-December 22, 2021.**  
<https://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/academic-schedule.html>

- There are no extra-credit assignments for this course.
- Unless otherwise specified in assignment instructions, all assignments are to be submitted to the D2L dropbox for this course. Assignments will be due on or before MIDNIGHT of the due date. Assignments submitted after this time will be subject to the following late penalties:
  - Assignments submitted after the deadline will be penalized with the loss of a third of a grade (for example, an A- to B+) for each business day [not class] that the assignment is overdue.
  - Assignments submitted after the due date will be graded but will not have feedback provided.
  - No assignments will be accepted one week past the assignment deadline without the prior consent of the instructor.
- It is your responsibility to keep a copy of all assignments in case of loss by any cause.
- You do not have to complete all assignments in order to receive a passing grade in the course.

**Attendance and participation expectations:**

Students are expected to attend class regularly and to be fully present and engaged in class activities and discussions.

**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](#).

**Email:** I will not provide summaries of class via email, nor will I respond to emails that ask for information provided in the course documents. I will provide specific guidelines on email procedure for classes with Teaching Assistant(s). Please use appropriate salutations and signatures in your emails. I will respond to emails within 48 (business) hours. This means I do not typically respond to emails after 5:00 p.m. or on weekends.

**Grading System:**

- In this course, all assignments and exams will be marked on the University of Calgary's four-point Undergraduate Grading System, as described in the Calendar:

<http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/f-2.html> A+/A (4.0); A- (3.7); B+ (3.3); B (3.0); B- (2.7); C+ (2.3); C (2.0); C- (1.7); D+ (1.3); D (1.0); F (0)

- Written assignments will receive letter grades. Reading quizzes and the final exam will receive a numerical grade, to be converted using the following 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

- Please note that, according to the University Calendar (F.1), instructors may use their discretion when rounding upwards or downwards when the average of term work and exams is between two letter grades.
- Although the A+ is solely an honorific that entails no additional points in the 4-point system, the course instructor will employ this mark to distinguish superlative work that 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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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.