



**FACULTY OF ARTS  
Department of English**

**COURSE OUTLINE**

**ENGL 253.01: Studies in Genre—Short Fiction  
Winter 2022  
In person  
Mondays and Wednesdays, 9:30-10:45am, SS 109**

<b>Instructor</b>	Dr. Rebecca Geleyn (she/her)
<b>Email:</b>	rgeleyn@ucalgary.ca
<b>Web Page:</b>	D2L (access via MyUofC portal)
<b>Office Hours:</b>	Mondays 11am-12pm or by appointment, in my office (location TBD) or on Zoom.

**Course description:**

A study of the conventions of short fiction, with an emphasis on close reading and critical writing skills. Includes the study of at least one text by an Indigenous author.

This course will trace the historical development of the short story through various cultural and literary traditions (all texts will be read in English, either as the original language of composition or in translation). Students will develop a technical vocabulary for the study of literary texts and will learn to approach short stories through various theoretical and contextual lenses.

**Course learning outcomes:**

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

1. Understand a range of technical terms and critical tools with which to interpret short stories;
2. Perform close readings of short stories;
3. Understand and interpret literary texts in relation to their historical and cultural contexts;
4. Locate and thoughtfully use reference works, books and articles;
5. Write a convincing academic paper using the conventions of English as an academic discipline;
6. Engage in meaningful conversations about literature with peers.

**Texts and readings (required):**

- Chalykoff, Lisa, Neta Gordon, and Paul Lumsden, editors. *The Broadview Introduction to Literature: Short Fiction*. Second edition, Broadview, 2018.
- Wolfe, Joanna, and Laura Wilder. *Digging into Literature*. Bedford/St. Martin's, 2015.

The above texts are available at the University Bookstore. Links to additional texts will be provided on D2L.

**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)).

**Assessments and Evaluation:**

Close reading responses: 10% (5% x 2)

Written assignment: 20%

Midterm exam: 20%

Essay: 25%

Final exam: 25%

**Close reading responses (10%):**

Using one of the strategies from chapters 3-11 of *Digging into Literature*, students will submit reading responses on class days of their choosing. Each response should examine one of the texts we will be discussing on a specific day. Students may only submit one response per class, and they should print off two copies of their response: one to hand into the instructor, and one to keep and use during class activities. These are due at the beginning of class on the day that text is to be discussed, and no late responses will be accepted.

Students should hand in a total of TWO (2) reading responses, worth FIVE (5) percent each. A reading response is a half-page to a page, double-spaced (150-300 words) that engages with the day's reading and may take the form of a short analysis or discussion question. Note that these responses are meant to be used as starting points for small group work and discussion in class, so students should be prepared to share what they write to the whole group.

**Written Assignment (20%):**

This assignment is a building block toward writing a strong essay. Students will choose one of several thesis statements that will be provided and write 2-4 body paragraphs based on this argument (600 words). They will make specific claims, gather evidence from texts, and write clear paragraphs with topic sentences and logical transitions.

**Midterm test (20%):**

The midterm will consist of short answer questions and short passage analyses of texts we will have discussed. The test will be closed-book and take place in class.

**Essay (25%):**

Students will submit a formal essay of 1400 words based on a choice of given topics. Each essay will be graded on the strength of its argument, the relevance of textual evidence, the clarity of the writing, the organization and flow of paragraphs, and the proper use of MLA style.

**Final Exam (25%):**

The course's final exam is scheduled by the Registrar and will take place during the exam period (April 19-29). The closed-book exam will consist of a mix of short answer questions, passage analyses, and a longer essay question.

**Additional Information on Assignments:**

Students must complete the written assignment, the midterm, the essay, and the final exam in order to receive a passing grade in the course. There will be no extra-credit assignments. For both the written assignment and essay, there is a grace period of THREE (3) calendar days (not class meetings) in which students will not be penalized for late submissions. Assignments submitted after the three-day grace period will be penalized with the loss of a third of a grade (e.g., an A- to B+) for each calendar day (not class) that the assignment is overdue. No assignments will be accepted one week past the end of the grace period without the prior consent of the instructor.

The annotated response and the essay should be submitted electronically through D2L as either a .docx or .pdf file. (Please note that close reading responses, however, may only be submitted in class.) It is students' responsibility to keep a copy of all assignments in case of loss by any cause.

**Attendance and participation expectations:**

Students are expected to attend class regularly (barring illness or physical isolation due to COVID-19) and to be fully present and engaged in class activities and discussions. Readings must be completed in advance of class meetings, according to the reading schedule. Other classroom policies, including note-taking and note-sharing with students who must absent themselves, will be discussed together as a group.

**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. Students may take notes on a laptop or tablet, but mobile phones should be stowed away in students' bags when not specifically in use for a class exercise. 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 midterm test or final examination.

**Grading System:**

This course will use a combination of percentages and letter grades. Please see the following 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

“Students must reach the minimum percentage threshold for the grade range to receive that letter grade (e.g., to receive an A- a student will have surpassed the minimum threshold of 80.00% in the course).”

- 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.
- The interpretation of the undergraduate university grading system can be found at <https://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/f-1-1.html>
  - Or, for graduate courses: please refer to the Graduate Grading System at the following link: <http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/grad/current/gs-h-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.