



UNIVERSITY OF  
CALGARY

DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH  
253.03 Novel  
SPRING 2021

<b>Instructor</b>	Dr. Rod Moody-Corbett
<b>Email:</b>	rjmoodyc@ucalgary.ca
<b>Web Page:</b>	D2L (access via MyUofC portal)
<b>Office Hours:</b>	Office hours: Thursdays 12PM-1PM, or by appointment. Will respond to emails within 24hrs. Will not respond to emails after 5PM.

**Course description:** This course will introduce students to critical analysis of the novel. Students will explore a range of texts, from Mary Shelley's *Frankenstein* through more contemporary Canadian novels by Eden Robinson, David Chariandy, and Emma Hooper. Students will develop an understanding of the novel genre, its nuances of form and structure, while learning skills in close reading and critical thinking. An emphasis will be placed on clear and concise University-level essay writing.

**Prerequisites:** There are no pre-requisites for this course.

**Online/Remote Learning:** This course will take place online via Desire2Learn (D2L) and Zoom. To best succeed in the course, students are encouraged to participate in the asynchronous learning tasks using the D2L learning environment and synchronous Zoom sessions. When unable to participate live due to the time difference or unforeseen circumstances, inform the instructor in advance and propose and implement an alternative participation activity (e.g., watch the recordings, submit a brief reflection, and actively contribute to the follow-up online discussion).

A combination of synchronous and asynchronous delivery will be used in this course. Synchronous Zoom sessions will occur on Tuesdays and Thursdays (from 9AM-10:15AM) throughout the term as indicated on the course schedule. Each of these sessions will be recorded.

### COURSE LEARNING OUTCOMES

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

1. Perform close readings of novels and secondary sources;
2. Demonstrate an ability to analyze and discuss the novel form;
3. Write strong, well-supported, clearly written academic essays;

4. Evaluate and assess the applicability of secondary sources;
5. Consider and analyze the work of numerous writers through course readings;
6. Develop editorial skills applicable to essay writing.

### **Texts and readings:**

#### **The following texts are required for this course:**

*Brother*, David Chariandy  
*Our Homesick Songs*, Emma Hooper  
*Monkey Beach*, Eden Robinson  
*Frankenstein*, Mary Shelley

**Please Note:** Supplementary online texts (reviews, scholarly criticism, and interviews) will be posted to D2L. A detailed Reading Schedule will be circulated as a separate document.

### **LEARNING TECHNOLOGIES AND REQUIREMENTS**

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

### **Assignments and Evaluation:**

**Please see individual assignment documents for a detailed breakdown of assignment expectations, objectives, and grading rubrics.**

**Annotated Response (20%):** Students will write one 500-word response to a secondary source made available on D2L, evaluating the success and relevance of this critical text on the basis of its argument and organization. Specific details related to this assignment will be outlined in lecture. Students will be asked to complete asynchronous practice responses in advance of this submission.

**Book Review (20%):** Students will compose a 500-word book review of one of the novels discussed this term. Examples of book reviewing (and of what constitutes good book reviewing

practice) will be outlined in lecture. Students will be asked to complete asynchronous practice reviews in advance of this submission.

**Close-Reading Essay (35%):** Students will write one 1250-word essay that will establish a concrete and arguable thesis based upon course readings. These papers will adhere to MLA format. MLA format and research methodology expectations will be addressed in lecture.

**Final Exam (25%):** The final exam will consist of essay-style questions and will be completed synchronously via D2L over an allotted period of 2hrs.

## **ATTENDANCE AND PARTICIPATION EXPECTATIONS**

Students are expected to attend class regularly and to be fully present and engaged in class activities and discussions. Readings must be completed in advance of lecture, according to the Reading Schedule.

### **Additional Regulations:**

- There is a Registrar scheduled exam for this course. Students must be available for examinations up to the last day of the examination period June 21-23, 2021.
- There are no extra-credit assignments.
- All assignments need not be completed in order to receive a passing grade.
- Email submissions will not be accepted. All assignments must be submitted via D2L Dropbox.
- Assignments submitted after the deadline will be penalized with the loss of a third of a grade (an A- to B+) for each business day [not class] that the assignment is overdue. No assignments will be accepted one week 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>

## **USE OF INTERNET AND ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATION DEVICES IN CLASS**

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>

## GUIDELINES FOR ZOOM 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 (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 in Zoom sessions. 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.

### GRADING SYSTEM:

- Final grades will be calculated using the 4-point system.

90 + %	A+	4.0	67 – 69 %	C+	2.3
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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

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)

Please note that, according to the University Calendar

(F.1) <https://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/f-1.html>, 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 four-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.

Boilerplate will be added after Department has approved the course outline.