



FACULTY OF ARTS
Department Of English

COURSE OUTLINE

ENGL 302 A/B: Introduction to Contemporary Theory

Fall 2021 – Winter 2021

Class Schedule: MW 15:30-16:45; room: ST 130

Instructor	Kit Dobson
Email:	christopher.dobson@ucalgary.ca
Web Page:	D2L (access via MyUofC portal)
Office Hours:	MW 14:00-15:00 or by appointment; in SS 1028 or online.

Course description

An examination of the claims and assumptions of a range of contemporary critical practices, such as formalism, structuralism, deconstruction, feminism and gender studies, new historicism, psychoanalytic criticism, and cultural and ideological critique. Includes sustained engagement with original theoretical texts.

Prerequisite: 6 units of courses labelled English.

Course learning outcomes

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

1. Demonstrate their understanding of the importance of theoretical models in literary study;
2. Draw from, or select between, a range of theoretical approaches to shape their analyses of a given literary text;
3. Demonstrate their understanding of current theoretical methodologies by summarizing, critiquing, and using key concepts and arguments;
4. Understand how differences between theoretical frameworks can produce multiple readings of a text;
5. Analyze how intersections of race, gender, class, sexuality, and national or worldwide history can shape literary studies as a field and existing interpretations of texts;
6. formulate and defend significant arguments in which they analyze, evaluate, and synthesize material effectively, using contemporary theoretical approaches;
7. Work collaboratively with others in developing a theoretically informed interpretation of a text;
8. structure a complex and engaging argument; and
9. present one's own analysis of a text within the context of a specific theoretical approach.

Texts and readings

Williams, Jeffrey J., et al., editors. *The Norton Anthology of Theory and Criticism*. Third edition, W.W. Norton, 2018.

Optional supplementary reading: there are multiple theory “handbooks” that students might find useful for providing additional context and framing for our discussions. Anne H. Stevens’ *Literary Theory and Criticism*, published by Broadview in 2015, is a good recent treatment.

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).

Assessments and Evaluation

Student results for this iteration of English 302 A/B will be determined via the following assessments:

1. Quizzes: 4 x 10%: 40%
2. Term papers: 2 x 20%: 40%
3. Literary theory handbook project: 20%

Quizzes (4 x 10%: 40%): Twice during the fall semester, and then twice again during the winter semester, you will be tested on the material that we have covered. Literary theory is about developing an awareness of intellectual traditions and practices for the purposes of conducting literary analysis, and it is important for me to maintain a clear sense that you are gaining awareness and insight into the materials that we cover. **Due dates: October 20, December 6, February 14, March 28.**

Term papers (2 x 20%: 40%): At the end of the fall semester and at the end of the winter semester you will complete an academic paper in response to a series of prompts from which you may choose. Papers will be between 2000-2500 words in length. **Due dates: December 8, April 11.**

Literary theory handbook (20%): Theory is, importantly, designed to help you to develop a tool kit for literary analysis that you will use in all of your courses. It is a field that is organized around multiple thematic areas or sub-fields. Over the course of the year, you will work with a small group of your classmates in order to produce one section of a collective literary theory handbook. Each group will be responsible for a different area or sub-field of literary theory. At the end of the course, we will share these with each other. You will walk away from this course with a handbook designed to be useful in all of your subsequent literary studies. **Due date: April 6.**

Late assignments: Assignments submitted after the deadline will be penalized with the loss of a third of a grade (e.g., an A- to B+) for each calendar day (not class meeting) that the assignment

is overdue. No assignments will be accepted one week past the assignment deadline without the prior consent of the instructor.

Additional notes: Please see the detailed assignment guidelines for each assignment for additional details and explanations. Note that there is no registrar-scheduled final exam for this course. Students should submit their work electronically via D2L's dropbox in .docx format.

Attendance and participation expectations

Please plan to attend class on a regular basis; we will develop a series of interconnected discussions over the course of the academic year, and missing elements of this conversation will negatively impact your understanding of the intellectual traditions on which we are building. While there is no formal participation grade attached to the course, do know that attendance is a basic expectation of this course. Attendance, too, is part of maintaining accountability to your peers, as you will be responsible for your group's contribution to the literary theory handbook that we will be collectively producing. Should you miss class, too, please note that I will not be able to catch you up to our conversations either during office hours or via email.

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 quizzes.

Grading System

This course uses the following standard grading 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 the following:

- Although the A+ is solely an honorific that entails no additional points in the four-point system, I 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>
- There is no D- grade.
- There are no extra credit assignments available in this course.
- Students need not pass any particular assessment in order to pass this 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, please see the [English Department Website](#).

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

This work 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.

COVID-19

The ongoing global pandemic remains in a fluid situation as the semester begins. Please note that this course will adhere to the University of Calgary's COVID-19's policies and practices throughout the year. While we meet in person, it is possible that you may be required to self-isolate during the year – and that it could even be conceivable that the entire plan for this course could change once again. In this context, it is important for us to take care of ourselves and of one another. Please do not hesitate to be in touch should COVID-19 impact your studies and I will do my best to ensure that your progress in our course is not hindered.