



UNIVERSITY OF
CALGARY

FACULTY OF ARTS
Department of English

COURSE OUTLINE

ENGL 302AB: Introduction to Contemporary Theoretical Practices

Fall 2022 – Winter 2023

Tuesdays and Thursdays, 11:00–12:15, ST 130. In-person, two-semester course.

Instructor	For Fall '22 term: Dr. David Sigler For Winter '23 term: Dr. Shaobo Xie
Email:	Fall: dsigler@ucalgary.ca Winter: sxie@ucalgary.ca
Web Page:	D2L (access via MyUofC portal)
Office Hours:	Fall office hours with Dr. Sigler: Tuesdays, 9:30–10:30 a.m., SS1014. Thursdays 1:00–2:00 p.m., SS1014. And by appointment. Winter office hours with Dr. Xie: To be determined

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.

This is a full-year in-person course, spanning Fall and Winter semesters. Students must be enrolled in both ENGL 302A (Fall 2022 term) and ENGL 302B (Winter 2023 term) to take this course. Students receive only one final grade, representing their total work across both semesters.

Course Hours: 6 units (3-0)

Prerequisite(s): 6 units of courses labelled ENGL

Note: Students with credit in ENGL 302 will not be allowed to take 303.

Course learning outcomes:

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

1. Demonstrate their understanding of the relevance and value of theoretical models in literary study;

2. Draw from, or select between, a range of theoretical approaches to shape their analysis of a given literary text, one that uses existing theoretical concepts and arguments;
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 surprising, contestable, and critically significant arguments in which they analyze, evaluate, and synthesize material effectively, using contemporary theoretical approaches;
7. Structure a complex and engaging argument;
8. Present their own analysis of a text within the context of a specific theoretical approach.

Texts and readings:

Required books (can be print copy or electronic copy):

1. Rivkin, Julie and Michael Ryan, eds. *Literary Theory: An Anthology*. Blackwell. 3rd edition. ISBN 978-1-1187-0785-2.
2. Tyson, Lois. *Critical Theory Today*. 3rd ed. ISBN 978-0-415-50675-5.

The books are available at the University of Calgary bookstore. Note that Rivkin/Ryan book is also available electronically through the University of Calgary library. Accessing it this way is also perfectly acceptable. The library also has a print copy of the Tyson text, but it is the outdated 2nd edition—this will be kept on reserve for your possible consultation throughout the year.

Readings available electronically through Leganto/D2L (Fall term only):

1. Jacques Lacan, "The Freudian Unconscious and Ours"
2. Alenka Zupančič, "Sex in the Cut"
3. Frantz Fanon, "By Way of Conclusion"
4. Glen Coulthard, "Subjects of Empire: Indigenous Peoples and the 'Politics of Recognition' in Canada"
5. Christina Sharpe, "Black Studies: In the Wake"
6. Gilles Deleuze and Félix Guattari, "Concrete Rules and Abstract Machines"

The supplementary electronic readings for Winter term will be provided later.

Learning technology requirements:

Students will need frequent access to a D2L site for this course which contains required readings and other relevant class resources and materials.

Assessments and Evaluation:

1. Paper 1 (due Fall term): 15%. Topics to be provided; 1500–1800 words, MLA style.
2. Paper 2 (due Fall term): 15%. Topics to be provided; 1500–1800 words, MLA style.

3. Paper 3 (due Winter term): 15%. Topics to be provided; 1500–1800 words, MLA style.
4. Paper 4 (due Winter term): 15%. Topics to be provided; 1500–1800 words, MLA style.

Twice per semester, you will write a formal academic paper in response to a given prompt, to be chosen from a menu of options. The prompts may ask you to discuss an aspect of the theory, to think across and between two theoretical models, or to use the theory to make an interpretative argument about a given literary or cultural text.

Each paper is to be 1500–1800 words long, including the works cited list, with 1" margins and double-spaced throughout. It should be submitted before the deadline to the dropbox in D2L, with the file in .docx or .pdf format. The paper must have an original claim, shaped by a deep engagement with the theory, and use evidence drawn from your analysis of the texts in question to support that claim. A good paper makes a claim that is somewhat surprising (i.e., not obvious to most people who read the text), insightful, and demonstrably true. You can use relevant peer-reviewed scholarly sources as needed to frame your argument, but the heart of the paper should be original acts of interpretation using the theory at hand. For questions of style, consult the MLA style guide, 8th ed., summaries of which are available online on sites like Purdue OWL.

The papers are graded with percentage grades, corresponding to the grade scale below. Work submitted after the deadline will be penalized with the loss of 3%, with a further 3% reduction incurred every 24 hours from the deadline. No assignments will be accepted one week past the assignment deadline without the prior consent of the instructor. Deadlines papers 1 and 2 will be provided immediately at the start of the course; deadlines for papers 3 and 4 will be provided before the start of Part B of the course in January 2023.

5. Contributions to discussion – Fall term: 5%
6. Contributions to discussion – Winter term: 5%

This category evaluates the quality, frequency, and consistency of students' contributions to the live class discussions. Earning an A in this category means that the student has consistently been one of our top contributors to discussion. Earning a B in this category means that the student has been a good, solid, reliable, and consistent contributor to the conversation each week. Earning a B- in this category signals that the student has been around average by the standard set by students in the course, in terms of the frequency and quality of their contributions to discussion. Earning a C in this category suggests satisfactory, yet below average contributions to the discussion, in terms of their quality, consistency, and/or frequency. Earning a D represents some engagement in the class discussion, though considerably below average and minimally acceptable for a passing grade. Students who very seldom contribute to the discussion will earn an F in this category. Note that this is not a grade for attendance—that is, being present in class but withholding active participation is, for the purposes of this assessment, the same as not attending.

7. Fall term Final Examination: 15%

8. Winter term Final Examination: 15%

These are the Registrar-scheduled Final Examinations, held in person during the Fall and Winter term examination periods. There is a Registrar-scheduled Final Examination in Fall and Winter terms for Parts A and B of the course. The Fall examination will cover material from Part A (i.e., Fall term); the Winter examination will cover material from Part B (i.e., Winter term), though it may draw on concepts introduced in Part A. Because the timing of the exam is out of the instructors' control, students must be available throughout the entire examination period. For Fall 2022 term, the examination period is December 10 to December 21, 2022. For Winter 2023 term, the examination period is April 15 to April 26, 2023.

There are no opportunities for extra credit in this course or to rewrite assignments for an improved grade. Students need not complete all assignments, or any particular assignment, to qualify for a passing grade in the course.

Attendance and participation expectations:

ENGL 302 is a discussion-based course. Students are expected to attend class regularly, to arrive having carefully completed the day's assigned readings, and to be fully present and engaged in class activities and discussions. The quality of students' contributions to discussion will be assessed, as described in the section above. Beyond this, instructors do not keep records of attendance and there is no need to notify the instructor if you need to be absent from class.

Students are asked to stay away from class if they are exhibiting any symptoms of Covid-19, such as coughing, congestion, or loss of the ability to taste and smell, or if they have tested positive for Covid-19 on a PCR or Antigen test. **Do not come to class if you are sick** or have been in close contact with someone who is sick with Covid-19. If illness forces you to miss a class session, and you wish to receive credit for contributing to the day's discussion, you must contact the instructor within 24 hours of the class meeting to discuss options to make a virtual contribution to discussion once you are feeling well enough.

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, tablet, 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 Examinations.

Grading System:

Work in the course is graded with percentages. These correspond to letter grades and grade points as follows:

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.

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.

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.

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/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.