



**FACULTY OF ARTS
Department Of English**

COURSE OUTLINE

ENGL 303 L01: THEORIES FOR READING

Spring Term 2022

Class Schedule: Tuesdays and Thursdays 1:00-3:45 in ST 127

Instructor	Dr. Rich Cole
Email:	rich.cole@ucalgary.ca
Web Page:	D2L (access via MyUofC portal)
Office Hours:	Tuesdays at 4:00 or by appointment

Course description:

An examination of contemporary critical and cultural theories and their practical applications for reading. Students will learn modes of critical reading and gain experience applying them to a variety of literary and cultural texts. This course may not be repeated for credit.

Students with prior credit in English 302 cannot take 303. Students are permitted to take English 303 prior to 302.

Course learning outcomes:

This course takes seriously theory as a mode of inquiry: an interpretive process whereby theoretical lenses bring clarity and depth to what we see in literature and culture. The curriculum will provide students with a solid introduction to some of the key thinkers, disciplinary issues, and contentious debates surrounding the emergence of contemporary reading practices. Development of the following skills will be prioritized:

- Secure a good reading knowledge of the major theories and approaches to literary and cultural analysis
- Situate schools of theory and criticism in their concrete, historical contexts
- Build a conceptual toolbox for reading and writing about literary theory and criticism
- Confidently engage with “theory” to analyze language, literature, and culture
- Produce sharply argued essays that engage an appropriate theoretical framework
- Differentiate in writing between styles of contemporary theory and criticism
- Prepare for further specialized coursework focused on one theoretical approach

The following texts are required to be purchased for the course:

Critical Theory Today: A User-Friendly Guide (3rd edition) by Lois Tyson

The Great Gatsby by F. Scott Fitzgerald

Kindred by Octavia Butler

Additional readings will be posted on D2L. The readings include a representative selection of works of critical theory and literary texts. These resources will be accessible under the content link on our D2L course site. Links will be provided to the materials.

Learning technology requirements:

To successfully engage with the D2L course curriculum at the University of Calgary, students are required to have access to a computer with a supported operating system, a current internet browser, and a broadband internet connection. English coursework will require a word processor. University of Calgary students can download and install Office 365 at no additional charge; to do so click this [link](#) and scroll down.

Assessments and Evaluation:

Short Essay 25% (1200 words excluding citations)

Long Essay 35% (1500 words excluding citations)

Discussion Forum (10%)

Registrar-Scheduled Final Exam (30%) (The exam will be an in-person timed assessment)

There are no extra credit assignments in this course.

Essay Assignments

There are two essay assignments in this course: the first Short Essay (1200 words, 25%) and the second Long Essay (1500 words, 35%). These papers will allow you to analyze a specific literary text by engaging the theoretical frameworks we have been reading together. Successful papers will demonstrate a working knowledge of how to apply a specific theoretical lens as required to draw focus to key details of the text and arrive at innovative readings. Papers must accord with MLA guidelines and include a Works Cited page. The instructor will post detailed instructions on D2L. Assignment requirements will also be discussed in class, and students are welcome to discuss their essays with the instructor.

Discussion Forum

To test the theories we read in class, and build our collective knowledge of the course texts, students in this section will be assigned five discussion prompts over the course of the term. You will write a formal discussion post of at least 150 words in response to a question or prompt, and then respond to a classmate's post in at least 100 words. **Discussion forums will lock at 11:59 pm on the due date, and there will be NO opportunity to make up these posts.** It is important to check before posting to ensure your statements are free of grammatical errors and in accordance with the guidelines of student conduct for maintaining a positive and productive learning environment. Students are encouraged to post well in advance of deadlines to avoid technology issues. Discussions will be graded at the end of term using the following criteria:

- A grade: Student fully completes all 5 posts and responses, using correctly cited textual examples.
- B grade: Student fully completes 4 posts and responses, using correctly cited textual examples.
- C grade: Student fully completes 3 posts and responses, using correctly cited textual examples.
- D grade: Student fully completes 2 posts and responses, using correctly cited textual examples.

- F grade: Student fully completes 1 or fewer posts and responses, using correctly cited textual examples.

Students who post entries with major errors in textual citations will not receive credit. A major error includes missing quotation marks around borrowed words or not including in-text parenthetical citations. Students who post entries with minor citation errors (i.e. incorrect punctuation) may be asked to resubmit with changes directly to the instructor. If resubmission is not completed in the time frame specified by the instructor the student will not receive credit for the post.

Registrar-scheduled Final Exam

The final exam will be scheduled by the Registrar and written on campus in person. The exam is closed book and electronic devices will not be permitted. Students must be available for examinations during the entire exam period of June 20-22.

Assignment Submission

All assignments must be uploaded electronically as PDF documents to the D2L online system unless otherwise advised by the course instructor.

Late Assignment Policy:

Assignments submitted after the deadline will be penalized with the loss of a third of a letter grade (e.g., B- to C+) for each calendar day (not class meeting) that the assignment is overdue including weekends. No assignments will be accepted one week past the assignment deadline without the prior consent of the instructor. Final exams cannot be submitted late. The only exception to the policies listed above is for extenuating cases for which the Office of the Registrar grants a student's request for deferral. See section below for the submission process for an Application of Deferment of Term Work.

Attendance and participation expectations:

Participation is critical in this course as it combines lectures on dense theoretical readings with extensive discussions in which students come together in person to articulate and refine their responses to the course materials. Discussion forums will assist in motivating students to stay on top of the readings and to help move our discussions well beyond basic summary and into intensive critical analysis. Lectures will not be recorded. The instructor is not responsible to provide notes to those who miss meetings. Students who miss class assume the risks involved (i.e. the loss of information an instructor might provide to students for successful completion of assignments, course schedule and reading list changes announced in class, assignment submission information, etc.).

Email correspondence:

Students are strongly encouraged to raise questions during class, at the end of class, and to visit office hours, all well in advance of deadlines. I will try my best to respond to your emails in a timely matter, but I can only reply to brief inquiries. Email is handy for quick clarifications and no substitute for the rich, generative conversations that can be fostered in the Humanities. If you wish to discuss course materials, essay topics, or other detailed curriculum matters, please make an appointment to see me.

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](#). The final exam is closed book, and access to electronic devices will not be permitted.

Grading System:

The following grading system will be used in this course. I will use a combination of percentages and letter grades.

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. For example, to receive a B- a student must have surpassed the minimum threshold of 70.00% in the course.

A student need not receive a passing grade on any particular assessment in order to be eligible for a passing final 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. 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.