



**FACULTY OF ARTS  
Department Of English**

**COURSE OUTLINE**

**ENGL 303, LEC 1: Theories for Reading**

**Spring 2023**

**Tuesdays and Thursdays/13:00-15:45 /On Campus: EDC 280**

<b>Instructor</b>	Elias Schwieler
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<b>Web Page:</b>	<a href="#">D2L ENGL 303 LEC 1</a> (access via MyUofC portal)
<b>Office Hours:</b>	15:45-16:45 Tuesdays and by appointment. (Room # SS 1038)

**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.

In this course we will explore how different theoretical perspectives can be related and applied to Joseph Conrad's *Heart of Darkness*. This novel is a text that has been subjected to intense analysis, discussion, and debate. It is also one of the most theorized texts, which makes it a good example of how different theories of reading can elucidate a literary text and how different theoretical perspectives not only undermine, but at times also complement one another. The main focus in the course will be to deepen our understanding of theories for reading and develop skills to apply literary theories to literary texts.

Prerequisites: 12 units of courses labelled English at 300 level or above.

**Course learning outcomes:**

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

- Analyze a literary text by grounding the analysis in a theoretical perspective;
- Evaluate different theoretical perspectives as they relate to literary texts;
- Explain a variety of theoretical perspectives related to literature;
- Apply different theoretical perspectives to a literary text in writing.

**Texts and readings:**

Barry, Peter. *Beginning theory: An introduction to literary and cultural theory*. Manchester, UK: Manchester University Press, 2017.

Conrad, Joseph. *Heart of Darkness*. (<https://www.gutenberg.org/ebooks/219>)

***Additional texts will be made available on D2L.***

**Learning technology requirements:**

This course is presented on campus, with classes occurring on Tuesdays & Thursdays, from 13:00 to 15:45 Mountain Time, in EDC 280. Students are expected to complete assignment-related objectives asynchronously. There is a D2L site for this course, which contains additional required readings and other relevant class resources and materials (see [D2L.ucalgary.ca](https://d2l.ucalgary.ca)).

**Assessments and Evaluation:**

All written assignments must be typewritten and double-spaced. You should use a 12-point type-size and a readable font. Written assignments must adhere to the format and documentation outlined in the MLA Handbook (8th Edition).

**Assignment 1: Exploratory Essay (25%)**

For this assignment you will explore 2-3 literary theories. Your explorative analysis should compare the theories in terms of similarities and differences, and also provide a short proposal of how they could be applied to Conrad's *Heart of Darkness*. The essay should be approximately 1500 words in length.

**Assignment 2: Group Presentation (15%):**

For this project each group will choose one theoretical text. In your presentation you will explain the theory and present a secondary source which makes use of the chosen theory. You will develop a PPT presentation, which must outline and highlight the group's main points. The presentation must be 10-12 minutes in length (no longer). Each of the group members must actively present something during the presentation. There will likely be 4 to 5 students per group. Students in each group will be assigned a common grade. Students who do not participate in the poster presentation will receive an F. If sufficient reasons are given for being absent, for example serious illness, or accidents, an individual paper of 500 words will be accepted.

**Assignment 3: Research Essay (35%):**

You will write a research paper of approximately 2000 words. In the essay, you will apply a theory of your choice (covered in the course) to a literary text of your choice. You will need to do library and/or online research before you start writing the paper. Your essay must have a clear, arguable thesis, and should be coherently structured and rigorously argued. Your topic should be guided by your interest in the theoretical texts covered in the course. Each essay will be accompanied by an MLA formatted bibliography listing both the primary and secondary texts consulted. The close reading research paper is submitted electronically on D2L.

**Assignment 4: Take-Home Summative Project (25%):**

The project will consist of four (4) questions asking you to discuss the course text and theories. Each question has a weight of 25% toward the grade on the assignment. The take-home project has a word limit of 2000 words combined for all four questions.

**TOTAL: 100%**

**All assignments have to be handed in to receive a passing grade on the course.** Students need not receive a passing grade on any particular assessment to be eligible for a passing grade in the course.

No assignments will be accepted one week past the assignment deadline without the prior consent of the instructor. No feedback will be given on late assignments.

**There are no opportunities for extra credit available.**

**There is no Registrar scheduled final examination.**

**Attendance and participation expectations:**

Students are expected to attend class regularly and to be fully present and engaged in class activities and discussions.

**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>

**Grading System:**

Assignments on the course are graded based on the percentage values as stated in the below table:

<b>90 + %</b>	<b>A+</b>	<b>4.0</b>	<b>67 – 69 %</b>	<b>C+</b>	<b>2.3</b>
<b>85 – 89 %</b>	<b>A</b>	<b>4.0</b>	<b>64 – 66 %</b>	<b>C</b>	<b>2.0</b>
<b>80 – 84 %</b>	<b>A–</b>	<b>3.7</b>	<b>60 – 63 %</b>	<b>C–</b>	<b>1.7</b>

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).

### **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.