

FACULTY OF ARTS

DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH

ENGLISH 340 A/B-01

Fall/Winter 2012-2011

COURSE TITLE: Foundations: Literature in English from the Middle Ages to the Present

Instructor: David Oakleaf

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Office hours: T/R 11:00-12:00 [You're not confined to this time: talk to me after class or e-mail me to set up a mutually convenient appointment.]

Homepage/course website: Access course materials through our Blackboard site

Course description:

As the title says, the course samples English literature from the middle ages until, approximately, the day before yesterday.

Prerequisite(s): English 203 and 205, or consent of the Department.

Antirequisite(s): Not open to students with credit in English 240.

Notes: Compulsory for, and limited to, English Majors, Minors and Honours students.

Texts and readings:

Stephen Greenblatt et al., eds. *The Norton Anthology of English Literature*, 9th ed. (2012), both volumes ordered in the three way split (so subdivided into three smaller, more portable volumes: useful since you have to bring your text to class).

We may supplement readings here with texts posted to Blackboard.

I haven't set a writing guide but you'll want access to some spiral-bound book in which you can find your way around when your commas go astray or you wonder what a semicolon is actually for. There are many more or less equivalent guides, many available second hand.

Assignments and Evaluation:

- One analysis of a poem or a passage (c. 600 words) 15%
- One short essay (c. 750 words) 15%
- One longer essay (c. 1500 words) 25%
- One spotting test at the end of Fall term 15%
- One spotting test at the end of Winter term 10%
- Postings to our discussion board (two each term, at least one on poetry each term) 20%

Notes:

- All assignments will be posted to our Blackboard site.
- The analysis will be an essay showing your ability to work closely to show how a writer coordinates various effects to an end. You will have to have a thesis, that is, to organize your observations.
- I will set topics for the essays long and short.
- Each term, each student must post a response on our discussion board to two texts (or formal sections of longer texts) by two different writers. Each response must be posted before the first class devoted to the text in question. (You will have a timetable.) A posting should be the equivalent of one to two double spaced pages; that is, about 250-500 words. There's nothing wrong with being at the low end of this range; it tries everyone's patience if you exceed the upper limit. I'm looking for something hard to define but easy to recognize: an individual reader's engagement with the text. If you really grapple with the text, you'll illuminate some feature of it—and it will be obvious what kind of reader you are, what you care about when you read. I'm not looking for essay-like polish, just evidence of committed independent thought about your readings. (This can help me address what matters in class. It should help students to get to know one another as well.)
- The spotting tests will give you unattributed quotations from works you read during the term, and they will ask you to give, usually for just over half of them, the author, the title of the work the quotation is from, the quotation's immediate context in that work, and its contribution to an attentive reading of that work. Each answer will be three or four sentences long. Marks will be deducted for fragments rather than sentences.
- There will be **NO** Registrar scheduled exam in this course.
- Written assignments are due in class on the due date.
- Tests are written in class on the set date except by individual arrangement through the Disability Resource Centre.
- Postings will be submitted electronically to our discussion board on Blackboard.
- Missed assignments (postings, for example) will receive failing grades.
- The instructor reserves the right to penalize the unexcused late submission of essays by a third of a grade (an A- to B+, say) for each business day [not class] that the assignment is overdue.
- No particular assignment must be completed or passed in order to qualify for a passing grade in the course as a whole.

*Please make every effort to take assignments directly to the instructor. If it is not possible to do so, take your assignment to SS 1152 and put it in the dropbox. Your assignment will be date-stamped and placed in the instructor's mailbox. **It is your responsibility to keep a copy of all assignments in case of loss by any cause. Assignments cannot be returned by staff in the Department office.***

Grading system:

- Assignments will receive grades according to the official grading system outlined in section F2 of the University Calendar: <http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/f-2>
 - Note that on this system, a grade of B means “Good - clearly above average performance with knowledge of subject matter generally complete.”
 - The tests will be given numerical scores that I convert to a percentage and then to a letter grade according to the following scale: A+: 90-100%; A: 83-89%; A-: 80-82%; B+: 77-79%;

B: 73-76%; B-: 70-72%; C+: 67-69%; C: 63-66%; C-: 60-62%; D+: 57-59%; D: 50-56%; F: 0-49%.

- According to the official grading system A+ (Outstanding) and A (Excellent-superior performance, showing comprehensive understanding of subject matter) both receive 4.0. In awarding these grades, I consider A to be the appropriate grade for the best work that I feel I can reasonably expect at this level; an A+ rewards work that is better than that. An A+ on one or more assignments forms part of the pattern of achievement I consider when determining final grades.
- Rounding grades up or down in determining a final grade is at the discretion of the instructor. In doing this I will consult the pattern of the student's achievement; for example, steady improvement or recovery from an evidently atypical mishap (sloppy essay, poor test score, etc.). In exceptional cases, I may underweight an obviously uncharacteristic grade (especially early) on an assignment. Distinguished class participation may be a factor in this decision. But this is not a free pass. I will consider your achievement on all components of the course. I will not, of course, give less than its full weight to a failing grade for a missed assignment.

Plagiarism:

Using any source whatsoever without clearly documenting it is a serious academic offense. Consequences include failure on the assignment, failure in the course and possible suspension or expulsion from the university. Please refer to the following information and make sure you are familiar with the statement below on plagiarism.

<http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/k-2-1.html>

Scribe and Muse Club for English Students:

The Scribe and Muse Reading and Writing Club (SMRWC) fosters and champions reading and writing through community service, leadership, and engagement. We strive to enhance the academic and social experience of undergraduate students by promoting academic excellence and interaction between students, faculty, and the community, through social, cultural, and academic events. <http://english.ucalgary.ca/content/scribe-and-muse-reading-and-writing-club>

Our email address is smrwc@ucalgary.ca.

English Department Website:

For more information about courses, programs, policies, events and contacts in the Department of English, please go to our website at <http://english.ucalgary.ca>.

Writing support:

The Student Success Centre offers both online and workshop writing support for U of C students.

<http://www.ucalgary.ca/ssc/writing-support>

Follow the Department of English on Facebook & Twitter:



Academic regulations and schedules:

Consult the *Calendar* for course information, university and faculty regulations, dates, deadlines and schedules, student, faculty and university rights and responsibilities. The homepage for the University Calendar is

<http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/index.htm>

Guidelines on e-mail Etiquette:

<https://www.ucalgary.ca/it/help/articles/email/etiquette>

Grade appeals:

Consult the following University *Calendar* link and request advice from the English Department office, SS 1152. Please note that “mere dissatisfaction with a decision is not sufficient grounds for the appeal of a grade or other academic decision.”

<http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/i.html>

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 form must be completed. The University also has regulations governing the deferral of final examinations. See *Calendar*:

<http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/g-6.html>, <http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/g-7.html>.

Academic accommodation:

It is a student’s responsibility to request academic accommodation. If you are a student with a disability who may require academic accommodation and if you have not registered with the Disability Resource Centre, please contact their office at 220-8237. Your academic accommodation letters should be provided to your instructor no later than fourteen (14) days after the commencement of this course. Students who have not registered with the Disability Resource Centre are not eligible for formal academic accommodation. <http://www.ucalgary.ca/drc/>

Emergency Evacuation/Assembly Points: <http://www.ucalgary.ca/emergencyplan/assemblypoints>;

Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act: <http://www.ucalgary.ca/legalservices/foip/>

“Safewalk” Program:

Campus Security will escort individuals day or night: call 220-5333 for assistance. Use any campus phone, emergency phone or the yellow phone located at most parking lot pay booths.

<http://www.ucalgary.ca/security/safewalk/>

Faculty of Arts Program Advising and Student Information Resources:

Have a question, but not sure where to start? The new Faculty of Arts Program Information Centre (PIC) is your information resource for everything in Arts! Drop in at SS110, call us at 403-220-3580 or email us at artsads@ucalgary.ca. You can also visit the Faculty of Arts website at <http://arts.ucalgary.ca/undergraduate> which has detailed information on common academic concerns.

For program planning and advice, contact the Student Success Centre (formerly the Undergraduate programs Office) at (403) 220-5881 or visit them in their new space on the 3rd Floor of the Taylor Family Digital Library.

For registration (add/drop/swap), paying fees and assistance with your Student Centre, contact Enrolment Services at (403) 210-ROCK [7625] or visit them at the MacKimmie Library Block.

Contact for Students Union Representatives for the Faculty of Arts:

arts1@su.ucalgary.ca, arts2@su.ucalgary.ca, arts3@su.ucalgary.ca, arts4@su.ucalgary.ca

Contact for Students Ombudsman’s Office: <http://www.ucalgary.ca/provost/students/ombuds>

PLAGIARISM

Plagiarism is an extremely serious offence. Please read the following information carefully. The penalty routinely recommended by the English Department for documented plagiarism is failure of the course in which the offence occurred; academic probation is also routinely applied at the Faculty level. Suspension or expulsion can result from severe or repeated plagiarism.

The University *Calendar* states:

1. **Plagiarism** - Essentially plagiarism involves submitting or presenting work in a course as if it were the student's own work done expressly for that particular course when, in fact, it is not. Most commonly plagiarism exists when:

- (a) the work submitted or presented was done, in whole or in part, by an individual other than the one submitting or presenting the work (this includes having another impersonate the student or otherwise substituting the work of another for one's own in an examination or test),
- (b) parts of the work are taken from another source without reference to the original author,
- (c) the whole work (e.g., an essay) is copied from another source, and/or,
- (d) a student submits or presents work in one course which has also been submitted in another course (although it may be completely original with that student) without the knowledge of or prior agreement of the instructor involved.

While it is recognized that scholarly work often involves reference to the ideas, data and conclusions of other scholars, intellectual honesty requires that such references be explicitly and clearly noted.

Plagiarism occurs when direct quotations are taken from a source without specific acknowledgement, or when original ideas or data from the source are not acknowledged. Citing your sources in a bibliography is not enough, because a bibliography does not establish which parts of a student's work are taken from other sources. MLA (Modern Language Association) documentation or other recognized forms of citation must be used for this purpose. Advice on adequate documentation can be found at the following web sites:

<http://www.dianahacker.com/resdoc/>

<http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/747/01/>

DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH STATEMENT ON PRINCIPLES OF CONDUCT

According to the University *Calendar*, (<http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/j.html>)

“The University of Calgary community has undertaken to be guided by the following statements of purpose and values: to promote free inquiry and debate, to act as a community of scholars, . . . , to respect, appreciate, and encourage diversity, [and] to display care and concern for community”. The Department of English, like the university as a whole, is committed to a “positive and productive learning and working environment.”

This environment is characterized by appreciation and encouragement of diversity and respect for the dignity of all persons: students, support staff, and faculty. The department will not tolerate unacceptable behaviour, such as threatening gestures, threatening or abusive verbal or written communication (including e-mails), or any conduct that “seriously disrupts the lawful education and related activities of students and/or university staff”. Any cases of such misconduct should be reported immediately to the department Head, who, depending on the nature and severity of the incident, may then take further appropriate action.