

FACULTY OF ARTS
DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH
COURSE OUTLINE

ENGLISH 387.10-01

WINTER 2017

COURSE TITLE: Topic in Literature and Society: The Haunted House in Canadian Literature
2-3:15 pm MW, ICT 114

Instructor: Suzette Mayr

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E-mail: smayr@ucalgary.ca

Office hours: Mondays 3:30-4:30 or by appointment

Homepage/course website: <https://english.ucalgary.ca/profiles/suzette-mayr>

Course description:

While much study has been done of the haunted house literary genre in American and British fiction, almost no critical attention has been paid to the haunted house in Canadian fiction. Using texts such as Michael Rowe's *Wild Fell*, Andrew Pyper's *The Guardians*, Daniel David Moses' *Big Buck City*, and Shani Mootoo's *Cereus Blooms at Night* among others, this course will examine primarily via postcolonial gothic theory the ways in which Canadian writers have "renovated" the Euro-American haunted house genre within the Canadian national context. We will examine the significance of the haunted house as a metaphor, and how it can sometimes operate as a tool to interrogate residual colonial influence in countries such as Canada that are allegedly "haunted" by Indigenous dispossession of land.

There are no 200-level pre-requisites for this course.

Texts and readings (available at the University of Calgary bookstore unless otherwise indicated):

Moloney, Susie. *The Dwelling* (novel)

Mootoo, Shani. *Cereus Blooms at Night* (novel)

Moses, Daniel David. *Big Buck City* (play)

Pyper, Andrew. *The Guardians* (novel)

Rowe, Michael. *Wild Fell* (novel)

Freud, Sigmund. "The Uncanny" (essay) – available on D2L

Kristeva, Julia. Excerpt from *Powers of Horror* (book) – available on D2L

Poe, Edgar Allen. "The Fall of the House of Usher" (short story) – available on D2L

Villegas, Halli. "Salvage" (short story) – available on D2L

Email and electronic submissions policy:

I am happy to reply to short, specific questions via email and will answer as promptly as possible (usually it takes me approximately one week to respond to a given email). However, I cannot guarantee that you will have a reply within a specific amount of time. If you have detailed questions on the course material it is more appropriate to see me during office hours, or make an appointment to see me personally in my office.

Where applicable, essays and course work must be submitted in class, on the due date, and in printed form, unless other specific arrangements have been made. In particular, submitting work by email without prior agreement is not an acceptable alternative to handing in work on time, in class.

Assignments and Evaluation:

Readings will be assigned for most classes and I expect assigned work to have been read *before* we discuss it in class. Students will be assigned two major essays – one administered as an exam in February – and one final, registrar-scheduled exam. Where applicable, assignments are due at the *beginning* of class. If you want to discuss any class- or class assignment–related issues, please do not hesitate to come see me (note: I will not edit your work, but I will discuss more general topic- and writing-related issues with you).

All assignments must be completed in order to receive a passing grade on the course. The specific criteria for the class are as follows:

In-class Essay #1 (800-1000 words) Mon., 13 Feb. 2017	30%
Essay #2 (1200-1500 words) due Wed., 15 March 2017	35%
Final Exam (Registrar-scheduled: 15-26 April 2017)	30%
Class Participation and Reading Quizzes	5%

Class participation consists of regular attendance and active participation in class discussion, demonstrating knowledge of the assigned text(s) being discussed. Reading quizzes will be administered throughout the semester as additional assessment of student engagement with the assigned reading.

Students must be available for examinations up to the last day of the examination period. The examination period for Winter 2017 is 15-26 April 2017. Students will not be permitted to bring books with them to the final exam, but they are permitted to bring one handwritten or typed page of notes to be submitted to the instructor at the completion of the exam.

Assignments submitted after the deadline will be penalized (with the loss of a third of a grade for each day [not class] that the assignment is overdue). No assignments will be accepted three weeks past the assignment deadline without the prior consent of the instructor.

Students must complete all essay assignments and exams in order to receive a passing grade on the course.

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 Essay #2 in case of loss by any cause. Assignments cannot be returned by staff in the Department office.

Grading system:

In this course, all essays, exams, and presentations will be marked on the University of Calgary's four-point Grading System, as described in the Calendar:

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

A+ / A (4.0); A- (3.7); B+ (3.3); B (3.0); B- (2.7); C+ (2.3); C (2.0); C- (1.7); D+ (1.3); D (1.0); F (0)

All quizzes will receive a numerical grade, to be converted using the following scale:

90 + %	A+	4.0
85 – 89 %	A	4.0
80 – 84 %	A–	3.7
77 – 79 %	B+	3.3
74 – 76 %	B	3.0
70 – 73 %	B–	2.7
67 – 69 %	C+	2.3
64 – 66 %	C	2.0
60 – 63 %	C–	1.7
55 – 59 %	D+	1.3
50 – 54 %	D	1.0
0 – 49 %	F	0

Please note that, according to the University Calendar (F.1), instructors may use their discretion when rounding upwards or downwards when the average of term work and exams is between two letter grades.

Although the A+ is solely an honorific that entails no additional points in the 4-point system, the course instructor will employ this mark to distinguish superlative work that exceeds expectations in style, correctness, intellectual depth and breadth, sophistication, and originality.

A range: Outstanding or Excellent Work

The essay’s thesis is clearly stated and obvious; ideas are original and focused; all main points are clearly stated and supported with specific examples from the primary and/or secondary texts; ideas are organized logically and flow easily; if applicable, research draws from reputable sources and uses the sources appropriately; writing has either minimal or no spelling and grammatical errors; “Works Cited” page is correctly formatted and in good order. This paper goes above and beyond the regular requirements for the assignment.

B range: Good Work

The essay topic is clear, and the essay has a definite thesis; ideas may show some glimmers of originality; specific examples from the text are used to support the main arguments; spelling and grammatical errors are at a minimum; the research sources used are for the most part reputable; perhaps some sections could be more clearly stated but clarity overall is not a problem; formatting errors at a minimum.

C range: Satisfactory Work

The essay’s thesis is not as clear as it could be or is incomplete; ideas not necessarily original but are still competent; essay needs work with recurring spelling and grammatical errors; occasional muddled logic; some points not clearly supported by evidence from the text; contains other errors that perhaps get in the way of keeping the central argument as tight as it could be; too many formatting errors are distracting for the reader.

D range: Minimal Pass

Language is often unclear because of grammatical errors; thesis unclear or muddled or missing; topic wanders into unrelated or extremely tangential territory; research sources questionable or nonexistent; ideas are unsupported or unfocussed; flow between ideas hard to discern; sloppy formatting.

F: Unsatisfactory

Writing has no cohesion and ideas are scattered or unclear; main topic hard to discern; no textual support for central arguments; major grammatical errors interfere with clarity.

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/scribe-and-muse-english-club>.

Our email address is smecuofc@gmail.com.

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>. Please note that the course outlines posted on the English Department website constitute the official course outline for purposes of appeals. Students should verify any hard copies against this posted version. For courses which employ numerical grades, the official departmental percentage to letter grade conversion scale is also posted on the department website.

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>

Guidelines on e-mail Etiquette:

<https://gsa.ucalgary.ca/wp-content/uploads/2016/09/Email-Etiquette.pdf>

Library and Research Support:

Christie Hurrell, Interim Librarian for English, offers research support to students, including strategies for finding articles, books, and other library materials. Contact: christie.hurrell@ucalgary.ca.

Find The English Pages research guide here: <http://libguides.ucalgary.ca/english>

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>

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>.

Student Accommodations:

Students seeking an accommodation based on disability or medical concerns should contact Student Accessibility Services; SAS will process the request and issue letters of accommodation to instructors. For additional information on support services and accommodations for students with disabilities, visit www.ucalgary.ca/access/.

Students who require an accommodation in relation to their coursework based on a protected ground other than disability should communicate this need in writing to their Instructor.

The full policy on Student Accommodations is available

at http://www.ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/student-accommodation-policy_0.pdf.

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 Arts Students’ Centre (ASC) is your information resource for everything in Arts! Drop in at SS102, call us at 403-220-3580 or email us at

ascarts@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>

Universal Student Ratings of Instruction (USRI):

"At the University of Calgary, feedback provided by students through the Universal Student Ratings of Instruction (USRI) survey provides valuable information to help with evaluating instruction, enhancing learning and teaching, and selecting courses (www.ucalgary.ca/usri). Your responses make a difference - please participate in USRI Surveys."

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.