

FACULTY OF ARTS  
DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH  
COURSE OUTLINE

ENGLISH 387.02  
COURSE TITLE: Occupy Literature

FALL 2018  
T/R 12:30-13:45, Room: ENG 230

Instructor: Dr. Bart Beaty

Office: SS1138  
Phone: 220-7246  
E-mail: [beaty@ucalgary.ca](mailto:beaty@ucalgary.ca)  
Office hours: T 11:00 – 12:00

**Course description:** No prerequisites. This course will introduce students to the study of literature as a field of cultural production. Focusing on current debates in the literary field, the course will examine claims that the study of literature is a fundamentally reactionary undertaking that contributes to social inequities.

**Texts and readings:**

Hari Kunzru. *White Tears* (Vintage, 2017).

Jesmyn Ward. *Sing, Unburied, Sing* (Scribner, 2017)

Both of the above are required for this course and are available in the bookstore.

**Assignments and Evaluation:**

This class will use a version of scaffolded learning for its evaluation. The advantage of this approach is that it places responsibility for workload directly in the hands of the students. There are a total of forty-nine different assignments for this course, twenty of which will be completed during class time and twenty-nine of them outside of class time. Students are not required to do all of the assignments, but the final grade in the course will reflect the effort contributed by each student. Assignments will be graded as Proficient, Below Proficient, and Above Proficient. A grade of Proficient will result in full marks being assigned for the work. Works adjudicated as Below Proficient will lose up to half their marks, while those graded as Above Proficient may receive greater than 100%. A breakdown of the various assignments and their weights is below:

**Writing Response** (10 x 30 points each = 300 possible points). At ten points during the term, students will be prompted to write a brief response to a question posed by the instructor that directly relates to the Required Readings for a class session. Students should respond in approximately a paragraph to the prompt. Students are required to post their response to the dropbox on D2L no later than midnight on the day *before* the class session in which it is due. As these prompts will be discussed in class time, a printed copy should also be brought to the class on the appropriate day.

**Thesis Statements** (10 x 20 points each = 200 possible points). At ten points during the term, students will be prompted to write a thesis statement that responds to a question posed by the instructor that directly relates to the required novels for this course. Students should respond in a single sentence of no more than FIFTY words. Students are required to post their response to the dropbox on D2L no later than midnight on the day *before* the class session in which it is due. As these prompts will be discussed in class time, a printed copy should also be brought to the class on the appropriate day.

**In-Class Writing** (20 x 20 points each = 400 possible points). During twenty of our class sessions, students will be afforded time to do brief responses to the work of their peers. Responses should be evaluative and constructive, offering substantive suggestions for improving the work submitted by your peers. In-Class writing will be collected during class sessions.

**Essay Summary** (3 x 50 points each = 150 possible points). On three dates (2 October, 9 October, and 16 October) students will be responsible for submitting a summary of the arguments advanced in the required reading for the day. Summaries should analyze the logic of the claims made and the appropriateness of the evidence marshalled, including an assessment of the strength of the argument and indications of how it might be improved. Students should respond in a single sentence of no more than FIFTY words. Students are required to post their response to the dropbox on D2L no later than midnight on the day *before* the class session in which it is due. As these summaries will be discussed in class time, a printed copy should also be brought to the class on the appropriate day.

**Short Assignment #1** (1 x 100 = 100 possible points). Canadian Lit Prizes. Establish the odds on the Giller Prize or the Governor General's Prize (or both) with a detailed rationale. Who is likely to win these prizes and for what reasons? Bonus points might be awarded for getting this one right, but it is not necessary to be correct to gain full marks. Due: October 17. Students are required to post their response to the dropbox on D2L no later than midnight on the day *before* the class session in which it is due. As these assignments will be discussed in class time, a printed copy should also be brought to the class on the appropriate day.

**Short Assignment #2** (1 x 100 = 100 possible points). Mark Lombardi Graphic. Create a Mark Lombardi relationship graphic to illustrate the inter-connectedness of book blurbs. Pick a book (any book!) and read the blurbs on the back. Blurbs should be from other writers rather than institutions (Stephen King, say, rather than the *New York Times*). Find a book by that blurber and read those blurbs. Chart the connections in map form. A Proficient project will include at least a dozen links and a short reflection on the significance of the findings. Due: October 29. Students are required to post their response to the dropbox on D2L no later than midnight on the day *before* the class session in which it is due. As these assignments will be discussed in class time, a printed copy should also be brought to the class on the appropriate day.

**Short Assignment #3** (1 x 100 = 100 possible points). University Admission. Play College Scholarship Tycoon as many times as you need to with different strategies to win and/or lose the game. Write a short essay reflecting on what you learned from playing the game, and how you feel that university admissions should operate in real life. Due: December 3. Students are required to post their response to the dropbox on D2L no later than midnight on the day *before* the class session in which it is due. As these assignments will be discussed in class time, a printed copy should also be brought to the class on the appropriate day.

**Essay #1** (1 x 500 = 500 possible points). An essay on Hari Kunzru's *White Tears*. This paper should be six to eight pages in length. This paper should build upon one of the five thesis statements submitted during the term. Papers will be graded on scholarly research, analysis, and argumentation. Students are required to post their response to the dropbox on D2L no later than midnight on 23 October.

**Essay #2** (1 x 500 = 500 possible points). An essay on Jesmyn Ward's *Sing, Unburied, Sing*. This paper should be six to eight pages in length. This paper should build upon one of the five thesis statements submitted during the term. Papers will be graded on scholarly research, analysis, and argumentation. Students are required to post their response to the dropbox on D2L no later than midnight on 6 December.

**Essay #3** (1 x 150 = 150 possible points). Students are encouraged to follow a Canadian writer or writers on Twitter during the term, or the hashtag #canlit. At various points during the term, it is likely that debates relevant to the course will transpire on Twitter. Students may write a brief (2-3 page) essay on the debates and the way that it is being staged. This should not be a simple 'he said, she said' report, but she evaluate the relevant claims and examine the underlying assumptions that shape them. Papers may be submitted at any time during the term, but must be submitted before the end of term. Papers will be graded on scholarly research, analysis, and argumentation. Students are required to post their response to the dropbox on D2L no later than midnight on 6 December.

**Registrar-scheduled final exam.** There will not be a registrar-scheduled final exam in this 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 all assignments 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.

**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-5.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](mailto: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>

**Library and Research Support:**

Melanie Boyd, Librarian for English, offers research support to students, including strategies for finding articles, books, and other library materials. Contact: [maboym@ucalgary.ca](mailto:maboym@ucalgary.ca).

Find The English Pages research guide here:

[https://library.ucalgary.ca/sb.php?subject\\_id=52619](https://library.ucalgary.ca/sb.php?subject_id=52619)

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:**

**ACADEMIC ACCOMMODATIONS**

The student accommodation policy can be found at: [ucalgary.ca/access/accommodations/policy](http://www.ucalgary.ca/access/accommodations/policy).

Students needing an Accommodation because of a Disability or medical condition should communicate this need to Student Accessibility Services in accordance with the Procedure for Accommodations for Students with Disabilities [ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/student-accommodation-policy](http://www.ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/student-accommodation-policy).

Students needing an Accommodation based on a Protected Ground other than Disability, should communicate this need, preferably in writing, to the course instructor.

The full policy on Student Accommodations is available

at <http://www.ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/student-accommodation-policy.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](mailto: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](mailto:arts1@su.ucalgary.ca), [arts2@su.ucalgary.ca](mailto:arts2@su.ucalgary.ca), [arts3@su.ucalgary.ca](mailto:arts3@su.ucalgary.ca), [arts4@su.ucalgary.ca](mailto: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](http://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.