

FACULTY OF ARTS
DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH

ENGLISH 387.05-02
COURSE TITLE: LITERATURE AND THE NEWS

WINTER 2013

Instructor: Dr. Jason Wiens

Office: SS 1128

Phone: 220-4662

E-mail: jlwuens@ucalgary.ca

Office hours: W noon-3 pm or by appointment

Course Description

This course will consider the generic and epistemological distinctions between “literature” and “the news,” how those distinctions have historically been maintained, and cases where those distinctions have been challenged. Two important Anglo-American modernist poets, for instance, offered rather different opinions on the relationship between literature and the news: Ezra Pound wrote that “Literature is news that stays news” in *ABC of Reading*, while William Carlos Williams wrote, in his poem “Asphodel, That Greeny Flower,” “It is difficult / to get the news from poems / yet men die miserably every day / for lack / of what is found there.” Some questions we will consider in this course include: how might the journalism of writers such as Ernest Hemingway or Mark Twain relate stylistically to their more “literary” writing? How might literary and journalistic treatments of the same historical events compare and contrast? How might journalistic genres such as obituary relate to literary genres such as elegy? At what point do the distinctions between literature and journalism begin to break down, as in a text like Truman Capote’s *In Cold Blood*? How do poets and fiction writers incorporate elements of the news into their work? The course will include instruction in close textual analysis and the writing of undergraduate papers in English.

Required Texts

Avlon, John et al, eds. *Deadline Artists: America’s Greatest Newspaper Columns*

Capote, Truman. *In Cold Blood*

Zolf, Rachel. *Neighbour Procedures*

Wells, H.G. *The War of the Worlds*

Clay, Ellen, ed. *Classifieds: An Anthology of Prose Poems*

We will also read various poems, short stories, and newspaper articles online. Links to these texts will be provided on Blackboard.

Assignments and Evaluation

Participation	10%
Short paper	20%
Group presentation	15%
Midterm test	10%
Final test	10%
Research paper	<u>35%</u>
	100%

There is no Registrar-scheduled final exam in this course.

Participation will be a measure of your attendance, preparation, and contributions to class discussion. The short paper will be assigned early in term and you will have a choice of topics, but it will involve some comparison of a journalistic and a literary text. The group presentations will be given by groups of 2-4 students on a general topic leading in to our discussion of the topic; please see the course schedule for available topics. The group presentation will be 20-25 minutes in length, plus questions, and you should submit a written version of the presentation to the instructor (though you will only be evaluated on the oral presentation). The midterm and final tests will be in-class; further details on the tests will be given in class. The research paper will be on one of the major works we study; 5% of the 35% will be for either an abstract of the paper or an annotated bibliography that will be submitted a week before the paper is due.

No extra-credit assignments will be given in this course. You do not have to complete all assignments to receive a passing grade in this course. There is no registrar-scheduled final exam in this course. Assignments should be submitted in class on the day they are due, or else to the English department drop box. Assignments submitted after the deadline will be penalized (with the loss of a third of a grade (an A- to B+) for each business day [not class] that the assignment is overdue.

Grading system:

The following grading system is used in this course:

<u>Numerical Grades</u>	<u>Alphabetical Grade Numerical Equivalence</u>
A+ 90+	A+=95
A 85-89	A=87
A- 80-84	A=82
B+ 77-79	B+=78
B 74-76	B=75
B- 70-73	B-=72
C+ 67-69	C+=68
C 64-66	C=65
C- 60-63	C-=62
D+ 55-59	D+=57
D 50-54	D=52
F 0-49	F=25

The University of Calgary's four-point Undergraduate Grading System, as described in the Calendar (<http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/f-2.html>), will be used in this course.

□ 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)

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.

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.