

**FACULTY OF ARTS**  
**DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH**

ENGLISH 387.03

Winter 2013

COURSE TITLE: Sex and the City

Instructor: Rebecca Sullivan  
Office: SS1142  
Phone: 403-220-3397 (rarely answered)  
E-mail: [rsulliva@ucalgary.ca](mailto:rsulliva@ucalgary.ca) (preferred)  
Office hours: Wednesdays 8:30 – 9:30; Thursdays 11:00 – 12:30 (no office hours during Reading Week, last day of office hours is Thursday, April 18<sup>th</sup>)  
Homepage/course website: Blackboard

***Course description:***

This course will explore the gendered construction of urban space in literature from different historical, generic and sociological perspectives. Students will focus their attention on three key texts that represent first-wave, second-wave and post-feminist perspectives: *Sister Carrie* (Dreiser 1900); *The Best of Everything* (Jaffe 1958); and *Sex and the City* (Bushnell 1997). Each of these texts will be examined according to three major themes: Popular Literature, Gender and Genre; The Flâneuse and the Feminist; and Urban Imaginations.

***Classroom Expectations***

Some of the materials and topics in this class may include explicit written or audio-visual content (violence, sexuality, objectionable or illegal conduct). If these materials make you uncomfortable, you are encouraged to speak with the professor. You will not be exempt from any assigned work but we will work together to accommodate your concerns. This class respects difference and diversity while welcoming thoughtful, critical debate and discussion.

Responsibility for attending and fulfilling the requirements for all aspects of the course resides with the student. The professor will not give out lecture notes, repeat information, nor provide replacement copies of material that was provided during regular class hours. The course includes a combination of individual assignments, group work, lectures, screenings, and readings. Students are expected to arrive to class on time and prepared to work.

Use of recording technologies in class is prohibited.

A Blackboard portal has been set up for this course that allows for group correspondence, course announcements, assignment submission, and other forms of communication. Students are expected to check Blackboard before the class for any last minute changes or cancellations.

Students are welcome to bring portable word processing devices (tablets, laptops, airbooks, Acer, anything you got) to class. Just turn off the recording devices, and sound. Abuse of these devices (surfing inappropriate or offensive material, use of social network sites, texting, playing music, etc.) is prohibited and may result in having the privilege to use your device in class revoked and/or in you being removed from the class.

Plagiarism, defined as 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 on plagiarism provided at the end of the syllabus.

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

### ***Texts and readings:***

The following are required readings for the course:

Sister Carrie (Theodore Dreiser 1900)

\*\* The University of Pennsylvania restored version is preferred and available free online

**<http://www.library.upenn.edu/collections/rbm/dreiser/sc.html>**

The Best of Everything (Rona Jaffe, 1958)

\*\* Ordered by the University Bookstore and available through Amazon

**[http://www.amazon.ca/Best-Everything-Rona-Jaffe/dp/0143035290/ref=sr\\_1\\_2?ie=UTF8&qid=1353541680&sr=8-2](http://www.amazon.ca/Best-Everything-Rona-Jaffe/dp/0143035290/ref=sr_1_2?ie=UTF8&qid=1353541680&sr=8-2)**

Sex and the City (Candace Bushnell. 1997)

\*\* Ordered by the University Bookstore and available through Amazon

**[http://www.amazon.ca/Sex-City-Candace-Bushnell/dp/0446617687/ref=sr\\_1\\_1?s=books&ie=UTF8&qid=1353541737&sr=1-1](http://www.amazon.ca/Sex-City-Candace-Bushnell/dp/0446617687/ref=sr_1_1?s=books&ie=UTF8&qid=1353541737&sr=1-1)**

Supplemental, non-required readings provide additional insight into the ways these texts were received and valued as both literary objects and touchstones for social debate. A list of those readings is provided on Blackboard.

### ***Assignments and Evaluation:***

In-class Tests	3 X 15%	45%	January 31, March 7, April 4
Poster		20%	April 5 (12PM)
Final Essay Exam		35%	April 18 / April 22 (5PM)

#### ***In-class Tests (Jan 31, March 7, April 4)***

At the end of each section there will be a test comprising of both the novel and the theoretical approaches discussed in class. It will be mostly short-answer questions. More details will be provided in class.

#### ***Poster***

Working in pairs, you will develop an academic poster on one of the required novels. Your poster should be at least 11X17", and no more than 23X30", although the specific size and dimensions are up to you. The professor will limit the number of posters on each novel on the sign-up sheet, which will be distributed on the first day of class.

The poster must follow the scholarly expectations outlined in the essay grading rubric. Students may use references from the supplemental reading list but must also conduct independent research. A minimum of six (6) scholarly, peer-reviewed references, of which at least 3 must be independently sourced, is required. Failure to meet this minimum standard may result in a grade of F.

The poster is due on April 5<sup>th</sup> by 12PM. On April 9<sup>th</sup>, the professor will bring your poster to class where it will be placed on display.

An academic poster, like an essay, must include a strong thesis, well-documented research, clear examples, and compelling analysis. Examples and guidelines for making an academic poster can be found here:

<http://gradschool.unc.edu/academics/resources/postertips.html>

<http://www.writing.engr.psu.edu/posters.html>

<http://colinpurrington.com/tips/academic/posterdesign>

<http://www.tlrc.ttu.edu/teach/TLTC%20Teaching%20Resources/PresentingConferencePapersAndPostersInTheHumanities.asp>

[http://writing.wisc.edu/Handbook/presentations\\_poster.html](http://writing.wisc.edu/Handbook/presentations_poster.html)

[http://www.stanford.edu/dept/undergrad/cgi-bin/drupal\\_ual/OO\\_research\\_opps\\_SURPSResources.html](http://www.stanford.edu/dept/undergrad/cgi-bin/drupal_ual/OO_research_opps_SURPSResources.html)

### ***Final Essay Exam***

Working individually, students must select from one of the posters on a different novel than their own and write a scholarly essay based on their chosen poster's topic and thesis. The essay should be approximately 3,500 words, and follow a scholarly style as outlined in the essay grading rubric. Students may make use of the scholarly references provided on the poster and from the supplemental reading list, but must also conduct independent research. A minimum of eight (8) scholarly, peer-reviewed references, of which at least 4 must be independently sourced, is required. Failure to meet this minimum standard may result in a grade of F.

The posters will be available for viewing and discussion on April 9<sup>th</sup> and again on April 11<sup>th</sup>.

The final essay is due on Thursday, April 18<sup>th</sup> at 5PM for grading with comments. The professor is offering an automatic four-day extension to Monday, April 22<sup>nd</sup> at 5PM for grading without comments. Essays will not be accepted after the extension deadline and will receive a grade of F.

### **Grading system:**

This course uses a combination of letter grades and percentages. The conversion table is below. The final column represents the normal calculation for a letter grade. The final column represents the percentage usually assigned to any letter grade for purposes of calculating final grades. Please refer to the University of Calgary's description of grades and their values:

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

<b>% Range</b>	<b>LET</b>	<b>GPA</b>	<b>AV.</b>
90 + %	A+	4.0	95
85 – 89 %	A	4.0	87
80 – 84 %	A–	3.7	82
77 – 79 %	B+	3.3	78
74 – 76 %	B	3.0	75
70 – 73 %	B–	2.7	72
67 – 69 %	C+	2.3	68
64 – 66 %	C	2.0	65
60 – 63 %	C–	1.7	62
55 – 59 %	D+	1.3	57
50 – 54 %	D	1.0	52
0 – 49 %	F	0	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 four-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.

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

### **Policy for Late Assignments**

Unless otherwise stated, no extensions will be granted on assignments. Failure to submit on time will result in a grade of F (zero).

Failure to complete all of the required exams and assignments may result in a grade of F (zero) in the course. If you receive more than two Fs in the course, the professor reserves the right to give you a final grade of F.

It is the student's responsibility to keep a copy of all assignments in case of loss by any cause.

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### **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](mailto: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](mailto: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 3<sup>rd</sup> 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>

## **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.