

FACULTY OF ARTS
DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH
COURSE OUTLINE

ENGLISH 389.01-01 (M/W, 2:00-3:15)

Fall 2015

COURSE TITLE: Topic in Gay or Lesbian Literature: Queer Representations

Instructor: Dr. Katherine Zelinsky

Office: SS 1122

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E-mail: zelinsky@ucalgary.ca

Office hours: M/W: 12:45-1:45

Course description: This course will examine selected theoretical essays, short fiction, film excerpts, and Audre Lorde's biomythography, *Zami*). The course will focus on how the texts explore, sometimes overtly and sometimes obliquely, "Queer" (specifically gay, lesbian and bisexual) experiences, subjects and subjectivities. Students will be expected to read closely and carefully, providing incisive interpretations of the texts both within class discussions and in the course assignments. Writing skills and ability (including strength of argument, grammar and sentence structure, diction, paragraphing, and organization of ideas) will be factors in my evaluation of your work. There is no pre-requisite for this course.

Texts and readings:

Audre Lorde, *Zami: A New Spelling of my Name*

Selected readings online in D2L (these readings include theoretical essays by the following writers: Judith Butler, Michael Kimmel, Adrienne Rich, Andrea Smith, Sherrie Inness, Diana Fuss and April Callis; short stories by Sinclair Ross, Willa Cather, Annie Proulx, Ernest Hemingway, Sherman Alexie, Kate Chopin, and William Faulkner. If time permits, I will show excerpts from the films "Brokeback Mountain" and HBO's "1961." **Students are required to print copies of the readings scheduled for discussion and bring the reading(s) to class.**

Assignments and Evaluation:

Critical/Analytical essay (25%), Due Oct. 14

Quiz (20%), November 2

Final Writing Assignment (20%), Due Nov. 25

Group Presentation (25%), to be scheduled from Nov. 23--Dec. 7

Class Participation (10%), ongoing

Descriptions of Assignments

Critical/Analytical Essay: You will be expected to write a closely argued, focused paper that contains a clear central argument on some aspect of one of the literary works from the course readings. You must also examine the work in relation to one or two of the theoretical essays from the course readings. The essay

should be between 6-7 pages in length, double-spaced and stapled. You will also be expected to use the MLA format for in-text citations and overall formatting (including a Works Cited page).

Quiz: The quiz will comprise multiple choice and short answer questions based on the material covered up to that point in the course.

Final Writing Assignment: This assignment offers you two options; you will choose one. **Option #1:** you will be asked to produce a 4-5 double-spaced, stapled essay in which you discuss one or two of the works from the course readings that most helped in raising your consciousness about or understanding of the systemic oppression(s) faced by gays, lesbians and/or bisexuals. You may choose one (or two) of the literary works, one (or two) of the theoretical works, or one of each. **Option #2:** you will be asked to write a 4-5 double-spaced, stapled essay in which you provide a critique of one of the theoretical articles from the course readings. Both options ask you to use MLA formatting.

Group Presentation: For this project you will be asked to investigate/explore a text (literary works, internet materials, film or television excerpts, music, websites are among the sources from which you can choose your “text”) **not included in the course readings**. You will be required to explain, briefly, why you chose the text, how the text works as a representation of some aspect of “Queer” identity and/or experience, and how the text connects to one or two central ideas raised by a theorist or two from the course readings. The presentation should be between 12 and 15 minutes (no longer). Groups will likely comprise 3 members. Students in each group will be assigned a common grade. However, to ensure that the presentation grade reflects the equal efforts of all members, I will consult with each group periodically.

Class Participation: Class participation will include regular attendance after the Add/Drop date as well as informed contributions to large class and small group discussions. I ask that students who experience or anticipate missing several classes because of illness or other extenuating circumstances contact me. “Informed contributions” means that you have read the material assigned for each class and, as a result, have the ability to participate thoughtfully in discussions with other students and with the instructor. I will take attendance regularly.

There will be no final exam for this course.

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. No assignments will be accepted one week past the assignment deadline without the prior consent of the instructor.

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:

The following grading system will be used in this course. I will assign both a percentage and a letter grade for each assignment. There is no D-grade.

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 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.

Internet and electronic communication device information

Please turn off cell phones in class! Laptops are allowed in class as long as they are being used to take notes or to assist you in the planning of class presentations. Students who use their laptops for other purposes, especially if such activities distract other students or disrupt class discussions, will be asked to remove them from the classroom. It is also important that the classroom be a safe place in which students and instructor can engage in respectful discussion, exchange and debate. Please familiarize yourself with the University’s policy on classroom etiquette and academic misconduct.

Additional Information

You are required to exercise decorum, discretion and judgment if you email me. That means using correct grammar and appropriate salutations (for example, Dear Professor Zelinsky or Dear Katherine). Although I expect and encourage you to ask most of your questions in class (and I will answer them there or possibly later on D2L), you may feel the need to email me occasionally. I will do my best to respond within 48 hours. However, I will not respond to emails after 6:00 p.m. or on weekends.

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.](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:

<http://www.enough.utoronto.ca/computeruse/eetiquette.htm>

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: maboymd@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.