

FACULTY OF ARTS  
DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH  
COURSE OUTLINE

ENGLISH 395-01

Winter 2020

COURSE TITLE: *Speculative Fiction II: Fantasy*

Tuesday/Thursday 9:30-10:45, SS 109

Homepage/Course Website: Desire2Learn Website for English 395-01

Instructor: Dr. Eden Lackner

Office: SS 1020

Phone: 403-220-8174

E-mail: eden.lackner@ucalgary.ca

Office Hours: Mondays 14:00-15:00 & Tuesdays 11:00-12:00 or by appointment.

**Course Description:** This course is a critical and historical exploration of fantasy. Throughout the semester, we will consider the wide variety of categories that make up the fantastic, including epic fantasy, dark fantasy, urban fantasy, weird fantasy, Gothic fantasy, mythic fantasy, and magical realism. Through lectures, group discussions, and a variety of assignments, we will consider the ways in which we define fantasy literature, the themes and tropes that drive the genre, and how we conceptualize the worthiness of fantastical writing. This course emphasizes engaged, considered readings of these works, and focuses on how fantasy navigates the division between escapism and social commentary.

**Texts and Readings:**

Available in University Bookstore:

- *The Pressed Fairy Journal of Madeline Cottington* by Wendy Froud and Brian Froud
- *The City & the City* by China Miéville
- *The Treasury of the Fantastic*, edited by David Sandner and Jacob Weisman
- *The Children of Húrin* by J.R.R. Tolkien
- *The Broadview Pocket Guide to Writing: Revised Fourth Canadian Edition* by Doug Babington, Don LePan, and Maureen Okun (Recommended)

Available Online, via D2L Course Forum:

- Additional critical & fictional sources

**Assignments and Evaluation:**

Unless otherwise indicated, all assignments are due at the beginning of class on their corresponding due dates. Please make every effort to hand in assignments as directed, either online through our Desire2Learn course website, or directly to the instructor. If you are unable to submit online or in person, take your assignment to SS 1152 and put it in the dropbox. It will be date-stamped and placed in the instructor's mailbox. Assignments placed in the dropbox *after* the office closes will be stamped with the following day's date. Regardless of how you submit, your assignments must have both your name *and* Dr. Lackner's on the first page to assure that the office staff are able to direct your work to the correct mailbox.

Late assignments will lose a fraction of a grade per day (not per class) unless an extension has been granted. (Ex: An assignment submitted two days late that would have earned a B will instead receive a C+.) No assignments will be accepted one week past the assignment deadline without the prior consent of the instructor. While you are not required to complete all assignments in order to pass the course, you are *strongly* encouraged to do so; even one missed assignment will significantly impact a student's final grade.

All assignments must be typed, double-spaced and submitted online/in hard copy (paper) form as instructed. For hard copy assignments, double-sided printing is encouraged, as is the use of recycled paper, or even paper that has already been used on one side (draw a line diagonally through the material printed or written on the "wrong" side and make sure your pages are stapled together in the correct order).

Students are responsible for keeping copies of all assignments in case of loss of any kind. Only the instructor is able to return assignments to students; they cannot be returned by staff in the Department office.

**There will be no extra credit assignments or opportunities to redo and resubmit your work. Do the best work you can on each assignment before you submit it.**

**Class Reflections (10%):**

**Keeping current with course materials allows for a stronger understanding of the ideas and concepts under discussion in the class. On five to seven occasions, students will be assigned a discussion question pertaining to the texts and ideas relevant to the day's lecture. Students will be presented with a question related to the coursework, and will be expected to respond in a short paragraph engaging with these texts and themes. This paragraph will be due 24 to 48 hours after the question has been assigned. These reflections will be administered on a surprise basis. Failing to turn in the reflection within the 24-48 hour window will result in a grade of zero for the missed assignment. Each student's lowest grade will be dropped to mitigate unavoidable occurrences. (Reflections will be submitted online, via D2L.)**

**Close Reading Essay (20%):**

Understanding the detailed forms, figures and themes of a work is as important to understanding that work as considering its larger critical context. This short essay of 750 words will focus on a close reading of one or more texts by an author covered in the course. Students will engage with their chosen texts by examining their content and forms. Each essay will be accompanied by an MLA formatted bibliography listing the texts consulted. (Essays will be submitted online, via D2L.)

**Group Presentation (15%):**

Researching the literary roots of a work can help us to better understand its social and cultural context. For this project, each group will choose one text from the course readings and discuss it in terms of how it fits into the fantasy genre. The group will consider both the content and the form of these texts, and will also be required to integrate one appropriate critical secondary source into their analysis. Students may optionally use visual materials, such as PowerPoint, but they must support and highlight the group's central argument. The presentation must be 8-10 minutes in length (no longer). There will likely be 4-5 students per group. Students in each group will be assigned a common grade. However, to ensure that the presentation grade reflects the equal efforts of all members, the instructor will consult with each group periodically.

**Individual Project (25%):**

Engaging creatively with a text is a way to facilitate alternate forms of literary criticism. For this project, students are encouraged to explore intertextuality by examining a course-assigned text in a creative form. Students will choose to author a short story, write a persuasive essay, or create a piece of art (with accompanying commentary) which will exist in dialogue with a course text, identifying and emphasizing the fantastical tropes at work in the assigned story.

**Close Reading Research Essay (30%):**

Considering our own interpretations in the context of larger academic and critical conversations is an important step in formulating strong arguments. For this essay, students will pursue their chosen lines of inquiry with reference to texts and authors covered in the course and related academic criticism. This essay of 750-1000 words will incorporate 2 secondary scholarly sources which will support and help build the student's own argument. Each essay will be accompanied by an MLA formatted bibliography listing both the primary and secondary texts consulted. (Essays will be submitted online, via D2L.)

**TOTAL: 100%**

**Grading System:**

Course grades are based on the University of Calgary four-point Undergraduate Grading System and the standard percentage conversion chart of the Department of English:

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. There is no D- grade.

**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>

**Preparation for Class:**

Always bring the text(s) listed on the weekly reading schedule to class with you unless otherwise instructed by the professor. Consult the schedule well before every class and listen carefully to additional instructions given at the end of each lecture so that you know which materials we will be using during the next class.

It is critically important that you bring the texts we are scheduled to discuss with you, as close and detailed readings of each work under discussion are the cornerstones of studying literature. Similarly, you are expected to have read and engaged with each text *before* the corresponding lecture on that work. As with all courses, preparation is the key to understanding. Relying on getting a general sense of a book or lecture from class discussion without putting in the time to read and consider the material we are covering will not serve you well in this course or any other.

**Class Participation:**

Regularly attending classes, arriving prepared, participating respectfully in discussions and making an effort to intellectually engage with the material, instructor and your fellow students will enhance your learning process and contribute to a positive classroom environment. Students are expected to be active participants in the formulation of knowledge in this course, rather than passive consumers. These steps will also help develop your ability to articulate your ideas and shape your arguments, which will serve you well across the various facets of your life.

Take notes. Do not rely on merely copying down what the instructor writes on the board and nothing more. Memory is faulty, and attempting to recall the details of a class discussion held weeks ago without notes to refer to is a losing proposition.

**Policies Regarding Electronic Devices in the Classroom:**

Please restrict the use of electronic and mobile devices to course-related functions within the classroom. If you want or need to text, phone, surf the 'net or otherwise employ such devices for personal and other non-course-related functions, please quietly exit the room for the duration of the class. Please turn off or silence all cell phones when the class is in progress. Situations in which students need to be available or on call during the class may be permitted if previously discussed with the instructor.

The instructor reserves the right to eject anyone causing any kind of disruption from the classroom, including electronic disruption.

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<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 <https://arts.ucalgary.ca/english>. 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://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://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:** <https://www.ucalgary.ca/student-services/ombuds/role>

**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://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/747/01/>

Students who are absent from class assessments (tests, participation activities, or other assignments) should inform their instructors as soon as possible. Instructors may request that evidence in the form of documentation be provided. If the reason provided for the absence is acceptable, instructors may decide that any arrangements made can take forms other than make-up tests or assignments. For example, the weight of a missed grade may be added to another assignment or test. For information on possible forms of documentation, including statutory declarations, please see

<https://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/m-1.html>.

## **DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH STATEMENT ON PRINCIPLES OF CONDUCT**

According to the University Calendar; <https://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/k-2.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.