

FACULTY OF ARTS
DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH
COURSE OUTLINE

ENGL 436 (Sec. 04)

Long Short Stories and the Novella

Instructor: Dr. Joshua Whitehead

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Office hours: Thursday 11 a.m. – 12 p.m.

Winter 2022

Thursday

6-8:45 p.m.

SS1059

Course Description:

English 436 is a course in the practice and theory of writing longer works of prose for students at an intermediate level, with emphasis on well-developed stories or short novellas. Students are expected to read and write a great deal and should be prepared for intensive work. The course is conducted as a workshop, along with analyses and critiques. Class participation is required. There is no group work, the class functions as a workshop of the whole. Students will make work to be discussed available in advance so that their colleagues can read that material and come to class prepared to discuss it with precision and editorial insights.

Students are required to submit writing that is polished and well developed. Students are also expected to read their colleagues' writing with care, to write brief critiques of their colleagues' work, and to come to class with constructive criticism, prepared to discuss each piece of writing under consideration (see **Assignment Policies** for guidelines). This requires steady and thoughtful work in preparing for class, and requires focused attention on an ongoing basis.

Students are required to write and submit about 50 pages of creative work throughout the term for workshop: one short novella OR two long stories of about 25 pages, OR four shorter pieces of about 15 pages. A final re-written portfolio to be submitted as a piece de resistance at the end of the course. Work will be critiqued by the class, and all work should be carefully constructed, showing evidence of re-writing and revision. Pages of writing for the course should total around fifty, but that is a rough guide. The primary expectation is that students will be producing polished work.

Students are also required to do one in-class presentation on a selected work from the texts assigned to the class. This in-class presentation will approach a particular piece of writing from a writer's perspective, elucidating its effectiveness and usefulness.

A schedule of workshopping will be administered on the first day of class. Students are expected to workshop at least twice per term. We will be reading one novel, a novella, and a multitude of short stories alongside our workshops to gather tools and analyze style to enhance our own writings.

Required texts:

1. Tannahill, Jordan. *The Listeners*. HarperCollins P, 2021.
2. Thuy, Kim. *em*. Random House Canada, 2021.
3. Buzzard, Laura and Marjorie Mather, eds. *The Broadview Anthology of Short Fiction* (Fourth Canadian Ed). Broadview P, 2020.

Assignments and Evaluation:

50 pages of writing—50%

Final portfolio—20%

Class participation—10%

Critical acumen and critiques—10%

In-class presentation—10%

TOTAL 100%

A student must complete **ALL** work in order to pass this course.

There is **NO** final examination in this course.

As per Calendar Section E.3, attendance is included in your participation grade:

<http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/e-3.html>

Assignment Policies:

- 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 that the assignment is overdue. No assignments will be accepted one week past the assignment deadline without the prior consent of the instructor. Extensions are only granted under exceptional circumstances but please do inform me in advance of the deadline if something does arise.
- Please make every effort to take assignments directly to the instructor. It is your responsibility to keep a copy of all assignments in case of loss by any cause.
- **As the student being workshopped, you must post your story on D2L at least one week in advance to give students an opportunity to read, think about, and formulate inquiries/critiques.**
- **As workshoppers, you are required to submit one hard copy submission of questions, comments, inquiries, generative critiques to me, and one to the student being workshopped**
- There will be no assignments given for extra credit.
- For university regulations on attendance, see:
<http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/e-3.html>

Grading System:

The University of Calgary's four-point Grading System, as described in the Calendar

(<http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/f-2.html>) will be used in this course.

All assignments in this class 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

Students must reach the minimum percentage threshold for the grade range to receive that letter grade (e.g., to receive an A- a student will have surpassed the minimum threshold of 80.00% in the course).

Although the A+ is solely an honorific that entails no additional points in the 4-point system, I will employ this mark to distinguish superlative work that exceeds expectations in style, correctness, intellectual depth and breadth, sophistication, and originality. **Please do not contact me to request an adjustment to your final grade unless (1) you suspect I have made an error, or (2) you are planning to formally appeal your results.**

Classroom Policy on Electronic Devices, Email, and Internet Use:

You are welcome to use electronic devices in class. However, please be mindful to use your devices appropriately: checking Facebook, sending personal messages, and other online activities unrelated to class distracts you and those around you. Cell phones should be stowed in a pocket/bag during class time, unless they are required for an activity or you are expecting an important phone call. Should I happen to observe you using a device in a way that contravenes this policy, I will politely remind you of its tenets.

Please check D2L and email regularly for updates, assignment instructions, and other course

related information. Email is the best way to contact me. Although I do my best to respond to emails promptly, please allow up to 48 hours for a response. I will not summarize class discussion or lectures through email— if you miss class, please gather any missing information from your fellow students. Email is not a substitute for attending class or office hours.

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:^[SEP](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,^[SEP](c) the whole work (e.g., an essay) is copied from another source, and/or^[SEP](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/>

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.

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:

Christie Hurrell, Interim Librarian for English, offers research support to students, including strategies for finding articles, books, and other library materials. Contact:

christie.hurrell@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>.

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_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 ^[L]_[SEP] **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."

Department of English Statement on Principles of Conduct

According to the University Calendar,

(<http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/j.html>)^[L]_[SEP] "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.