

FACULTY OF ARTS
DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH
COURSE OUTLINE

English 461.01: Early American Literature and the American Renaissance
(T/R 14:00-15:15 in SS 010) Winter 2016
Professor Faye Halpern
Office: SS1108; 403-220-4436 fhalpern@ucalgary.ca
Office Hours: Wed. 10-11:30 and by apptmt
The course webpage is on D2L. The course blog can be found at
fhalpern.ucalgaryblogs.ca/

Course Description:

This course offers a survey of American literature from its contested beginnings up until the Civil War (1861-64). We will read both canonical and lesser-known works, attending to the historical contexts in which they were written and the critical contexts in which they have been received. The course is structured around the theme of reform. The Europeans who first colonized what would become the US were interested in reforming both themselves and the world, and this impulse continues through the nineteenth century, culminating in arguably the most influential work ever written in the United States, the abolitionist novel *Uncle Tom's Cabin*. This course also has designs on its participants: to make us into active and self-reflective readers and writers. We'll engage in debates over the meaning of different texts, and we'll further explore these debates in our essays. We'll also explore how these text interact with and sometimes challenge the ways that we're used to reading.

Texts and readings:

- *The Norton Anthology of American Literature. Volumes A and B.* 8th Edition. General Editor Nina Baym.
- Susanna Rowson. *Charlotte Temple*. Ed. Marion Rust. Norton Critical Edition.
- Harriet Beecher Stowe, *Uncle Tom's Cabin*. Ed. Elizabeth Ammons. Norton Critical Edition, 2nd Edition.

Assignments and Evaluation:

	<u>Percentage of Final Grade</u>
First Essay (4-5 pages or 6-7, if collaborative).....	20%
Second Essay (6-8 pages)	30%
Registrar-scheduled Final Exam	20%
Blog Posts, including your group blogversation.....	15%
Class Participation including in-class writing (10%) and Reading Quizzes.....	15%

Essays:

There will be two essays due this semester, the first of which requires a draft. The first essay will ask you to close read one of the primary texts in order to settle a disagreement about it; the second will ask you to engage in an actual scholarly debate. Throughout the semester, we'll be reading what other scholars have said about the works we'll be reading; in your second essay, you will add your own voice to the conversation. We'll also spend time in class discussing what makes a good English essay and holding a peer workshops (there will be an extra credit opportunity if you choose to form an out-of-class workshop group for your final essay).

The Course Blog:

This will provide a forum, apart from class discussion, to explore the literature and criticism we read. I'll ask you to post and comment at least five times over the course of the semester, including your blogversation and your blogversation response; these must be spread over at least four different units of the course. If you write five posts that meet the standards for a good post, then you'll receive a "B" for this portion of the grade; if you write seven or more good posts, you'll receive an "A." If one or more of your posts does not meet the minimum standard, I'll give you the chance to revise. If you choose not to, your overall grade will go down.

The Blogversation:

- Part 1: You and a few partners will sign up to start the blog conversation about one of the texts; this conversation will be posted by midnight the day before we start class discussion on it. It will end with two questions that you compose as a group that you think we could consider in our class discussion.
- Part II. Three days after our last class discussion of that text, you and your partners should post 4 "good questions" that you compose as a group and that you think you or your classmates could explore in an essay; these questions should arise from our class discussion and the blog posts.

The Blogversation Response

You'll sign up to respond to one blogversation. Your response should be posted within 48 hours of the original blogversation.

Quizzes and in-class writing

There will be reading quizzes and short in-class writing activities throughout the course. Many will be conducted using Top Hat.

Class Participation and Workshops

Although I will spend some time setting up the texts, this is largely a discussion course. You need to have read and thought about the readings assigned for that day and be prepared to share your ideas and respond to those of your peers. Come to class, too, with your anthology, and print out any articles that have been assigned from D2L. The success of the course largely depends on your willingness to offer up your ideas and build on your classmates' (including mine).

We will be holding a workshop during class for the draft of your first essay. To prepare, you will give your workshop group a draft of your essay and then write letters to the other members of your group commenting on their drafts. There will also be an optional out-of-class workshop

you can participate in for your final essay, for extra credit. Failure to participate in the first essay workshop will result in a lowering of your class participation grade.

Final Exam:

There will be a registrar-scheduled, closed book final exam, made up of passage i.d.'s, some multiple choice and short-answer questions, and an essay portion. Students must be available for the final exam up to the last day of the examination period, April 16-27.

Late Assignments:

You have the option of turning in one assignment up to three days late without penalty. Possible late assignments include the revision of the first essay, quizzes, or your blog posts, excluding the blogversation. (The final essay and the draft of the first essay may not be turned in late.) If you turn in an assignment more than three days late or if you turn in a second assignment late, your grade on the work will be lowered by a third of a grade for each late day (i.e., an A paper that is one day late will receive an A-, two days late a B+, and so on; weekend days are counted in this total; blogs posted after the deadline won't count toward your final number). If you turn in the draft of your first essay late, that will affect the grade on the revision. You need to let me know at least one day in advance if you would like to take the extension.

Turning in Assignments:

Please make every effort to take your essays directly to me; I'll also ask you to put a copy in the D2L dropbox. If it is not possible to bring a copy directly to me, 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.

Electronic devices: Top Hat requires the use of an electronic device, and you are free to take notes on one as well, but please do not use your device for Facebook, texting, or any other activity that pulls you out of class mentally if not physically. There are no electronic devices permitted during the final exam.

Grading system:

- You must complete both essays, including the draft of the first essay, and the final exam to qualify for a passing grade.
- In computing your grades, I convert any letter grades to percentages and then, to compute your final grade, I change the final percentage to its equivalent letter grade.
- Sometimes I'll assign a split grade (e.g., B-/C+). To find the numerical equivalent, I average the two grades (e.g., a B-/C+=70%)
- 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, I will employ this mark to distinguish superlative work that exceeds expectations in insightfulness, sophistication, and originality.

The department uses the following conversion:

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

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>**.

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/etiquette.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: maboyn@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.