

FACULTY OF ARTS
DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH

ENGLISH 496 A/B-01
COURSE TITLE: Fiction Writing II

Fall-Winter 2013-14

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Office hours: Thursday 2-3PM

Course description:

English 496 is an intermediate workshop and laboratory in the practice and theory of writing fiction. Classes will be divided into three parts: 1) Workshopping students' writing; 2) presentations and discussions around assigned texts and books; 3) Experiments in writing, which may include détournement, derive, appropriation, digital and web-based composition, and performance. Students are expected to read all assigned material and to provide useful critiques of one another's work.

Pre-requisites: Full junior English or equivalent and consent of the Department. One month before the start of the session (August 15), prospective students must submit a portfolio of their own work for evaluation before consent of the Department will be given.

Readings:

Books

Virginia Woolf, *Mrs. Dalloway*
Kathy Acker, *Empire of the Senseless*
Samuel Beckett, *Molloy*
Nicole Brossard, *Mauve Desert*
David Markson, *Wittgenstein's Mistress*
China Miéville, *The City & The City*

Articles and short fictions

1. Herman Melville, "Bartleby the Scrivener, A Story of Wall Street"
2. Claude Lévi-Strauss, "A Writing Lesson."
3. Jeffrey Kittay and Wlad Godzich, "Introduction," *The Emergence of Prose*.
4. Renee Gladman, "Emergence of a Fiction," *I'll Drown My Book*
5. excerpt from Lyn Hejinian, *My Life*
5. Sigmund Freud, "The Dream-Work."
6. Lyn Hejinian, "Rejection of Closure" and excerpt *My Life*
7. Beverley Hungry Wolf, "How My Grandfather Became a Dog," Youtube.
8. Gertrude Stein, "More Grammar for a Sentence."
9. Stylistic Exercises in coordinating and subordinating.
10. Kathy Acker, "A Few Notes on Two of My Books"
11. Caroline Bergvall, "The Conceptual Twist," *I'll Drown My Book*
12. Excerpt Georges Perec, *Life: A User's Manual*
13. Guy Debord and Gil J. Wolman, "A User's Guide to Détournement"
14. Guy Debord, Introduction to a Critique of Urban Geography

Assignments and Evaluation:

A final portfolio of 30 pages or the equivalent (in mixed media) must be handed in on the day of the final class. The portfolio will be judged according to the amount of work accomplished over the year, writing and rewriting, and evidence of the student's grasp of the principles and techniques involved in writing fiction. The manuscript must be accompanied by a three to five page process statement describing the student's writing objectives, process, and difficulties. The final portfolio is worth **30% of the final grade**.

Students will submit their work for class discussion at least twice each term (and more often if numbers permit). Submissions must be accompanied by a process statement and will be evaluated according to the student's grasp of the techniques of fiction, originality and attention to detail. Submissions to the class will count for **30% of the final grade**, 20% in the first term and 10% in the second.

Students will be expected to read carefully and respond usefully to each other's work in writing (one to two pages), and orally during class discussions. Development of critical skills, the ability to suggest ways to improve and generate more work for others is an important component of this workshop, because it usually precedes the capacity to apply these same skills to one's own work. In addition, some writing experiments will be undertaken by the class as a group and individually. These will not be graded but marks will be deducted if they are not completed (5% for every incomplete assignment). Students will also be expected to read a number of texts of fiction and discuss them in class. Class participation, which includes attendance, completion of exercises, and written and oral commentary on each other's work will count for **20% of the final grade (10% each term)**.

Each student will be responsible for making two presentations of critical or fiction texts in class during the year. A written version of each presentation, taking into account suggestions made during class discussions, must be handed in to the instructor by the end of that semester. Presentations are worth **20% of the final grade (10% each term)**.

By the end of the first semester, the students will have accumulated 40% of their final grade, as follows: submission of their own work to the class: 20%; Participation:10%; Oral presentation and written version: 10%.

There is not final examination in this course.

Failure to submit work to the class at least twice in each term, or to submit a final portfolio will result in failure.

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.

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:

In this course, numerical grades will be assigned as follows: two submissions of the student's work in the first semester will each be graded out of 10 for a total of 20, each of two presentations and written versions of presentations out of 10, participation each semester out of 10, and final portfolios out of 30. The total grade will be converted into a letter grade and GPA according to the English Department conversion 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

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.

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.

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>

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 the students' responsibility to request academic accommodations. If you are a student with a documented disability who may require academic accommodations and have not registered with Student Accessibility Services, please contact them at 403-220-6019. Students who have not registered with Student Accessibility Services are not eligible for formal academic accommodations. More information about academic accommodations can be found at www.ucalgary.ca/access.

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. 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>

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.