



UNIVERSITY OF
CALGARY

DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH

English 517.S01

Otherness and Truth

Fall 2021

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Office Hours:	Mon. 11:00-noon and by appointment (Zoom)

Course description:

One of the defining features of contemporary critical thought is its infinite openness to the Other. In Foucault's view, for instance, otherness is the hallmark of truth, and, as critics like Frédéric Gros and Barry Smart have pointed out, he never failed to anchor his concept of truth in a certain notion of otherness, ceaselessly formulating otherness without domesticating it into doctrine. At the heart of the legacies left behind by Levinas and Derrida is their infinite respect for otherness as well. Alain Badiou notes in *Philosophy in the Present*, "The philosopher is always a stranger, clothed in his new thoughts," for genuine philosophical commitment is "marked by its internal foreignness" (21). This course explores such internal foreignness as encountered in a selection of leading critical thinkers and writers, situating them as a constellation of figures of radical otherness. The seminar readings and discussions will be structured along the following questions: Why is openness to the other the gateway to the true? Why is it that truth has to be established from the perspective of the other world or the other life? To what extent might critical thought's recalcitrant otherness translate into resistance to neoliberalism, which as a new form of governing rationality submits all spheres of social life to the rule of the market, transforming human beings into market actors? In what sense does literature foster appreciation and respect for aesthetic, cultural, and epistemological otherness? How do the novels read on the course offer different paths to inscribing otherness and truth?

Required texts:

Friedrich Nietzsche, "On Truth and Lying in a Non-Moral Sense"

Michel Foucault, *The Courage of Truth*: "Lecture of February 29, 1984, second hour"

Foucault, "The Thought of the Outside"

Emmanuel Levinas, *Entre Nous: On Thinking-of-the-Other*

Gilles Deleuze and Félix Guattari, *A Thousand Plateaus*: "Introduction: Rhizome"

Jean-François Lyotard, "The Other's Rights"

Edward Said, *Representations of the Intellectual*
Alain Badiou, "Thinking the Event"
Jacques Rancière, "The Monument and Its Confidences; or Deleuze and Art's Capacity of
'Resistance'"
Giorgio Agamben, "What Is the Contemporary?"
Toni Morrison, "Being or Becoming the Stranger"
Judith Butler, "Violence, Mourning, Politics"
Gayatri Spivak, "Translation as Culture" *Parallax*, 6:1, 13-24
Maria Tymoczko, "Translation, Ethics and Ideology in a Violent Globalizing World"
Toni Morrison, *Beloved*
George Orwell, *Nineteen Eighty-Four*
J. M. Coetzee, *Foe*
Mohsin Hamid, *The Reluctant Fundamentalist*

All the essays or excerpts are available on D2L.

Assignments and evaluation:

Review essay	25%
Seminar presentation	25%
Critical essay	40%
Participation	10%

There will be no registrar-scheduled exam for this course.

Class participation is expected from every student. I will take attendance on a regular basis. Class participation means active participation in class discussion and contribution to advancing debate in the course's Zoom sessions.

Students must submit all assignments to qualify for a passing grade. Assignments submitted after the deadline will be penalized with the loss of a third of a grade (an A- to B+) per day. No assignments will be accepted one week past the assignment deadline without the prior consent of the instructor.

Students are required to submit written assignments electronically. There are D2L dropbox folders for various assignments.

All take-home written assignments must be typewritten and double-spaced. You should use a 12 point type-size and a readable font. Take-home essays must adhere to the format and documentation outlined in the *MLA Handbook* (8th Edition). To avoid plagiarism, please read the attached statement on plagiarism.

I will try my best to respond to your emails in a timely manner, but I will only reply to brief inquires and won't be able to discuss any matter in detail by email. If you wish to discuss course material or essay assignments, you need to make a Zoom meeting appointment during my office hour.

Course Learning Outcomes:

Upon successful completion of this course, students will

1. Acquire a good understanding of the relationship between otherness and truth, that is, why truth has to be established from the perspective of the other world or the other life.
2. Have increased appreciation and respect for different articulations of aesthetic, cultural, and intellectual otherness.
3. Add to their conceptual toolbox a number of useful critical concepts such as the Other, ethics of otherness, parrhēsia (courage of truth), truth, aesthetics of existence, hauntology, universal singularity, intellectual, modernity, and Cyborg.
4. Become more insightful, rigorous, creative readers of literary and theoretical texts.
5. Have the ability to construct engaging, thought-provoking arguments based on productive research and original interpretations of texts framed with innovative methodological and critical concepts.
6. Know how to initiate and participate in a productive seminar discussion of a literary or critical text.

Guidelines for Zoom Sessions:

This course will take place online via Desire2Learn (D2L) and Zoom. To best succeed in the course, students are encouraged to participate in the asynchronous learning tasks using the D2L learning environment and synchronous Zoom sessions.

To help ensure Zoom sessions are private, do not share the Zoom link or password with others, or on any social media platforms. Zoom links and passwords are only intended for students registered in the course. Zoom recordings and materials presented in Zoom, including any teaching materials, must not be shared, distributed or published without the instructor's permission.

The use of video conferencing programs relies on participants to act ethically, honestly and with integrity; and in accordance with the principles of fairness, good faith, and respect (as per the [Code of Conduct](#)). When entering Zoom or other video conferencing sessions (such as MS Teams), you play a role in helping create an effective, safe and respectful learning environment. Please be mindful of how your behaviour in these sessions may affect others. Participants are required to use names officially associated with their UCID (legal or preferred names listed in the Student Centre) when engaging in these activities. Instructors/moderators can remove those whose names do not appear on class rosters. Non-compliance may be investigated under relevant University of Calgary conduct policies (e.g [Student Non-Academic Misconduct Policy](#)). If participants have difficulties complying with this requirement, they should email the instructor of the class explaining why, so the instructor may consider whether to grant an exception, and on what terms. For more information on how to get the most out of your zoom sessions visit: <https://elearn.ucalgary.ca/guidelines-for-zoom/>.

If you are unable to attend a Zoom session, please contact your instructor to arrange an alternative activity for the missed session. Please be prepared, as best as you are able, to join

class in a quiet space that will allow you to be fully present and engaged in Zoom sessions. Students will be advised by their instructor when they are expected to turn on their webcam (for group work, presentations, etc.)

The instructor may record online Zoom class sessions for the purposes of supporting student learning in this class – such as making the recording available for review of the session or for students who miss a session. Students will be advised before the instructor initiates a recording of a Zoom session. These recordings will be used to support student learning only and will not be shared or used for any other purpose.

Learning technologies and Requirements:

There is a D2L site for this course which contains many of the above required readings and other relevant class resources and materials, such as the instructor's lecture notes and handouts (see d2l.ucalgary.ca).

In order to successfully engage in their learning experiences at the University of Calgary, students taking online courses are required to have reliable access to the following technology:

- A computer with a supported operating system, as well as the latest security, antivirus, and malware blocking software
- A current and updated web browser
- Webcam (built-in or external)
- Microphone and speaker (built-in or external), or headset with microphone
- Broadband internet connection.

Learning Resources:

Include any required textbooks and/or readings. Specify if a link to any required textbooks and/or readings will be provided in the course D2L site. Review copyright information for all resources included (see <https://library.ucalgary.ca/copyright>) and ensure all readings and other electronic resources have been reviewed for copyright compliance by contacting copyright@ucalgary.ca prior to the start of term.

Conduct:

Students, employees, and academic staff are also expected to demonstrate behaviour in class that promotes and maintains a positive and productive learning environment. As members of the University community, students, employees, and academic staff are expected to demonstrate conduct that is consistent with the University of Calgary Calendar, the Code of Conduct and Non-Academic Misconduct policy and procedures, which can be found at: <http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/k.html>

Use of Internet and electronic Communication Devices in Class:

The use of laptop and mobile devices is acceptable when used in a manner appropriate to the course and classroom activities. Please refrain from accessing websites and resources that may be distracting to you or for other learners during class time. Students are responsible for being

aware of the University's Internet and email use policy, which can be found at <https://www.ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/electronic-communications-policy.pdf>

Grading System:

Letter Grade	Percentage	Grade Point Value
A+	96% or above	4.0
A	90-95%	4.0
A-	85-89%	3.7
B+	80-84%	3.3
B	75-79%	3.0
B-	70-74%	2.7
C+	67-69%	2.3
C	64-66%	2.0
C-	60-63%	1.7
D+	55-59%	1.3
D	50-54%	1.0
F	0-49%	0

Clarify the following:

- 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 far exceeds expectations in style, correctness, intellectual depth and breadth, sophistication, and originality.
- The interpretation of the undergraduate university grading system can be found at <https://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/f-1-1.html>
 - Or, for graduate courses: please refer to the Graduate Grading System at the following link: <http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/grad/current/gs-h-1.html>
- There is no D- grade.

Notes to instructors:

- You cannot change your grading system after the course outline has been approved;
- All of the graded assessments and their weightings must be recorded and submitted to the department in your final gradebook at the end of term;
- In borderline cases, rounding up or down for final grades can happen at the instructor's discretion; however, it is a good idea either to clarify this to students, or to provide a grading system that makes borderline situations clear.

Academic Integrity:

This course, like all courses at the University of Calgary, holds students to high standards of honest and responsible scholarship. Please consult the [Academic Integrity website](#) for a detailed description of university policies, which will be enforced in this course. Cases of suspected academic misconduct will be referred to the Associate Dean of Arts for a ruling.

Plagiarism is a type of academic misconduct. Plagiarism occurs when a student presents the ideas, expression of ideas, or work of another person as their own. Another equally serious form of plagiarism occurs when a student submits something they have written themselves for credit in two or more courses without first securing written permission from all those course instructors. Consequences for plagiarism include failure on the assignment, failure in the course, and possible suspension or expulsion from the university. Using any source whatsoever without clearly documenting it is a serious academic offense.

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](#) must be completed. It is the student's responsibility to initiate this process with the instructor. The University also has regulations governing the [deferral of final examinations](#).

Grade appeals:

To pursue a Reassessment of Graded Term Work or a Reappraisal of an Academic Assessment, Consult the [University Calendar](#) and request advice from the English Department at engl@ucalgary.ca. Please note that mere dissatisfaction with a grade is not sufficient grounds for an appeal.

[English Department Website:](#)

For more information about courses, programs, policies, events and contacts in the Department of English.

Scribe and Muse Club for English Students:

The [Scribe and Muse Reading and Writing Club](#) fosters and champions reading and writing through community service, leadership, and engagement. Our email address is smecuofc@gmail.com.

Writing support:

[The Student Success Centre](#) offers both online and workshop writing support for U of C students.

[Academic regulations and schedules](#)

Student Academic Accommodations:

The Student Accessibility Services website is available [here](#). University accommodation policies can be found at the following links:

<https://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/b-6-1.html>

<https://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/b-6.html>

<https://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/b-6-2.html>

Program Advising and Student Information Resources is done through the Faculty of Arts Students' Centre. Office location: SS102; phone: 403-220-3580; email: ascarts@ucalgary.ca

Website: <http://arts.ucalgary.ca/undergraduate>

Instructor's Intellectual Property

Course materials created by instructors, including presentations, posted notes, labs, case studies, assignments, and exams, remain the intellectual property of the instructor. These materials may not be reproduced, redistributed or copied without the explicit consent of the instructor. The posting of course materials to third party websites such as note-sharing sites without permission is prohibited. Sharing of extracts of these course materials with other students enrolled in the course at the same time may be allowed under fair dealing.

Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy

Student information will be collected in accordance with usual classroom practice. Students' assignments will be accessible only by the authorized course faculty and teaching assistants. Private information related to the individual student is treated with the utmost regard by the faculty at the University of Calgary.

Research Ethics [delete section if not applicable]

- If a student is interested in undertaking an assignment that will involve collecting information from members of the public, they should speak with the course instructor and consult the CFREB Ethics (<http://www.ucalgary.ca/research/researchers/ethics-compliance/cfreb>) before beginning the assignment.
- If students are going to be used as research subjects or expected to conduct research (such as interviews), a statement about this expectation must be included. Please note that if you plan to have students conduct research for class, you must get ethics approval for the course.

Sexual violence policy:

<https://www.ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/sexual-violence-policy.pdf>

Other important information:

- [Wellness and Mental Health Resources](#)
- [Student Success](#)
- [Student Ombuds Office](#)
- [Student Union \(SU\) Information](#)
- [Graduate Students' Association \(GSA\) Information](#)
- [Emergency Evacuation/Assembly Points](#)
- [Safewalk](#)

Universal Student Ratings of Instruction (USRI):

Please participate in [USRI Surveys](#) toward the end of the course. The feedback they provide helps us evaluate teaching, enhance student learning, and guide students as they select courses.