

FACULTY OF ARTS
DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH
COURSE OUTLINE

ENGLISH 607.63-01

Winter 2015

COURSE TITLE: Public Writing / Private Lives: Digitizing Women Writers

Instructor: Dr. Karen Bourrier

Thursdays, 10am-12:45pm

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Office hours: Tuesday 10am to 12pm

Homepage/course website: www.karenbourrier.com/digitizingwomen and D2L

Course description:

In the nineteenth century, literary celebrity was tied to the innovative uses that once famous poets like Felicia Hemans made of print culture, such as publishing their poetry in beautiful annuals and birthday books. Yet, these women writers often presented themselves as ambivalent about the fame that they achieved, lauding the domestic sphere in their published work, and using pen names or signing themselves only as “the author of” their most famous work. Was this a bow to womanly decorum or a savvy marketing strategy? Today, we are experiencing a renewed interest in questions about the material culture of texts, as the development of text-encoding techniques expands the accessibility of literature online, and brings with it the potential to recover the works of many popular nineteenth-century women writers. In this course, in conjunction with a project to digitize the letters of a popular Victorian writer, Dinah Mulock Craik, we will ask questions about nineteenth-century women writer’s relationship to the public sphere. Together, we will read texts such as Elizabeth Barrett Browning’s *Aurora Leigh* and Craik’s *Olive*, which tackle the issue of the woman artist’s relationship to celebrity. We will also explore how these issues of privacy and celebrity relate to questions of gender and identity in the age of social media.

Texts and readings:

- ❖ Barrett Browning, Elizabeth. *Aurora Leigh*. New York: Oxford UP, 2008.
- ❖ Craik, Dinah Mulock. *Olive*. New York: Oxford UP, 2008. [N.B. This edition is out of print. If you can’t find a used copy for a reasonable price, there is a TEI edition of the novel available at the Indiana Victorian Women Writer’s Project: <http://webapp1.dlib.indiana.edu/vwwp/view?docId=VAB7119>]
- ❖ Gaskell, Elizabeth. *The Life of Charlotte Brontë*. New York: Oxford University Press, 2009.
- ❖ Ouida. *The Moths*. Peterborough, ON: Broadview Press, 2005.
- ❖ Additional selections from authors including L.E.L., Felicia Hemans, Dinah Craik, as well as critical essays, will be available on D2L.

*There is an additional fee of \$25 for server space for the year from Reclaim Hosting.

Assignments and Evaluation:

This course centers on a project to digitize the unpublished letters of bestselling Victorian author Dinah Mulock Craik. Throughout the semester, we will work on this project in stages, as each seminar participant works towards transcribing and encoding a batch of three to four letters in TEI-compliant XML for publication with the TAPAS project. Along the way, we will use digital tools for text visualization (Voyant), network analysis (Gephi and Tableau), and social media (Twitter) to explore questions of the private and public networks that could sustain a woman writer's career. Our exploration of questions of women, celebrity and the digitization of nineteenth-century women writers will culminate in final paper in traditional or digital format.

Course Learning Objectives:

- ❖ To learn paleography, and to familiarize students with working with primary documents in the nineteenth century.
- ❖ To gain familiarity with the text-encoding initiative, leading to the production of a collection of previously unpublished letters marked up in TEI-compliant XML.
- ❖ To use digital tools (such as Twitter and Tableau) to pose and answer questions about the role of networks and publicity in sustaining women writer's careers.
- ❖ To build on digital project-based learning experience to produce a final research paper reflecting on the issues of the woman artist, privacy, and celebrity raised through our work as a class.

Class Facilitation 10%

Each student will be responsible for facilitating part of one day's discussion. Each presentation will start with a ten minute presentation of a scholarly article (either from the recommendation on the syllabus or from the presenter's research), which will then lead into a discussion of the text. MA students should be prepared to lead the class for a total of twenty-five to thirty minutes, while PhD students should be prepared to lead for fifty minutes.

Class Participation and Twitter 10%

Our participation grade will be a combination of traditional in-class participation and participation on social media. The social networking site Twitter has gained tremendous currency over the past few years as a place where academics and professionals can learn and share ideas. To spark our class conversations and keep them going throughout the week, everyone in the class will aim to tweet a minimum of six times a week. We will use the hashtag **#ENG607** to keep track of the tweets. You can follow your classmates and me @kbourrier, but I also encourage you to follow other scholars in your field. It will be easiest for everyone in the class to link Twitter identities with classroom identities if you are comfortable using your name and a picture of yourself as part of your Twitter handle, but in the long-standing tradition of Victorian women writers, you are also welcome to use a pseudonym.

Digital Portfolio 40%

- ❖ **Website and Workshop Participation (20%):** As part of our research, each student will be creating his or her own website. During the semester, this site will become a repository for our experiments in using digital tools to read and interpret Victorian women's writing. Once again, you are welcome to use your real name or a pseudonym in the creation of your site. You may also choose whether your site is indexed by search engines such as Google or not.
- ❖ **Contribution to Digital Dinah Craik (20%):** Each student will be responsible for transcribing and encoded 3 to 4 letters, as well as for checking the coding and transcription on 3 to 4 letters, for publication on TAPAS.

Final Research Paper 40%

Your final research paper of 3000 to 4000 words will respond to issues of gender, nineteenth-century authorship and technology that we have been discussing throughout the semester. It may take the shape of a traditional term paper, or you may choose to pursue one or more of the digital tools we have been working with this semester to develop an equivalent series of four or five blog posts with an introduction. Please confer with me as to your final topic before week ten of classes.

NB: There will be no final exam.

Late and Missed Assignments

Every student has two days of grace that can be used for any assignment. This eliminates the need to request extensions and allows you some flexibility in managing your workflow. After you use up your days of grace, graded assignments will be penalized by one-third of a letter grade for each day they are late, including weekends. All our assignments will be submitted online. There are no extra credit assignments in this class. Students must pass all components of the course, including participation, to receive a passing grade in the class.

Grading system:

In this course, all essays, exams, and short assignments will receive a numerical grade. Your final numerical Grades are calculated according to the 4 point scale used in the *Graduate Calendar*.

<http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/grad/current/gs-e-1.html>

Grade	Grade Point Value	Graduate Description
A+	4.00	Outstanding
A	4.00	Excellent-superior performance showing comprehensive understanding of the subject matter
A-	3.70	Very good performance
B+	3.30	Good performance
B	3.00	Satisfactory performance
B-	2.70	Minimum pass for students in Faculty of Graduate Studies
C+	2.30	All grades below B- are indicative of failure at the graduate level and cannot be counted towards Faculty of Graduate Studies course requirements.
C	2.00	
C-	1.70	
D+	1.30	
D	1.00	
F	0.00	

Please note: A B- is considered a minimum pass for students in the Faculty of Graduate Studies.

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.

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.

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>

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/graduate>. 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: maboyd@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 Department of English's graduate website for courses, departmental deadlines, and other related program information at <http://english.ucalgary.ca/node/245>. Consult the Faculty of Graduate Studies Calendar for university and faculty regulations, dates, deadline, fees, and schedules, student, faculty and university rights and responsibilities. The homepage for the Faculty of Graduate Studies Calendar is <http://grad.ucalgary.ca>.

For registration (add/drop/swap), paying fees and assistance with your Student Centre, contact the Graduate Office at 403 220 5484 or visit us in Social Sciences Tower 1148 in the first instance.

For program planning and advice, contact the Graduate Program Administrator at enggrad@ucalgary.ca to make an appointment with Dr. Aruna Srivastava, Graduate Program Director.

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/>

Contact for the Graduate Student Association: <http://gsa.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.