UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY

DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH
English 607.64
Towards a Genealogy of Minority Writing
WINTER 2021

Instructor	Shaobo Xie
Phone:	403-220-5478
Email:	sxie@ucalgary.ca
Web Page:	D2L (access via MyUofC portal)
Office Hours:	Mon. 11:00-noon and by appointment (Zoom)

Course description:
This course explores the idea of minority writing as variously named and practised in contemporary theory and literature. A minor literature, according to Deleuze and Guattari, is not literature written in a minor language; "it is rather that which a minority constructs within a major language." It implies four negations or rejections as Foucault would insist, or, to borrow terms from Nietzsche, it is an "untimely" style of writing, which "act[s] counter to our time and thereby act[s] on our time . . . for the benefit of a time to come." The seminar discussions will center around the following questions: What are the central concerns shared among various forms of contemporary minority writing? In what sense is minority writing a revolutionary force? Why is it that a minor literature always opens up a new way of imagining or experiencing aesthetic, cultural, and epistemological otherness? To what extent might a minor literature deterritorialize dominant language and social imaginaries in a way that is really heterogeneous or external to the rule of neoliberal capitalism? What role can minority writing play in transforming the English classroom into a vibrant space of production of creative energies and ideas?

Required texts:
Gilles Deleuze and Felix Guattari, *Kafka: Toward a Minor Literature*
Deleuze and Guattari, *A Thousand Plateaus*
Michel Foucault, *The Courage of Truth*
Friedrich Nietzsche, *The Gay Science*
Maurice Blanchot, *The Writing of the Disaster*
Hélène Cixous, "The Laugh of the Medusa"
Jacques Derrida, *Acts of Literature*
Jacques Rancière, *Dissensus*
Franz Kafka, *The Trial*
Samuel Becket, *The Unnamable*

Toni Morrison, *Beloved*
Thomas King, *Green Grass, Running Water*
Arundhati Roy, *The God of Small Things*
Xiaolu Guo, *A Concise Chinese-English Dictionary for Lovers*

Assignments and evaluation:

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

Class participation is expected from every student. I will take attendance on a regular basis. Class participation means active participation in class discussion and group activities, interaction with classmates, 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 be able to
1. Acquire an enlightened and enriched understanding of what is called minor literature and the central concerns and features shared among various forms of contemporary minority writing.
2. Add to their conceptual toolbox a number of useful critical concepts such as assemblage, deterritorialization, lines of flight/escape, rhizome, and parrhēsia.
3. Achieve increased familiarity with different articulations of aesthetic, cultural, and epistemological otherness.
4. Become more insightful, rigorous, creative readers of literary and theoretical texts, making new, unexpected connections.

5. Construct engaging, thought-provoking arguments based on productive research and original interpretations of texts framed with innovative methodological and critical concepts.
6. 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://ucalgary.ca/legal-services/university-policies-procedures/acceptable-use-electronic-resources-and-information-policy**

Please note: A B- is considered a minimum pass for students in the Faculty of Graduate Studies. **https://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/grad/current/gs-h-2.html**

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.

In the case of Instructors using numerical marks in the grading of term work, the departmental conversion chart applies

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

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-5.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:
https://library.ucalgary.ca/sb.php?subject_id=52619

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 **https://arts.ucalgary.ca/english.** 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. Suzette Mayr, 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.

Student Accommodations:
ACADEMIC ACCOMMODATIONS
The student accommodation policy can be found at:**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.
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.pdf** .

*RESEARCH ETHICS (if 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.

*INSTRUCTOR'S INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY
Course materials created by instructors (including presentations and 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 typical (or usual) classroom practice. Students' assignments will be accessible only by the authorized course faculty. Private information related to the individual student is treated with the utmost regard by the faculty at the University of Calgary.

*COPYRIGHT LEGISLATION
All students are required to read the University of Calgary policy on Acceptable Use of Material Protected by Copyright (https://www.ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/acceptable-use-of-material-protected-by-copyright-policy.pdf) and requirements of the copyright act (https://laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/eng/acts/C-42/index.html) to ensure they are aware of the consequences of unauthorised sharing of course materials (including instructor notes, electronic versions of textbooks etc.). Students who use material protected by copyright in violation of this policy may be disciplined under the Non-Academic Misconduct Policy **https://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/k.html**.

*MEDIA RECORDING (if applicable)
Please refer to the following statement on media recording of students:
https://elearn.ucalgary.ca/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/Media-Recording-in-Learning-Environments-OSP_FINAL.pdf

*Media recording for lesson capture

The instructor may use media recordings to capture the delivery of a lecture. These recordings are intended to be used for lecture capture only and will not be used for any other purpose. Although the recording device will be fixed on the Instructor, in the event that incidental student participation is recorded, the instructor will ensure that any identifiable content (video or audio) is masked, or will seek consent to include the identifiable student content to making the content available on University approved platforms.

*Media recording for self-assessment of teaching practices

The instructor may use media recordings as a tool for self-assessment of their teaching practices. Although the recording device will be fixed on the instructor, it is possible that

student participation in the course may be inadvertently captured. These recordings will be used for instructor self-assessment only and will not be used for any other purpose.

*Media recording for the assessment of student learning

The instructor may use media recordings as part of the assessment of students. This may include but is not limited to classroom discussions, presentations, clinical practice, or skills testing that occur during the course. These recordings will be used for student assessment purposes only and will not be shared or used for any other purpose.

SEXUAL VIOLENCE POLICY

The University recognizes that all members of the University Community should be able to learn, work, teach and live in an environment where they are free from harassment, discrimination, and violence. The University of Calgary's sexual violence policy guides us in how we respond to incidents of sexual violence, including supports available to those who have experienced or witnessed sexual violence, or those who are alleged to have committed sexual violence. It provides clear response procedures and timelines, defines complex concepts, and addresses incidents that occur off-campus in certain circumstances. Please see the policy available at https://www.ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/sexual-violence-policy.pdf

*OTHER IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Please visit the Registrar's website at: https://www.ucalgary.ca/registrar/registration/course-outlines for additional important information on the following:

- 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):

"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."

Students who are absent from class assessments (tests, participation activities, or other assignments) should inform their instructors as soon as possible. Instructors may request that evidence in the form of documentation be provided. If the reason provided for the absence is acceptable, instructors may decide that any arrangements made can take forms other than make-up tests or assignments. For example, the weight of a missed grade may be added to another assignment or test. For information on possible forms of documentation, including statutory declarations, please see **https://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/m-1.html**.

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://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/747/01/

DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH STATEMENT ON PRINCIPLES OF CONDUCT

According to the University Calendar, https://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/k-2.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.