



**FACULTY OF ARTS
Department Of English**

COURSE OUTLINE

ENGL 609.01: The Faerie Queene and Posthumanist Theory

WINTER 2022

Class Schedule (Monday 9:00—11:45, SS1015)

Instructor	Jim Ellis
Email:	jellis@ucalgary.ca
Web Page:	D2L (access via MyUofC portal)
Office Hours:	Tuesday 2-3

Course description:

In this course, we will explore posthumanist theories in conjunction with Edmund Spenser's allegorical romance epic, The Faerie Queene. Spenser's epic is famous for its hybrid nature, a mix of epic, romance and allegory that make any straightforward readings of its characters, actors, objects and actants difficult. The poem teaches the reader to deploy multiple strategies to make sense of any particular episode, in the overall project of refashioning the reader. Using contemporary theory and theoretically-informed criticism we will explore the strange terrain of Faery Land, and the hybrid beings that inhabit it. We will look at such topics as Lucretian atomism, human/animal relations, talking plants, metal beings, vibrant matter, agent networks, and at the kinds of non-Cartesian thinking that allegory demands.

Course learning outcomes:

1. Students will have an advanced knowledge of the literary work of Edmund Spenser and its historical and cultural contexts.
2. Students will have a working knowledge of a range of posthumanist theorists and thinkers, and be able to apply this knowledge in historical contexts.
3. Students will demonstrate the ability to write a convincing academic paper using advanced research methods.
4. Students will demonstrate an ability to offer and accept constructive feedback.

Texts and readings:

Edmund Spenser, The Faerie Queene ed. A. C. Hamilton. 2nd ed. (Longmans)

Rosi Braidotti, The Posthuman (Cambridge: Polity, 2013)

Other readings will be on reserve, accessible through the University Library catalogue, or available on course D2L site.

Learning technology requirements:

Include any learning technology requirements, including hardware and software. Note that these requirements cannot incur supplementary fees to students without having those fees be previously approved by the Faculty of Arts.

For example:

Students will need to have access to a computer for the initial zoom sessions, until we are able to meet in person. There is a D2L site for this course which contains required readings and other relevant class resources and materials (see d2L.ucalgary.ca).

Assessments and Evaluation:

Theory presentation: 20%

Literature presentation: 30%

Response: 10%

Final essay (20-25 pages): 40%

Seminar presentation (theory and criticism): 20%. This should be a short 10-15 minute presentation that gives an overview of a book or article (including a clear presentation of its theoretical orientation) and gives some indication of how it might be used to engage with the key issues or texts of the course (beyond what it might already be saying). Please bring an extra copy of your presentation to class to hand in.

Seminar presentation (literary text): 30%. This is a standard 20-25 minute seminar presentation that uses theory to explore some aspect of The Faerie Queene. You must send a draft of your presentation to the course instructor and to your respondent by 10 pm Thursday evening prior to your presentation.

Seminar response: 10%. You will receive a draft of a seminar presentation by 10 pm Thursday evening. You then have four days to craft a five-minute response that will help to open up the seminar presentation for class discussion. The response might identify elements of the presentation that are particularly interesting and useful; it might offer further elaborations on the theoretical points being pursued; it might point to other aspects of the literary text that would prove fruitful for the further exploration of the ideas; it might point to parallel or complementary critical discussions that would open things up.

Please bring an extra copy of your presentation to class to hand in.

Final paper: 40%. this should be a 20-25 page paper, with bibliography. You can develop the ideas worked on in your seminar presentation, but it should show substantial rethinking and reworking. In the final class, everyone will be previewing the argument of their paper.

There is no Registrar-scheduled Final Examination in this course.

Hard copies of all assignments should be submitted in class on the day they are due, unless alternative arrangements are made.

All assignments must be completed to receive a passing grade.

Attendance and participation expectations:

It is expected that students will attend all classes and come prepared to discuss the assigned readings for each class.

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>

Policy on use of electronic devices:

The use of laptop and mobile devices in class is discouraged in this class. Students are responsible for being aware of the University's [Internet and email use policy](#).

Grading System:

90 + %	A+	4.0	67 – 69 %	C+	2.3
85 – 89 %	A	4.0	64 – 66 %	C	2.0
80 – 84 %	A–	3.7	60 – 63 %	C–	1.7
77 – 79 %	B+	3.3	55 – 59 %	D+	1.3
74 – 76 %	B	3.0	50 – 54 %	D	1.0
70 – 73 %	B–	2.7	0 – 49 %	F	0

Please refer to the Graduate Grading System at the following link, where a B- is the lowest passing grade: <http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/grad/current/gs-h-1.html>

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.