

FACULTY OF ARTS  
DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH

ENGLISH 609.53, L01

WINTER 2014

COURSE TITLE: The Colonial Periphery at the Margins of Fiction, Ned Ward to Jane Austen

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**Course description:**

This course will examine how English fiction registered the presence of England's Caribbean slave colonies in the century before Jane Austen. Since the spirit of Edward Said's influential reading of Jane Austen's *Mansfield Park* in *Culture and Imperialism* presides over the course, we'll probably begin with Austen's novel. After that, we'll move chronologically from the late seventeenth-century to the early nineteenth century, considering two strands of writing.

From Daniel Defoe's *Colonel Jack* (1722) through Sarah Robinson Scott's *History of Sir George Ellison* (1767), novelists and their contemporaries imagined the amelioration of slavery, trying to reconcile notions of English humanity with the presumed economic necessity of slavery. The upshot of this negotiation, George Boulukos shows, is the figure of "the grateful slave," the African grateful for his servitude to a benevolent master. This development illuminates troubling features of novels by Defoe, Scott, and others (including Austen). But the colonial margin appears in texts without an ameliorationist agenda, revealing a different and often troubled strand of national consciousness. It occupies the centre only of marginal fictions, notably Ned Ward's Grub-Street pamphlet, *A Trip to Jamaica* (1698); we may also look at a misogynist parody of women's fiction, *The Jamaica Lady* (1720). At the margins of Samuel Richardson's *Pamela* (1740)—the novel Charlotte Bronte rewrote in *Jane Eyre*—a fugitive seduced maiden marries a Jamaica planter and sends a slave boy to her child by her former seducer. The feminist utopia at the centre of Sarah Robinson Scott's *Millenium Hall* (1762), a novel narrated by a returned Jamaican merchant, is underwritten in part by plantation profits, but there is no hint of the ameliorationist argument evident in its sequel, *The History of Sir George Ellison*, so we will have to extricate it from the shadow cast by its sequel. In Maria Edgeworth's *Belinda* (1801), a planter courts the heroine and his slave marries an English farm girl—a passage the novelist's father bullied her into eliminating from a later edition.

Reading such material, and contemporary material about Jamaica in particular, we will ask ourselves what work (narrative and cultural) these colonial presences are doing.

Texts and readings:

Jane Austen, *Mansfield Park* (Penguin)

Sarah Robinson Scott, *Mansfield Park* (Broadview)

---. *The History of Sir George Ellison* (UP of Kentucky)

Maria Edgeworth, *Belinda* (Oxford World's Classics)

Samuel Richardson, *Pamela* (Oxford World's Classics) [may or may not be assigned in full]

Other texts posted to Blackboard (e.g., Ward) or from EEBO and, especially, ECCO.

**Assignments and Evaluation:** [required]

Seminar participation	15%
Oral reports on our readings (at least two)	15%
Contributions to class conference on colonial contexts	15%
Write-up of one oral presentation (8-10 pp.)	15%
Final essay (20 pp.)	40%

There will be no registrar scheduled examination. In assessing oral participation, I will look for your presence; your preparedness as evident in responses and in the questions you frame for me and your classmates; and (this really counts!) your engagement with presentations and other contributions by your classmates.

A seminar requires participants, not just presenters and listeners; hence the participation grade.

Oral presentations should not exceed ten minutes (approximately five double-spaced pages of 12-point type) in length. Your goal is to spark and respond to discussion: how well you handle responses is part and parcel of the presentation itself.

In addition to two presentations on set texts, you will present (as briefly), during the class conference, on a contemporary text about the Caribbean colonies or issues raised by them. You will find, using ECCO (possibly EEBO), and then present to the class a not-otherwise-available primary text from the period. Eligible works include major tomes, topical pamphlets, naturalists' accounts, economic treatises (many of which celebrate the wealth generated by England's/Britain's slave colonies), plays and poems.

Your write-up can be handed in no earlier than the week after the oral presentation it is based on. It's longer (more like conference-paper length) and should take advantage of the discussion that greeted the first version. Ideally, you will complete this early enough to get feedback on a piece of writing before you immerse yourself in the final paper.

Your article-length final paper, on a topic worked out by you in consultation with me, may incorporate research from your short presentations: that's how academic work often develops. It will be due in late April (to give you time to do a good job). We'll negotiate a particular deadline based on the demands of your schedule.

Written assignments should be submitted to the instructor as hard copies. The instructor reserves the right to deduct marks, at the rate of 1/3 of a grade per day, for the unexcused late submission of assignments.

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:**

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	

Split grades on assignments are also calculated according to the *Graduate Calendar* grading system, e.g., an A/A- is a 3.85; a B/B- is a 2.85. Also note that the *University Calendar* states that the instructor has the "discretion to round off either upward or downward to determine a final grade when the average . . . is between two letter grades."

The A+ is solely an honorific that entails no additional points in the 4-point system. In practice, I award an A to the best work I can reasonably expect at the level of this course; I award an A+ to work that exceeds that high standard.

**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: [maboymd@ucalgary.ca](mailto:maboymd@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 Barbara Howe at 403 220 5484 or visit her in Social Sciences Tower 1148 in the first instance.

For program planning and advice, contact Barbara Howe at [howe@ucalgary.ca](mailto:howe@ucalgary.ca) to make an appointment with Dr. Jacqueline Jenkins, Graduate Program Director.

**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](http://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>

**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](http://www.ucalgary.ca/usri)). Your responses make a difference - please participate in USRI Surveys."

## **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.