

FACULTY OF ARTS  
DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH  
COURSE OUTLINE

**ENGLISH 694.3**

**COURSE TITLE:** Topics in Creative Writing: Prose Fiction  
(Popular Genre Writing)

**FALL 2018**

**R 12:30-15:15, SS 1059**

Instructor: Miss Vivek Shraya

Office: SS 1046

Phone: 403-220-3002

E-mail: vivek.shraya@ucalgary.ca

Office hours: Thursdays 11-12pm (or by appointment)

Homepage/course website:

**Course description:**

In this course, we will examine several contemporary popular prose texts including science fiction, fantasy, YA/children's lit, graphic novel, romance and horror to inspire and inform students' own writing in this field, which will also be discussed. We will not only analyze what is popular and the conventions of popular genre, but also what is unpopular and why. Students will be expected to experiment with stretching notions of the popular (and the limits of particular popular genres) in their own writing to create narratives that push beyond what is expected.

**Texts and readings:**

*Look Who's Morphing* – Tom Cho

*Love Beyond Body, Space, and Time: An Indigenous LGBT Sci-Fi Anthology* – Hope Nicholson

*Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone* – J.K. Rowling

*Big Kids* – Michael DeForge

*Bear* – Marian Engel

*Dr. Edith Vane and the Hares of Cranley Hall* – Suzette Mayr

\*Additional readings (i.e. news articles, interviews, etc.) will be assigned throughout the course to supplement the primary texts.

**Assignments and Evaluation:**

60% Writing/Workshop participation

20% Class presentation

20% Class participation

Writing/Workshop participation

- Students will have the opportunity to workshop your writing twice over the course of the semester
- 10-15 double spaced pages of writing pieces to be uploaded to D2L one week before the date of your workshop (no later than 5pm of due date).

- Piece #1 and #2 must be different though they can be from the same work (i.e. chapters one & 2 from a book).
- Revised pieces are due two week after workshopping, and must include an additional page discussing the feedback received in the workshop, and the rationale for choices made in revising piece in relation to this feedback.

#### Class presentation

- 20-25 minutes focusing on craft of assigned text.
- Must include analysis of at least three observed techniques/writing choices by author.
- Presentation should close with a writing prompt based on one of these three techniques for the class. Writing prompt will be used in class and should allow for 15 mins of writing by your peers (in addition to the 20-25 min presentation).
- Written summary of presentation (1-2 pages, double spaced) to be handed in day of presentation, including the writing prompt. One copy for instructor and each of your peers.

#### Class participation

- Coming to class prepared, having read the assigned texts and/or your peers' writing.
- Engaging in class discussions and in class writing exercises.
- 1 double spaced page critical feedback for each peer workshop (one copy for instructor and one copy for peer to be submitted at the beginning of the workshop)

There is no final exam for this course.

#### Assignment Policies

- Please make every effort to take hardcopy assignments directly to the instructor during class time. 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.
- Assignments submitted after the deadline will be penalized with the loss of a third of a grade (an A- to B+) for each business day [not class] that the assignment is overdue. No assignments will be accepted one week past the assignment deadline without the prior consent of the instructor. Extensions are only granted under exceptional circumstances.
- Late assignments **will not** be accepted electronically.
- Students must complete all assignments in order to receive a passing grade on the course
- There are no make-up or extra-credit assignments.

#### **Grading system:**

Grades are calculated according to the 4 point scale used in the *Graduate Calendar*.  
<https://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/grad/current/gs-g-1.html>

<b>Grade</b>	<b>Grade Point Value</b>	<b>Graduate Description</b>
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 the Faculty of Graduate Studies
C+	2.30	All grades of "C+" or lower are indicative of failure at the graduate level and cannot be counted toward Faculty of Graduate Studies course requirements. Individual programs may require a higher passing grade.
C	2.00	
C-	1.70	
D+	1.30	
D	1.00	
F	0.00	
I	0.00	Incomplete. Sufficient work has not been submitted for evaluation or cannot be adequately assessed; or the final exam has not been submitted.
CR		Completed Requirements. Carries no weight in calculating the grade point average. This will be noted as "Not Included in GPA" in the calendar descriptions of applicable courses.

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.

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

90 + %	A+	4.0
85 – 89 %	A	4.0
80 – 84 %	A–	3.7
77 – 79 %	B+	3.3
74 – 76 %	B	3.0

70 – 73 %	B–	2.7
67 – 69 %	C+	2.3
64 – 66 %	C	2.0
60 – 63 %	C–	1.7
55 – 59 %	D+	1.3
50 – 54 %	D	1.0
0 – 49 %	F	0

### **Classroom Policy on Electronic Devices, Email, and Internet Use:**

Students are asked to turn off all electronic devices with the exception of laptops. If you need your phone to be turned on because you have children or need to remain in contact with someone because of a medical emergency, please inform me at the beginning of the class and please leave the cell phone on vibrate. Students who consult non-course related content on laptops (i.e. checking Facebook, sending personal messages, etc.) during class will be asked to leave.

Email is the best way to contact me. Although I do my best to respond to emails promptly, please allow up to 48 hours for a response. **I do not typically respond to emails on weekends or after 5pm.** I will not summarize class discussion or lectures through email—if you miss class, please gather any missing information from your fellow students. Email is not a substitute for attending class or office hours.

### **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: [maboyn@ucalgary.ca](mailto:maboyn@ucalgary.ca).

Find The English Pages research guide here: **[https://library.ucalgary.ca/sb.php?subject\\_id=52619](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 <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](mailto: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](http://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 <http://www.ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/student-accommodation-policy.pdf>.

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\\_0.pdf](http://www.ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/student-accommodation-policy_0.pdf)

**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.