

Department of English & Writing Studies

Understanding Literature Today
English 1020E (650)
Summer 2024

Instructor: Dr. Michelle Hartley
Contact: mhartley@uwo.ca (See Communication & Appointments below)
Office Hours: will be held online on Zoom Tuesdays and Thursday at 10AM
or by appointment

Course Description

This course takes you on a journey through various genres, historical periods, and critical approaches to English literature. In online lectures and online discussions, you will study major works of poetry, prose, and drama with attention to their use of literary form and the cultural contexts in which they were written. The written assignments for the course will provide you with training in literary analysis, logical and rhetorical argumentation, and strong skills in grammar and composition.

This course is recommended to students who may be considering either a Major or Minor in English Language and Literature, and who are interested in reading poetry, prose, and drama.

Prerequisite: Grade 12U English or permission of the Department.

Antirequisites: English 1022E, English 1035E.

Objectives:

Students who complete the course successfully will be able to:

- Identify and analyze basic elements of literature, such as plot, character, point of view, theme, setting, imagery, diction, tone, figures of speech, syntax, and rhythm;
- Recognize connections between course texts;
- Write an essay about a work (or works) of literature, containing a clear and effective thesis supported by adequate evidence from the original text(s);
- Research critical commentary on literary works;
- Evaluate the relevance, reliability, and usefulness of research sources, especially those obtained through the Internet;
- Integrate secondary research materials and references to the original text(s) into an essay;
- Organize and present ideas clearly and effectively in writing;
- Document essays using MLA Style.

Course Materials

I recommend using the following editions of each book so that we all have the same page numbers (available at the Western Bookstore):

https://bookstore.uwo.ca/textbook-search?campus=UWO&term=N2024&courses%5B0%5D=650_UW/ENG1020E

1. Austen, Jane. *Northanger Abbey*. Ed. Claire Grogan. Peterborough: Broadview, 2002.
2. Larsen, Nella. *Passing*. Penguin, 2021.
3. Martel, Yann. *Life of Pi*. Toronto: Vintage, 2002.
4. Shakespeare, William. *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. New York: Simon & Schuster, 2016. (other editions from reputable publishers such as Penguin or Pelican are fine)
5. Various poems, short stories, and overviews of genres are available on OWL Brightspace. All of these course materials are required reading.
6. A current writing handbook is strongly recommended, such as *The Little Seagull Handbook*. The online version has interactive exercises that provide immediate feedback for students and target problem areas. They are useful for those wishing to improve their writing.

Methods of Evaluation

COMPONENT	WEIGHT	DUE DATE	LENGTH
Academic Integrity Unit	Mandatory	May 17	90 minutes
Discussion Forum Participation	15%	2 discussion posts per unit (see "Timetable")	100-250 words per post
Essay 1	15%	May 27	1000 words
Online Midterm Test	10%	June 17-18	1 hour – completed through OWL
Essay 2	25%	July 8	2000 words
Discussion Reflection	5%	June 27	500 words
Final Exam	30%	TBA - within Exam Period: July 29-Aug 1	3 hours – in person

Class Format

Each week you will be responsible for reading the assigned text(s), the associated lecture, and the discussion postings of your peers (under "Forum" tab). You are expected to contribute to the class Forum at least twice a week.

Detailed guidelines for all course components (including essays, exams, Discussion Forum Participation, and Academic Integrity Unit) will be posted under the "Assignments" tab.

Communication & Appointments

Check the “Announcements” regularly on OWL Brightspace and look out for course emails. To ask questions or to discuss issues that may arise, contact me via email: mhartley@uwo.ca

I try to respond to emails within 24 hours during the week, 48 hours on weekends or holidays. Answers to many administrative questions can be found in this Syllabus, “Assignment” tab, and in the Discussion. Please check there first.

Email is best for short questions; if your questions require more involved responses please sign up for a Zoom appointment using my email or the link to Zoom you’ll find on Brightspace for Tuesday or Thursday’s office hour.

Academic Integrity Unit

All students are required to enroll in and complete the Centre for Teaching and Learning’s Academic Integrity Tutorial. That unit is currently being moved from OWL to OWL Brightspace. Check the announcement and the directions on your Assignments page on May 6th for further direction. If you have completed the unit previously, find your certificate for uploading.

Essays

Essays must comply with MLA (Modern Languages Association) citation style guidelines. I will provide links on OWLBrightspace.

This helpful interactive introduction to research at Western Libraries is worth exploring in preparation for your essays:

<https://storymaps.arcgis.com/collections/48c0ba0ea5d84e468c26d16ae84f5c4e>

Essay topics and guidelines will be posted under “Assignments”, where you will also upload your assignments for grading. To submit your essay upload an attachment via OWL. It is your responsibility to ensure your paper has been uploaded properly as a Word document.

You’ll find extra help on specific aspects of essay writing and tons of handouts through the Writing Support Centre site:

http://www.sdc.uwo.ca/writing/online_writing_lab/writing_resources.html

Late Policy

Essays and other assignments are to be submitted via OWLBrightspace by the due dates listed above (and on the course Timetable). Assignments sent as email attachments will not be accepted.

Papers handed in late without prior permission will be deducted 3% per day late, including weekends. Essays submitted more than one week after the due date has passed will not be accepted without academic accommodation. Late essays will forfeit instructor feedback.

University Policies & Resources

Please note that instructors cannot grant accommodation or extensions. If you have a medical or personal emergency please see the “Academic Accommodation” section below. Extensions will not be granted for computer or upload problems. For English Department regulations governing term work, faculty office hours, academic relief (appeals, petitions, complaints), and other matters, please consult the “Undergraduate Student Information” section on the English Department website at: <https://www.uwo.ca/english/undergraduate/Student%20Information.html>

Accommodation

Students seeking academic accommodation on medical grounds for any missed tests, exams, participation components and/or assignments worth 10% or more of their final grade must apply to the Academic Counselling office of their home Faculty and provide documentation. Academic accommodation cannot be granted by the instructor or department. Documentation shall be submitted, as soon as possible, to the Office of the Dean of the student’s Faculty of registration, together with a request for relief specifying the nature of the accommodation being requested. The UWO Policy on Accommodation for Medical Illness and further information regarding this policy can be found at:

http://uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/accommodation_medical.pdf.

Downloadable Student Medical Certificate (SMC):

http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/medicalform.pdf

Academic Offences

Scholastic offences are taken seriously and students are directed to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitutes a Scholastic Offence, at:

http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/scholastic_discipline_undergrad.pdf

Plagiarism:

Students must write their essays and assignments in their own words. Whenever students take an idea or passage from another author, they must acknowledge their debt both by using quotation marks where appropriate and by proper referencing such as footnotes or citations. Plagiarism is a major academic offence.

All required papers may be subject to submission for textual similarity review to the commercial plagiarism detection software under license to the University for the detection of plagiarism. All papers submitted for such checking will be included as source documents in the reference database for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of papers subsequently submitted to the system. Use of the service is subject to the licensing agreement, currently between Western and Turnitin.com.

All instances of plagiarism will be reported to the Chair of Undergraduate Studies. Proven cases of plagiarism will result in a grade of zero for the assignment. Subsequent offences will result in failure for the course.

Support Services

Registrarial Services <http://www.registrar.uwo.ca>

Student Support Services <https://student.uwo.ca/psp/heprdweb/?cmd=login>

Services provided by the USC <http://westernusc.ca/services/>

Student Development Centre <http://www.sdc.uwo.ca/>

Students who are in emotional/mental distress should refer to MentalHealth@Western for a complete list of options about how to obtain help:

<http://www.uwo.ca/uwocom/mentalhealth/>

Intellectual Property/Copyright

All instructor-written materials (e.g. PowerPoints, lecture notes, oral lectures) for this course are created solely for students' personal use within the course, and remain the instructor's intellectual property. Further reproduction, fixation, distribution, transmission, dissemination, communication, or any other uses, without securing the consent of the copyright owner (the course instructor) may be an infringement of copyright. You may not distribute, email, or otherwise communicate these materials to any other person. These limitations extend to recording, photographing, or sharing lectures (online or in-person) and lecture material without permission. Posting the instructor's content from this course to online course sharing sites like OneClass or Course Hero without permission is both an infringement of intellectual property law and a violation of academic integrity guidelines. The instructor will pass these cases on to the Western University Ombudsperson or their Department Chair as appropriate.

Religious Accommodation

Students should consult the University's list of recognized religious holidays, and should give reasonable notice in writing, prior to the holiday, to the Instructor and an Academic Counsellor if their course requirements will be affected by a religious observance. Additional information is given in the Western Multicultural Calendar.

Statement on Gender-Based and Sexual Violence

Western is committed to reducing incidents of gender-based and sexual violence (GBSV) and

providing compassionate support to anyone who is going through or has gone through these traumatic events. If you are experiencing or have experienced GBSV (either recently or in the past), you will find information about support services for survivors, including emergency contacts at the following website: https://www.uwo.ca/health/student_support/survivor_support/get-help.html. To connect with a case manager or set up an appointment, please contact support@uwo.ca.

Statement on the use of Generative AI:

Use of Generative AI is absolutely forbidden on all assignments for content. AI is a remarkably poor English student. You are welcome to use it to provide yourself with examples of how to format a paper or a Works Cited. All content must be your own.

To that end, students are required to retain all research notes, rough drafts, essay outlines, and other materials used in preparing assignments.

I may also require all students to submit research notes, rough drafts, essay outlines, and other materials, along with completed assignments. These preparatory materials will not be marked by the instructor but submitting them demonstrates that students have done their own work without the assistance of LLMs or other online writing aids.

If these materials are inconclusive, I may require you to attend an in-person interview to discuss your work before the mark is finalized.

ENG 1020 Timetable

We will be covering one full unit per week (which means we move through a year-long course in 12 weeks).

*OBSR = "OWL Brightspace Readings" located in each unit on Brightspace

*EL = *Elements of Literature*: In past summers this course used a textbook called *Elements of Literature*, which has now been discontinued. Scanned pdfs of excerpts from this text are under "OWL Brightspace Readings."

Unit 1.1, May 6-12: Creation Stories: Margaret Laurence, "Where the World Began" (OBSR); Discussion 1.1

Unit 1.2: Milton, *Paradise Lost*, from Book 4 (OBSR); "Approaching a Poem" (OBSR); Discussion 1.2

Unit 2.1, May 13-19: The Natural World: Frost, "Design" and "Birches" (OBSR), Page, "Planet Earth" (OBSR); Discussion 2.1

Unit 2.2: The Natural World: Wordsworth, "Tintern Abbey" (OBSR), Thomas, "The Force that through the Green Fuse Drives the Flower" (OBSR); "Description and Meditation" (OBSR); Discussion 2.2

Unit 3.1, May 20-26: The Reading Self: Austen, *Northanger Abbey*; "Plot and Character" (OBSR); Discussion 3.1

Unit 3.2: The Reading Self: Austen, *Northanger Abbey*; Discussion 3.2

Unit 4.1, May 27-June 2: Art and Life: Keats, "Ode on a Grecian Urn" (OBSR), Rossetti, "In an Artist's Studio" (OBSR); Discussion 4.1

Unit 4.2: Art and Life: Avison, "Snow" (OBSR), Walker, "Everyday Use" (OBSR); "Themes" (OBSR); Discussion 4.2

ESSAY 1 DUE May 27th by 11:55PM EST

Unit 5.1 June 3-9: Dreams and Nightmares: Blake, "London" (OBSR), Lampman, "The City of the End of Things" (OBSR), T.S. Eliot, "The Hollow Men" (OBSR); Discussion 5.1

Unit 5.2: Dreams and Nightmares: LeGuin, "The Ones Who Walk Away from Omelas" (OBSR); Page, "Unless the Eye Catch Fire" (OBSR); Discussion 5.2

Unit 6.1, June 10-16: Love and Loss: Shakespeare, *A Midsummer Night's Dream*; "Elements of Drama" (OBSR); Discussion 6.1

Unit 6.2: Love and Loss: Shakespeare, *A Midsummer Night's Dream*; Discussion 6.2

Unit 7.1, June 17-23: Love and Loss: Donne, "Holy Sonnets" (OBSR); Discussion 7.1
MIDTERM TEST (June 17-18 ONLINE will not include Unit 7)

Unit 7.2: Love and Loss: Shakespeare, “Sonnet 18,” “Sonnet 73” and “Sonnet 130” (OBSR); Edna St. Vincent Millay, “I, Being Born a Woman and Distressed” (OBSR); Discussion 7.2

Unit 8.1, June 24-30: Love and Loss: Burns, “My Love is Like a Red, Red Rose” (OBSR); Atwood, “Variations on the Word Love” (OBSR); Faulkner, “A Rose for Emily” (OBSR);
Discussion Reflection due June 27

Unit 8.2: Love and Loss: Thomas, “Do Not Go Gentle into That Good Night” (OBSR); Yeats, “When You Are Old” (OBSR); Auden, “Funeral Blues” (OBSR); Discussion 8.2

Unit 9.1, July 1-7: Public and Private Selves: Nella Larsen, *Passing*; Discussion 9.1

Unit 9.2: Public and Private Selves: Nella Larsen, *Passing*; Discussion 9.2

Unit 10.1, July 8-14: Public and Private Selves: Charlotte Perkins Gilman, “The Yellow Wallpaper” (OBSR); “Point of View: Perspective and Language” (OBSR); Discussion 10.1

Unit 10.2: Public and Private Selves: Munro, “Family Furnishings” (OBSR); Heaney, “Digging” (OBSR); Discussion Holiday as Essay 2 due July 15

Unit 11.1, July 15-21: Storytelling: Barnes, excerpt from *A History of the World in 10 ½ Chapters* (OBSR) ESSAY 2 DUE JULY 15

Unit 11.2: Storytelling: Robert Browning, “My Last Duchess” (OBSR); Eliot, “The Love Song of J. Alfred Prufrock” (OBSR); Discussion 11.2

Unit 12.1, July 22-28: Storytelling: Yann Martel, *Life of Pi*; “The Spectrum of Fiction” (OBSR); Discussion 12.1

Unit 12.2: Storytelling, July 22-23: *Life of Pi*. Discussion 12.2.

Final Exam TBA in-person between July 29th and August 1st.