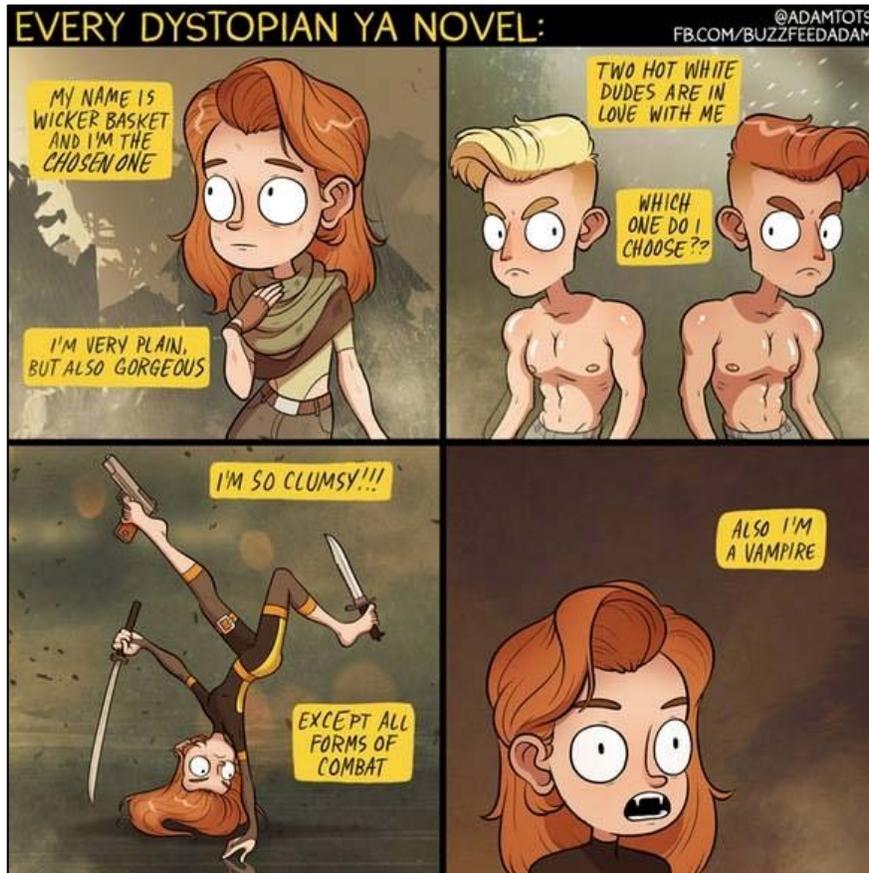


FACULTY OF ARTS
DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH
COURSE OUTLINE



ENGLISH 517.18-01
Theoretical & Cultural Studies: Dystopian Young Adult Lit

Fall 2016
TR 12:30-1:45, SA 107

Instructor: Dr. Derritt Mason

Office: SS 1112

Phone: 403-220-3395

Email: derritt.mason@ucalgary.ca

Office hours: Tuesdays 2-3pm (or by appointment)

Course Description:

The odds, it seems, are ever in favour of the next big dystopian young adult (YA) novel being right around the corner. Popular culture is currently rife with stories about young people saving ruined worlds from even further ruin: Tris Prior champions her divergence in a society forced into conformity; Katniss Everdeen rescues the Districts from the Capital's cruel tyranny; Ender slays formics; Givers give and Maze Runners run. This seeming abundance of dystopian stories raises some broad questions: Why dystopia? Why YA? And why *non?*

In this class, students will explore themes including surveillance, power, identity, nature, technology, education, sexuality, and childhood/adolescence through novels, video games, and film. The syllabus has been designed to offer a diverse array of texts and voices, including a novel written by a fifteen-year-old high school student, Japanese manga created by a teenager, and a story that examines Indigenous identity through dystopia. Students will interrogate the notion of “young adult literature” and consider how the cultural expectations and anxieties that surround the genre are echoed in and/or subverted by the texts themselves. Throughout the term, students will ask how and why the intersections of YA and dystopia are effective for exploring and critiquing issues of contemporary social and political consequence.

Prerequisites: One full-course equivalent in English at the 400 level, or consent of the Department.

Texts & Readings:

Primary Texts:

Elegy for a Dead World (video game, to be played in-class—provided by the instructor)

Isamu Fukui, *Truancy* (2008)

Nalo Hopkinson, *The Chaos* (2012)

Hajime Isayama, *Attack on Titan: Vols. 1 & 2* (2012)

Ambelin Kwaymullina, *The Interrogation of Ashala Wolf* (2012)

Andrew Smith, *Grasshopper Jungle* (2014)

A film to be selected by students and screened in-class

Theory:

Kent Baxter, *The Modern Age: Turn-of-the-Century American Culture and the Invention of Adolescence* (2011)

Gregory Claeys (Ed.), *The Cambridge Companion to Utopian Literature* (2010)

Other theory readings to be made available via D2L

Assignments & Evaluation:

Attendance & Participation (15%)

The attendance and participation grade is intended to reflect your overall level of engagement with the class and course materials. When determining your grade, I will ask myself the following questions: did you regularly attend class and participate in discussions? In class, did you demonstrate a good level of preparedness—having completed and engaged with the readings, putting them into conversation with other course texts and themes? Did you meet with me during office hours to discuss essay topics and/or if you had questions or concerns about course content? I also invite you to *supplement* (not replace!) your in-class participation using Twitter and the course hashtag (#Dystopia517). Although regular attendance is crucial to success in a seminar, I recognize that illness, emergencies, and personal situations occasionally arise. If you must miss class, please inform me as soon as possible. Three unexplained absences will result in the forfeiture of your entire participation grade. For university regulations on attendance, see:

<http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/e-3.html>

Response (15%, approx. 500 words) & Seminar Presentation (5%, approx. 5-10 min)

This is a discussion-based seminar; our conversations will be prompted by student-written response papers. You will each be responsible for writing one response paper based on a schedule we will determine together at the beginning of term. You must distribute your response paper to all class participants via D2L 24 hours before class begins (otherwise, late marks will be applied). You will also give a short in-class presentation based on your response paper to begin guiding discussion. Your presentation should provide a concise

overview of your argument, main points, and questions; avoid reading the response word-for-word. A good response paper will function as both informal mini-essay and conversation starter. In other words, you should propose some kind of working thesis about the readings, but you should also raise questions that you would like to pose to the class. You may write on whatever aspect of the assigned readings interests you the most. Responses must be submitted in MLA format.

Short Essay (20%, 4-5 pages / 1,000-1,250 words, MLA format)

Option 1: Critical Book Review

Drawing on course readings and discussions, critically review a dystopian YA novel *not* included on our course syllabus.

Option 2: YA Dystopia in Popular Discourse

In conversation with course readings and discussions, analyze and discuss 3-4 articles about dystopian YA from *reliable* popular media (i.e. *The New York Times*, *The Guardian*, etc. – not personal blogs).

Final Project (45%):

Option 1: Essay

Proposal (approx. 250 words) & Annotated Bibliography (10%)

Final Paper (35%, 8-10 pages / 2,000-2,500 words)

An essay on the topic of your choice, based on course readings, discussions, and themes. It is recommended that you meet with me in advance to discuss possible topics. Essays must be formatted according to current MLA guidelines.

Option 2: Creative Critique

Proposal (approx. 250 words) & Annotated Bibliography (10%)

Final Project (35%, including a theoretical framework of 4-5 pages)

In lieu of a traditional essay, you have the option of producing a creative final project using the medium of your choice—short film, comic book, novel chapter, web-based video game, etc.—that critically engages with our course readings and themes. Although the creative component can take any shape, you must produce a 4-5 page theoretical framework (in MLA format) that explains how our course readings and discussions have influenced your approach to this project. It is recommended that you meet with me in advance to discuss possible topics.

Detailed instructions for the short essay and final project will be distributed separately.

Assignment Policies:

- Assignments submitted after the deadline will be penalized with the loss of a third of a grade (an A- to B+) for each day 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.
- Please make every effort to submit 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.

- In the case of a late assignment to be submitted electronically (i.e. a response paper), you are responsible for notifying the instructor by email as soon as the assignment has been uploaded. Otherwise, the assignment will be presumed incomplete.
- Essays must be submitted in hard copy. No electronic copies will be accepted unless otherwise stated. Response papers will be shared on D2L.
- You must complete both essays in order to qualify for a passing final grade.
- There will be no assignments given for extra credit.
- There will be no final exam in this course.

Grading System:

The University of Calgary’s four-point Grading System, as described in the Calendar; (<http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/f-2.html>) will be used in this course.

All assignments in this class will receive a numerical grade, to be converted using the following scale:

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

Please note that, according to the University Calendar (F.1), instructors may use their discretion when rounding upwards or downwards when the average of term work and exams is between two letter grades.

Although the A+ is solely an honorific that entails no additional points in the 4-point system, I will employ this mark to distinguish superlative work that exceeds expectations in style, correctness, intellectual depth and breadth, sophistication, and originality. **Please do not contact me to request an adjustment to your final grade unless you are planning to formally appeal your results.**

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

You are welcome and encouraged to use electronic devices in class; you are particularly encouraged to Tweet thoughts and links related to class discussion using the course hashtag. However, please be mindful to use your devices appropriately: checking Facebook, sending personal messages, and other online activities unrelated to class distracts you and those around you. Students should check D2L and email regularly for updates, assignment instructions, and other course related information.

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 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-2-1.html>

Scribe and Muse Club for English Students:

The Scribe and Muse Reading and Writing Club (SMRWC) fosters and champions reading and writing through community service, leadership, and engagement. We strive to enhance the academic and social experience of undergraduate students by promoting academic excellence and interaction between students, faculty, and the community, through social, cultural, and academic events

<http://english.ucalgary.ca/scribe-and-muse-english-club>.

Our email address is smecuofc@gmail.com.

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>. 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>

Guidelines on e-mail Etiquette:

<http://www.enough.utoronto.ca/computeruse/eetiquette.htm>

Library and Research Support:

Christie Hurrell, Interim Librarian for English, offers research support to students, including strategies for finding articles, books, and other library materials. Contact: christie.hurrell@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 Calendar for course information, university and faculty regulations, dates, deadlines and schedules, student, faculty and university rights and responsibilities. The homepage for the University Calendar is

<http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/index.htm>

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:

Students seeking an accommodation based on disability or medical concerns should contact Student Accessibility Services; SAS will process the request and issue letters of accommodation to instructors. For additional information on support services and accommodations for students with disabilities, visit www.ucalgary.ca/access/.

Students who require an accommodation in relation to their coursework based on a protected ground other than disability should communicate this need in writing to their Instructor.

The full policy on Student Accommodations is available

at 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/>

Faculty of Arts Program Advising and Student Information Resources:

Have a question, but not sure where to start? The new Arts Students’ Centre (ASC) is your information resource for everything in Arts! Drop in at SS102, call us at 403-220-3580 or email us at

ascarts@ucalgary.ca. You can also visit the Faculty of Arts website at

<http://arts.ucalgary.ca/undergraduate> which has detailed information on common academic concerns.

For program planning and advice, contact the Student Success Centre (formerly the Undergraduate programs Office) at (403) 220-5881 or visit them in their new space on the 3rd Floor of the Taylor Family Digital Library.

For registration (add/drop/swap), paying fees and assistance with your Student Centre, contact Enrolment Services at (403) 210-ROCK [7625] or visit them at the MacKimmie Library Block.

Contact for Students Union Representatives for the Faculty of Arts:

arts1@su.ucalgary.ca, arts2@su.ucalgary.ca, arts3@su.ucalgary.ca, arts4@su.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). 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.