



COURSE TITLE: ANTAGONISTS & ANTIHEROES			
Course Number	ENGL251 SEC-6		FALL 2020
Faculty / Department	Faculty of Arts/Department of English		
Instructor Name	Benjamin Blyth	Email	Benjamin.blyth@ucalgary.ca
Instructor Email Policy	I will respond to emails sent via @ucalgary email addresses within two working days. Please note that all course communications must occur through the @ucalgary email system.		
Office Location	SS1133	Telephone No:	587-334-1103
Office Hours	ONLINE: M & W 14.00-15.00 by appointment.		
Class Dates/Times/Location	ONLINE: M 15.30-16.45 & W 15.30 – 16.45.		

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

In this course students will encounter some of literature's greatest baddies, alongside a range of challenging and problematic antiheroes. The course will question the importance of an antagonist's role as a literary foil, and encourage students to articulate the diverse ways in which villains both reflects the concerns of a text's contextual moment, and continue to speak to ours.

The course also considers changing literary perceptions of heroism by encouraging wide-ranging discussions of the evolving characteristics of the antihero. It will encourage students to consider the extent to which literature engages with antagonists and antiheroes differently according to gender, race, ability, and sexual orientation. In so doing, the course will prompt students to confront their own paradigmatic views of heroism, and encourage the class to think critically about the ways in which antagonists and antiheroes have either reflected or repressed the concerns of marginalized communities throughout history.

The course is designed to develop a student's skills in critical thinking, close reading, and academic writing. Students will produce 2000 words of formal writing during the semester, and the course will conclude with a registrar-scheduled exam.

This course will take place **online** via Desire2Learn (D2L) and Zoom. To best succeed in the course, students are encouraged to participate in all asynchronous learning tasks, course readings, and assignments using D2L, in addition to synchronous Zoom seminars and office hours. Students will attend a total of 14 live Zoom seminars during this course.

Wednesday September 9 is the course introduction, and all students are required to attend. At this session students will have the option to select one of two groups: **Monday & Wednesday**. From week two onwards, students will attend one synchronous Zoom tutorial per week, according to their day of choice, from 15.30-16.45 MST. The one exception is Week 6 (October 14) when all students will attend the Wednesday session for a library skills

workshop with the University of Calgary's Associate Librarian Melanie Boyd.

Online office hours will also be held each week on both Mondays and Wednesdays from 14.00-15.00 MST. Attendance at office hours **must** be confirmed in advance by appointment, through the D2L signup sheet. If you cannot make the allotted time, or all slots have been booked, students should email me directly to arrange an alternative appointment. Students are encouraged to attend office hours for assistance with their critical thinking and academic writing, and with any questions they may have regarding the course readings.

When unable to participate in the live Zoom seminars due to the time difference or unforeseen circumstances, students are encouraged to inform the instructor in advance and propose an alternative participation activity (e.g., watch the recordings, submit a brief reflection, and actively contribute to the follow-up online discussion).

TEXTS AND READINGS:

William Shakespeare, *Othello*

John Milton, *Paradise Lost*

Emily Brontë, *Wuthering Heights*

Arthur Conan-Doyle, *The Man with the Twisted Lip & The Final Problem* (available on D2L)

Toni Morrison, *Sula*

Tanya Tagaq, *Split Tooth*

Plus additional critical readings available on D2L

A detailed reading list with paired critical readings and assignment deadlines will be available from the first seminar on Wednesday September 9, 2020.

Week 1 (Sept 9): Course Introduction

Week 2 (Sept 14/16): *The Man with the Twisted Lip*

Week 3 (Sept 21/23): *The Final Problem*

Week 4 (Sept 28/30): *Othello*

Week 5 (Oct 5/7): *Othello*

Week 6* (Oct 14): *Library Skills & Writing Workshop*

Week 7 (Oct 19/21): *Paradise Lost*

Week 8 (Oct 26/28): *Wuthering Heights*

Week 9 (Nov 2/4): *Wuthering Heights*

Week 10 (Nov 9/11): [Reading Week]

Week 11 (Nov 16/18): *Sula*

Week 12 (Nov 23/25): *Sula*

Week 13 (Nov 30/Dec 2): *Split Tooth*

Week 14 (Dec 7/9): *Split Tooth*

*All students attend the Wednesday session this week.

COURSE LEARNING OUTCOMES:

This course has the following learning outcomes:

- 1) To develop students close reading, which, among other things, requires a student to realize that a text is constructed, and not a transparent reflection of reality;
- 2) To introduce students to a range of technical terms and critical tools with which to interpret texts;

- 3) To provide instruction in how to write a strong, well-supported, clearly written academic essay. This includes introducing students to the idea of writing as a process by guiding them through the various stages of composition and teaching students how to create effective arguments;
- 4) To introduce students to proper documentation, including what constitutes plagiarism;
- 5) To advance students library research skills: how to search and locate reference works, books and articles, both electronic and print; and how to use print and online resources responsibly and thoughtfully;
- 6) To encourage students to engage with other scholars, by asking them to respond to critical texts in their academic writing.

LEARNING TECHNOLOGIES AND REQUIREMENTS:

In order to successfully engage in their learning experiences at the University of Calgary, students taking online, remote and blended courses are required to have reliable access to the following technology:

- A computer with a supported operating system, as well as the latest security and malware updates;
- A current and updated web browser;
- Webcam (built-in or external);
- Microphone and speaker (built-in or external), or headset with a microphone;
- Current antivirus and/or software enabled;
- A secure and reliable broadband internet connection.

This is a synchronous, online course taught via D2L and Zoom. There is a D2L site for this course that contains required readings and other relevant class resources and materials (see: d2l.ucalgary.ca)

ASSIGNMENTS AND EVALUATION:

Close Reading Exercises (10%): Participation in the course will be graded on the basis of four short close-reading exercises (2.5% each), to be administered on D2L and completed during class time at randomly selected Zoom seminars. Close reading exercises may or may not be administered during the same week for the Monday and Wednesday groups. Instruction in close reading skills and strategies will be given throughout the course.

Practice Essay Plan (10%): In this 500-word assignment students will learn how to plan an academic paper. They will begin by narrowing down a topic of interest to provide a clear, specific thesis statement that addresses a set question related to the course's outline. Students will structure their core paragraphs clearly, citing examples from the primary texts in MLA8, and connect each point of their analysis with their central thesis.

Library Skills Worksheet (5%): Students will complete a worksheet assignment following the library skills discussion with Associate Librarian Melanie Boyd. The worksheet will examine the student's skills in sourcing and citing peer-reviewed critical articles, book chapters, and e-books gained from the in-class discussion and accompanying video resources.

Research Paper (30%): A 1500-word research essay that builds upon the practice essay plan and library skills worksheet assignments. Students will plan and execute individual research papers that engage with both primary course material and secondary critical opinion. Students must source and utilize at least one peer-reviewed critical article, or book chapter, from the Calgary library website in their papers. Students are then expected to discuss the ways in which the critical article supports/challenges their central thesis. All submissions must be correctly formatted and cited in MLA8.

Registrar-Scheduled Exam (30%): Students will answer a selection of short content questions, and one longer, close-reading passage analysis (choose one passage from a selection of three). The requirements of these questions will be familiar to students through the course's close reading exercises. The exam will be open book, and students must be available for examinations up to the last day of the examination period: December 12-23, 2020. We are at the mercy of the registrar as to the time and date for the exam, so I'll keep my fingers crossed that it is not too close to Christmas!

Group Podcast Discussion (15%): In groups of three, students will record a 15-minute podcast that discusses the week's scheduled reading. Grades will be awarded to the group, with extra marks awarded to those who engage with definitional challenges posed by antiheroes and antagonists, explore the function of the literary foil, and outline generic idiosyncrasies across drama, poetry, and prose. Students are also encouraged to reflect on the connection between specific antiheroes and their social context, and articulate why certain characters/characteristics continue to resonate in the 21st century. Podcasts must be uploaded to each group's section of D2L **two days** before the specified class. All students are expected to listen to their section's podcast in advance of the week's Zoom seminar, and we will discuss each podcast in class.

- * Students will have received at least 40% of their final grade, with feedback, by Wednesday December 2, 2020;
- * There will be no extra-credit assignments in this course;
- * All assignments are to be submitted to the Dropbox provided on our D2L section;
- * All assignments do not have to be completed in order to receive a passing grade, however failure to attend the final examination, or to submit the research paper will make passing the course extremely difficult;
- * 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.

USE OF INTERNET AND ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATION DEVICES IN CLASS:

This course requires students to be able to access a laptop and the Internet. Students are also responsible for being aware of the University's Internet and email use policy, which can be found at:

<https://www.ucalgary.ca/news/new-policy-acceptable-use-electronic-resources-and-information>

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>

GUIDELINES FOR ZOOM SESSIONS:

During this course, students will be required to attend a total of 13 live seminars via Zoom. Please be prepared, as best as you are able, to join class in a quiet space that will allow you to be fully present and engaged in Zoom

sessions. **Students will be required to leave their webcam's on when present at a seminar, and unmute their device** when invited to speak during group work, or in question and answer sessions.

Zoom is a video conferencing program that will allow us to meet at specific times for a “live” video conference, so that we can have the opportunity to meet each other virtually and discuss relevant course topics as a learning community.

To help ensure Zoom sessions are private, do not share the Zoom link or password with others, or on any social media platforms. Zoom links and passwords are only intended for students registered in the course. Zoom recordings and materials presented in Zoom, including any teaching materials, must not be shared, distributed or published without the instructor's permission.

The use of video conferencing programs relies on participants to act ethically, honestly and with integrity; and in accordance with the principles of fairness, good faith, and respect (as per the [Code of Conduct](#)). When entering Zoom or other video conferencing sessions (such as MS Teams), you play a role in helping create an effective, safe and respectful learning environment. Please be mindful of how your behaviour in these sessions may affect others. Participants are required to use names officially associated with their UCID (legal or preferred names listed in the Student Centre) when engaging in these activities. Instructors/moderators can remove those whose names do not appear on class rosters. Non-compliance may be investigated under relevant University of Calgary conduct policies ([Student Non-Academic Misconduct Policy](#)). If participants have difficulties complying with this requirement, they should email the instructor of the class explaining why, so the instructor may consider whether to grant an exception, and on what terms. For more information on how to get the most out of your zoom sessions visit: <https://elearn.ucalgary.ca/guidelines-for-zoom/>.

If you are unable to attend a Zoom session, please contact your instructor to arrange an alternative activity for the missed session (e.g., to review a recorded session). The instructor may record online Zoom class sessions for the purposes of supporting student learning in this class – such as making the recording available for review of the session or for students who miss a session. Students will be advised before the instructor initiates a recording of a Zoom session. These recordings will be used to support student learning only and will not be shared or used for any other purpose.

GRADING SYSTEM:

Course grades are based on the University of Calgary four-point Undergraduate Grading System and the standard percentage conversion chart of the Department of English:

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

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. There is no D-grade.

The interpretation of the undergraduate university grading system can be found at:
<https://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/f-1-1.html>

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>

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 <https://arts.ucalgary.ca/english>. 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: maboyd@ucalgary.ca.

Find The English Pages research guide here:

https://library.ucalgary.ca/sb.php?subject_id=52619

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:**ACADEMIC ACCOMMODATIONS**

The student accommodation policy can be found at: [ucalgary.ca/access/accommodations/policy](http://www.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

[ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/student-accommodation-policy](http://www.ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/student-accommodation-policy).

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.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.

***RESEARCH ETHICS (if 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.

***INSTRUCTOR'S INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY**

Course materials created by instructors (including presentations and 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 typical (or usual) classroom practice. Students' assignments will be accessible only by the authorized course faculty. Private information related to the individual student is treated with the utmost regard by the faculty at the University of Calgary.

***COPYRIGHT LEGISLATION**

All students are required to read the University of Calgary policy on Acceptable Use of Material Protected by Copyright (<https://www.ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/acceptable-use-of-material-protected-by-copyright-policy.pdf>) and requirements of the copyright act (<https://laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/eng/acts/C-42/index.html>) to ensure they are aware of the consequences of unauthorised sharing of course materials (including instructor notes, electronic versions of textbooks etc.). Students who use material protected by copyright in violation of this policy may be disciplined under the Non-Academic Misconduct Policy <https://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/k.html>.

***MEDIA RECORDING (if applicable)**

Please refer to the following statement on media recording of students: https://elearn.ucalgary.ca/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/Media-Recording-in-Learning-Environments-OSP_FINAL.pdf

***Media recording for lesson capture**

The instructor may use media recordings to capture the delivery of a lecture. These recordings are intended to be used for lecture capture only and will not be used for any other purpose. Although the recording device will be fixed on the Instructor, in the event that incidental student participation is recorded, the instructor will ensure that any identifiable content (video or audio) is masked, or will seek consent to include the identifiable student content to making the content available on University approved platforms.

***Media recording for self-assessment of teaching practices**

The instructor may use media recordings as a tool for self-assessment of their teaching practices. Although the recording device will be fixed on the instructor, it is possible that student participation in the course may be inadvertently captured. These recordings will be used for instructor self-assessment only and will not be used for any other purpose.

***Media recording for the assessment of student learning**

The instructor may use media recordings as part of the assessment of students. This may include but is not limited to classroom discussions, presentations, clinical practice, or skills testing that occur during the course. These recordings will be used for student assessment purposes only and will not be shared or used for any other purpose.

SEXUAL VIOLENCE POLICY

The University recognizes that all members of the University Community should be able to learn, work, teach and live in an environment where they are free from harassment, discrimination, and violence. The University of Calgary's sexual violence policy guides us in how we respond to incidents of sexual violence, including supports available to those who have experienced or witnessed sexual violence, or those who are alleged to have committed sexual violence. It provides clear response procedures and timelines, defines complex concepts, and addresses incidents that occur off-campus in certain circumstances. Please see the policy available at <https://www.ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/sexual-violence-policy.pdf>

***OTHER IMPORTANT INFORMATION**

Please visit the Registrar's website at: <https://www.ucalgary.ca/registrar/registration/course-outlines> for additional important information on the following:

- 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):

"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://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/747/01/>

Students who are absent from class assessments (tests, participation activities, or other assignments) should inform their instructors as soon as possible. Instructors may request that evidence in the form of documentation be provided. If the reason provided for the absence is acceptable, instructors may decide that any arrangements made can take forms other than make-up tests or assignments. For example, the weight of a missed grade may be added to another assignment or test. For information on possible forms of documentation, including statutory declarations, please see

<https://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/m-1.html>.

DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH STATEMENT ON PRINCIPLES OF CONDUCT

According to the University Calendar; <https://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/k-2.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.