

**FACULTY OF ARTS
DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH
COURSE OUTLINE**

ENGLISH 388.06-01, TOPIC IN POPULAR GENRES: STEAMPUNK

FALL 2016

Instructor: Alex Howard
Email: ahoward@ucalgary.ca
Class date and time: T/R 2.00 – 3.15 ENG 230
Office hours: T 4:00 – 6:00 in SS1024

Course description

In this course, we will trace steampunk’s “non-Luddite critique of technology” to its roots in Victorian science and adventure fiction. Guided by feminist and postcolonial “re-envisionings” of the genre, we will also explore the broader implications of steampunk’s attempt to imagine alternate futures in the image of the Victorian past.

Like steampunks themselves, we will use the genre as a tool to think with. Does steampunk articulate a meaningful critique of the technologies, politics, and contradictions of life under late capitalism – or is it simply a nostalgic escape from the problems that plague the present day? What *do* the brass cogs, hissing boilers, and lumbering dirigibles of steampunk have to offer to a contemporary Western audience for whom smartphones and air travel hold little mystery? Does steampunk’s effort to imagine a future powered by alternative energy sources shed useful light on Western’s society’s continued reliance on non-renewable fuels, for instance? Similarly, how might steampunk’s do-it-yourself ethic speak to other cultural movements emerging in our own historical moment – to open-source coding, perhaps, or to “maker culture”?

Finally, using steampunk as a lens to focus our investigation, we will ask broader questions about the structure and meaning of generic categories themselves. What are the implications of understanding steampunk as a hybrid genre, a mashup that enthusiastically embraces aesthetic and narrative elements from many different kinds of fiction? What, if anything, distinguishes “authentic” steampunk from other subgenres of neo-Victorian fiction, such as bustlepunk, steamfunk, or gaslight romance – and, most importantly, whose interests do such debates about generic authenticity serve?

Required reading

- Excerpts, *SteamPunk Magazine*. TBA. [D2L]
- Excerpts, *Steampunk*. Eds. Ann and Jeff Vandermeer, Tachyon Publications, 2008. TBA. [D2L]
- Wells, H.G. *The Time Machine*. 1895. Ed. Patrick Parrinder, Penguin Books, 2005.
- Verne, Jules. *Around the World in 80 Days*. 1873. Ed. and trans. Michael Glencross, Penguin Books, 2004.
- Gibson, William, and Bruce Sterling. *The Difference Engine*. 1990. Del Rey Books, 2011.
- Jemison, N.K. “The Effluent Engine.” 2010. [D2L]
- Sedia, Ekaterina. *The Alchemy of Stone*. Prime Books, 2008.
- Mieville, China. *Perdido Street Station*. Del Rey, 2003.

Assignments and Evaluation

Assignment	Weight
In-class participation	5%
Reading reflection posts to our course blog	10%
Short essay (2-3 pages)	25%
Peer review workshop	2%
Final essay or creative option (6-8 pages)	33%
Final exam	25%

In-class participation: 5%

- You will have two opportunities (once at midterm and once at the end of term) to evaluate your own participation in this course using a rubric that I will provide.
- At the end of term, I will use the average of your two self-assessments to assign you a numerical participation grade out of 5.

Online discussion posts (5 posts): 10%

- You will be required to post a question or comment in response to 5 of 10 weekly discussion threads.
- Discussion posts will be marked for completion.

Short essay assignment (2-3 pages): 25%

- Essay prompts will be provided by the instructor.
- Essays will be marked using a rubric to be distributed in advance.

Peer review workshop (marked for completion): 2%

- Please bring two (2) hard copies of a draft thesis statement and essay outline to class on the date of the peer review workshop.
- One will be used to complete the peer review exercise, and one will be marked for completion.

Final essay or creative option (6-8 pgs): 33%

- Essay prompts will be provided by the instructor.
- You will also have the option of submitting a creative piece for course credit.
- Essays and creative pieces will be marked using a rubric to be distributed in advance.

Final exam: 25%

- The final exam will take place during the fall term exam period and will be scheduled by the registrar. Students must be available for examinations up to the last day of the examination period (Dec. 12-22).
- The exam will be cumulative. It will not be open-book.

Formatting and submission requirements

- All assignments should adhere to MLA style guidelines.
- Assignments must be submitted to the instructor in hard copy at the beginning of the class when they are due. No digital copies will be accepted without the prior consent of the instructor.
- Please make every effort to take assignments directly to the instructor, either in class or during their office hours. If it is not possible to do so, take your assignment to SS 1152 and submit it to the English department's dropbox. Your assignment will be date-stamped and placed in your instructor's mailbox. It is your responsibility to keep a copy of all assignments in case of loss by any cause. Assignments will be returned in class and cannot be returned by departmental staff.

Submission and grading policies

- Students may receive a passing grade in this course without completing all of the above assignments.
- No extra-credit assignments will be given. However, students who choose to write their essays on texts not yet covered in class will receive an automatic 2% bonus mark per assignment.
- Assignments submitted after the deadline without further documentation or the prior consent of the instructor will be penalized 3% per business day for a maximum of six business days. Weekends count as one business day. Therefore, papers submitted one week past the due date will have a maximum of 18% deducted in late penalties.
- After one week has passed, all late assignments will receive a grade of zero. No assignments will be accepted one week past the assignment deadline without the prior consent of the instructor.
- Students who wish to request that their papers be remarked must compose a 300-word written statement outlining the error before submitting the paper to be graded again. Papers must be resubmitted within two weeks after they are first returned. Whether it goes up or down or remains the same, the resulting grade will replace the student's original grade.

Grading system

- The following grading system will be used in this course:

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

- Although the A+ is solely an honorific that entails no additional points in the four-point system, I will use this mark to distinguish superlative work that exceeds expectations in style, correctness, intellectual depth and breadth, sophistication, and originality.
- 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.

A note on participation and respectful discussion

During class discussions, both online and off-, we will encounter difficult or contentious material. Some of our course texts will invite you to engage with literary treatments of class hierarchy, racism, imperialism, religious belief, gendered violence, and sexuality. Please remember that we all bring different experiences of the world into the classroom, and do your best to approach class discussions with patience and respect for your peers. If you would like to discuss strategies for confronting personally difficult material further, I hope you'll get in touch with me by email, after class, or during my office hours.

Email policy

The instructor will respond to all emails sent from students' University of Calgary accounts within 2 business days. Please check your university email account and D2L regularly; I will use both to communicate with the class.

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.

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.

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.

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>

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/>

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.

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.

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."