

FACULTY OF ARTS  
DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH  
COURSE OUTLINE

English 463.01: American Literature from the Late 1800s to the Mid-1900s  
M/W 1-3:45; Taylor Institute, Studio A Spring Term '16  
Professor Faye Halpern  
Office: SS1108; [fhalpern@ucalgary.ca](mailto:fhalpern@ucalgary.ca); 403-220-4436  
Office Hours: Wed. 10-11 and by apptmt  
The course webpage is on D2L. The course blog can be found at  
[fhalpern.ucalgaryblogs.ca/](http://fhalpern.ucalgaryblogs.ca/)

**Course Description:**

This course offers a survey of American literature from the post-Civil War (post-bellum) period through the mid-twentieth century, from realism and naturalism through modernism and slightly beyond. We will read both canonical and lesser-known works, attending to the historical contexts in which they were written and the critical contexts in which they have been received. We will pay particular attention to how certain historical developments involving industrialization and changing understandings of gender and race are represented in the literature of this period. This class will also develop our skills as academic writers. We'll model the writing we do in this course--from the blog posts and in-class writing to the essay--on what professional literary critics do: writing informally as a way to prepare for writing an essay and using this essays to break into a conversation with other people who have interpreted the text(s) in question.

**Texts and readings (available at the bookstore, unless otherwise noted):**

- *The Norton Anthology of American Literature. Volume C.* 8<sup>th</sup> Edition, ed. Nina Baym.\*
- Mark Twain, *A Connecticut Yankee in King Arthur's Court*, ed. Bernard L. Stein (U of California Press)\*
- Nella Larsen, *Quicksand and Passing*, ed. Deborah McDowell (Scholarly Book Services)\*
- La Sœur, *The Girl*, ~ introd. Linda Ray Pratt (West End Press)\*
- Critical essays and other primary texts will be posted on D2L.

\*Note: it's important you get hard copies of these particular editions. We will refer to particular passages in class, and you need to be able to "flip to p. 332 in the Norton," etc. Please always bring the appropriate book to class and either print out the D2L materials or bring your laptop so you can access them in class.

**Assignments and Evaluation:**

**Percentage of Final Grade**

Final Essay with draft, cover letter, and optional prospectus (5-6 pp) .....	30%
Registrar-scheduled Final Exam .....	30%
Blog Posts .....	15%
Class Participation including participation in class discussions (10%) and completion of in-class writing (5%), and reading quizzes (10%) .....	25%

### Essay:

There will be one essay assigned this term, which will be written in stages, the way that professional literary scholars write. In it, you will analyze one of the primary texts in order to settle a disagreement about it generated in class or on the blog. We'll also spend time in class discussing what makes a good English essay and holding peer workshops.

You will have the option of writing a prospectus for the final essay in order to get feedback from me and extra credit points on the final.

### The Course Blog & Blog Posts

The course blog will provide a forum, apart from class discussion, to explore the literature and criticism we read, and find and test out ideas for your essays. I'll ask you to post and comment at least four times over the course of the term according to a set of deadlines whose details you can find on the course blog. Your blog posts must address at least four different texts of the course. Your posts will not be individually graded, but if you write four that meet the standards for a good post (more details about this can be found on the blog), then you'll receive a "B" for this portion of the grade; if you write six or more good posts, you'll receive an "A" for this part of the grade. If one of your blog posts does not meet the the standards for a good post, I'll give you the chance to revise; if you choose not to, you will not receive credit for that post. You're welcome to put up a blog post after the deadline, but it won't count toward your total.

### Quizzes and in-class writing

There will be reading quizzes and in-class writing activities throughout the course.

### Class Activities, Class Participation and Workshops

We'll be meeting in the new Taylor Institute, which will enable us to easily discuss texts in large groups and small and do different kinds of activities in class. Although I will contextualize the text we read critically and historically, this is largely a discussion course. The success of the course depends on each person sharing his or her ideas and building on each other's (including mine).

We will be holding a workshop during class for the draft of your first essay. To prepare, you will give your workshop group a draft of your essay, write letters to the other members of your group commenting on their drafts, and write a cover letter reflecting on your own revision. Failure to participate in the workshop or to write workshop letters or a cover letter will result in a lowering of your class participation grade.

### Final Exam:

There will be a registrar-scheduled, closed book final exam, made up of passage i.d.'s, some multiple choice and short-answer questions, and an essay portion. Students must be available for the final exam up to the last day of the examination period, which runs from July 2-4.

### Late Assignments:

You have the option of turning in one assignment up to two days late without penalty. Possible late assignments include the revision of the first essay, a quiz you missed, a blog you didn't get in on time, or an in-class writing exercise you missed. (The final essay revision and the draft of the first essay may not be turned in late.) If you turn in an assignment more than two days late or if you turn in a second assignment late, your grade on the work will be lowered by a third of a

grade for each late day (i.e., an A paper that is one day late will receive an A-, two days late a B+, and so on; weekend days are counted in this total). If you turn in the draft of your first essay late, that will affect the grade on the revision. You need to let me know at least one day in advance if you would like to take the extension.

#### Turning in Assignments:

Please make every effort to take your essays directly to me; I'll also ask you to put a copy in the D2L dropbox. If it is not possible to bring a copy directly to me, 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.

Electronic devices: Top Hat, which we will probably use this term, requires the use of an electronic device, and you are free to take notes on one as well, but please do not use your device for Facebook, texting, or any other activity that pulls you out of class mentally if not physically. There are no electronic devices permitted during the final exam.

#### Grading system:

- You must complete both essays, including the draft of the first essay, and the final exam to qualify for a passing grade.
- In computing your grades, I convert any letter grades to percentages and then, to compute your final grade, I change the final percentage to its equivalent letter grade.
- Sometimes I'll assign a split grade (e.g., B-/C+). To find the numerical equivalent, I average the two grades (e.g., a B-/C+=70%)
- 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 four-point system, I will employ this mark to distinguish superlative work that exceeds expectations in insightfulness, sophistication, and originality.

The university uses the following conversion:

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

**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](mailto: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:**

Melanie Boyd, Librarian for English, offers research support to students, including strategies for finding articles, books, and other library materials. Contact: [maboym@ucalgary.ca](mailto:maboym@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/](http://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](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](mailto: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 3<sup>rd</sup> 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](mailto:arts1@su.ucalgary.ca), [arts2@su.ucalgary.ca](mailto:arts2@su.ucalgary.ca), [arts3@su.ucalgary.ca](mailto:arts3@su.ucalgary.ca), [arts4@su.ucalgary.ca](mailto: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](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.