

FACULTY OF ARTS  
DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH

**ENGLISH 201-L11**

**FALL 2013**

**COURSE TITLE: Approaches to Literature**

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Office hours: Thursday 9:30-10:30

Homepage/course website: announcements & assignments will be posted to Blackboard

**Course description:**

Selected works of poetry, prose, and/or drama. Emphasizes fundamental skills: how to read a text accurately and critically; how to write logically, clearly, and persuasively. Individual sections may vary in the choice of genre and theme.

Course Hours: H(3-0)

Antirequisite(s): **English 203**.

This section will focus on a few novels—some very short, some less so—that represent some combination of obsession, antagonism, pursuit, revenge, and recognition. They work influential variations on the narrative convention, familiar from film and television, of the “evil double,” but they do so in distinctive ways. One goal of the course is thematic: what human situations invite investigation in these terms and why? The other is goal literary, to become more adept at analyzing stories by identifying narrative patterns. Is it true that shape *is* meaning?

Essays will test your ability to mount an argument that addresses the first goal by demonstrating your command of the second. (Argument requires support in the form of textual evidence.) Testing (including the final examination) will ask you to demonstrate detailed familiarity with all the works on the reading list.

Having the editions ordered through the bookstore will enable you to refer quickly to passages discussed in class, allowing you to study more effectively.

**Texts and readings:**

Mary Shelley, *Frankenstein; or, The Modern Prometheus* (Broadview)

James Hogg, *The Private Memoirs and Confessions of a Justified Sinner* (Oxford World's Classics)

Robert Louis Stevenson, *The Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde and Other Tales* (Oxford World's Classics) [for the title story]

Joseph Conrad, *The Secret Sharer* [I will post on Blackboard a link to the Electronic Text Center, University of Virginia Library]

Joseph Boyden, *Through Black Spruce* (Viking Penguin)

## Assignments and Evaluation:

short essay (500 words) analysis of a passage	10%
first essay (750 words)	20%
second essay (750)	20%
mid-term	15%
Registrar-scheduled final examination	<u>35%</u>
	100%

## Notes:

- a) The final examination will be scheduled by the Registrar in the examination period following the end of classes (Dec. 9-19). According to the University Calendar (G.3), Students (and instructors) must be available for examinations up to the last day of the examination period. No texts or personal electronic devices of any sort may be consulted during the writing of the final examination.
- b) Students with a registered disability who require special arrangements for the test or the final examination must contact the Student Accessibility Services.
- c) The examination will test your detailed grasp of the full range of our reading. It will involve many questions with short answers—a sentence or so up to a full paragraph—asking you to define terms (giving examples from our reading), to identify and comment on the significance of details from our readings. It may also involve “spotting”; that is, identifying author, title, and immediate context of unattributed passages from our readings. You may be given passages for analysis and then asked to relate them to patterns observed in other works on the course. Part of the final class will be devoted to discussion of the format of the final examination.
- d) Since this is a large class that demands a significant amount of writing, lectures will model a process: asking questions about a reading, looking for evidence (relevant passages and patterns that help answer the question), and then framing conclusions as arguments that can organize that evidence. This process is followed by anyone doing research that will inform an essay intended to persuade the reader that a position—in an essay, your position—is valid. The “content” of this course, that is, is not things we say on a given day about a work we’re reading or the headings displayed on powerpoint slides. There will be no prize for saying, for example, that in terms of narrative structure, *Frankenstein* is an onion. As needed, of course, we will define terms that help us talk about our reading—plot, story, narrator, narrative present, irony, image, etc.—but otherwise the “content” of this course is a way of reading, exploring and thinking about your reading by finding evidence that answers your questions about it and presenting with support the conclusions you reach by examining the evidence.
- e) The instructor will post a timetable of readings and due dates to Course documents on Blackboard. Assignments will be posted to Assignments on the same site.
- f) Written assignments are due in class on the due date. The instructor reserves the right to deduct marks—at the rate of 1/3 of a grade per day overdue (e.g., a B+ to a B)—for the unexcused, late submission of assignments. 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.

## Grading system:

Please note:

- Essays will be graded according to the official 4-point grading system as defined in the University Calendar. Since tests will have questions graded numerically (a mark out of 3 or 5 or 27, say), test scores will be totaled and then converted to a percentage that will be converted to a letter grade according to the Department's standard conversion 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

- An A rewards the best work I can reasonably expect at the level of this course; an A+ therefore recognizes work that is better than that—off the scale. I will consider an A+ (or more) favorably when I average grades, but it counts numerically the same as an A (4.0).
- The interpretation of the undergraduate university grading system can be found at <http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/f-2.html>.
- Please note the following:
  - There is no D- grade.
  - Rounding up or down for final grades is at your discretion; however, it is a good idea either to clarify this to students, or to provide a grading system that makes borderline situations clear.
  - Marks in English are not curved to meet a standard distribution. Outside of very small, often senior classes, however, the median grade is commonly a C+ or a B-. As the official grading system notes, a grade of B rewards work that is above average. If you receive a B, you are doing above-average work.

## 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 **[smec@ucalgary.ca](mailto:smec@ucalgary.ca)**.

**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>**

**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>**

**Guidelines on e-mail Etiquette:**

**<https://www.ucalgary.ca/it/help/articles/email/etiquette>**

**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>**.

**Academic Accommodation:**

It is the students' responsibility to request academic accommodations. If you are a student with a documented disability who may require academic accommodations and have not registered with Student Accessibility Services, please contact them at 403-220-6019. Students who have not registered with Student Accessibility Services are not eligible for formal academic accommodations. More information about academic accommodations can be found at [www.ucalgary.ca/access](http://www.ucalgary.ca/access).

**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 Faculty of Arts Program Information Centre (PIC) is your information resource for everything in Arts! Drop in at SS110, call us at 403-220-3580 or email us at [artsads@ucalgary.ca](mailto:artsads@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>

## 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.