

FACULTY OF ARTS  
DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH

ENGLISH 201 (15)

Approaches to Literature: Stories, Storytelling, Reconciliation

Fall 2017

Mon-Wed 15:30 – 16:45, Room: SS 109

Instructors: Aruna Srivastava/Shuyin Yu

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Office hours: Aruna - Mondays 2.30-3.30pm; Wednesdays 4.30-5.30pm/Shuyin - TBA

Course website: [d2l.ucalgary.ca](http://d2l.ucalgary.ca) (or access through [myUofC](#))

Course discussion group: TBA

**Calendar and 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. (Not normally open to students majoring in English).*

This section of English 201 will focus on the concept of "reconciliation" in a number of ways. Alongside the text by Shelagh Rogers, *Speaking My Truth*, which can be found at online, we will look at what reconciliation means in the context of the official Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada's recommendations and final report. Many of the works we read and the films we watch will be by and about indigenous people living in Canada, as well as by those who have immigrated here. We will also look at the notion of reconciliation in the context of different and conflicting notions of what it might mean to write, to tell stories, to tell the truth, to explain, to judge, to persuade, to come to conclusions. To this end, we will ourselves explore different forms of writing and storytelling, to see what occurs when we move from oral story to testimony to news story to informal argument to formal debate to dialogue to persuasive essay to research project. As important, we will spend a good deal of time examining what it means to be a listener, reader, viewer, writer or speaker. In addition, we will discuss the importance of individual creators in this process and the role of collaboration with wider communities and cultures. This is especially crucial in this era of conflict about "false news": as we explore how we come to know "fact" from "fiction" and how powerful the contexts of our stories are, and how important it is to be aware of these contexts.

**Texts and course material:**

You will find much course material on the course website. You may also buy books at the bookstore or order them online (be sure to use the UofC bookstore's comparison shopping for the best price). If you prefer, you can read most of these books in digital form either through the library or through reading apps. There are also several film links that will be posted on D2L through the term, many available at the library and/or online. Some of these we will watch in class. You are not required to read all of these books: we will discuss what options you have in class.

André Alexis, *Fifteen Dogs*

Denise Chong, *Lives of the Family*

Jason Eaglespeaker, *UNEducation, Vol.1: A residential school graphic novel* (uncut version).

Thomas King, *The Truth About Stories* (available also as a Massey Lecture on CBC website).

<http://www.cbc.ca/player/play/2398900256>

Patti Laboucane-Benson, *The Outside Circle* (graphic novel)

Shelagh Rogers, ed. *Speaking My Truth: Reflections on Reconciliation & Residential School* (memoir, non-fiction, essay). Available online at <http://bit.ly/17bXwR6>. Print versions will be coming in soon.

*Shi-Shi-Etko* (short film by Kate Kroll available in the library and online. <http://bit.ly/2x8n8FM>). Also available as children's book by Nicola Campbell.

### Assignments and Evaluation:

<b>Class participation</b> and group work (required)	<b>20%</b>
<b>Portfolio</b> (required): collaborative and in-class writing exercises, D2L quizzes, final essay	<b>40%</b>
<b>Learning/research log</b> (required)	<b>20%</b>
<b>Final exam</b> (required)	<b>20%</b>
End-of-term discussion with instructor (suggested)	<b>ungraded</b>
<i>Total</i>	<b>100%</b>

- Guidelines for assignments will be posted under “What To Do” on D2L. Review them regularly, as we add to them often.
- *Participation*: This class is based on collaboration, inquiry, and self-directed learning which is why we take **class participation** very (very) seriously. Participation means in part that you will: commit to this class (both online and face-to-face). Attendance is critical. There is a good deal of material on D2L, and an online discussion group, alongside classes that involve discussion, various tasks and exercises and a lot of interaction with instructors. Participation is about respectful listening as much as it is about talking. We expect you to engage in class and group discussions, but also to keep your counsel if you are comfortable speaking and to take some risks if you are not; to help out others in need, to keep a detailed record in your learning logs of group discussions and processes (perhaps the most difficult part of group work); to regularly interact with instructors, group and class members, and demonstrate a reasonable commitment to the course, your colleagues and the work throughout the term. Although there are justifiable reasons not to attend class, and you do **not** have to explain these, I expect you to inform both us and group members *ahead of time*, preferably by e-mail, if you are not going to be in class. This aspect of respect for others in the class community is critical for the assessment of participation. Finally, in this class you will *always* be expected to ask questions, addressing the course goal of curiosity, finding out information and addressing knowledge gaps, *even when you would rather not*. **Please come and talk to us very early in the term (before the drop date) if you have any questions or concerns about participation, the course teaching style, course content, assignments, or the technology.**
- Review guidelines for portfolios and learning logs. Your portfolio will contain a number of formal and informal writing assignments and quizzes, some of which you will do in class. There is a good deal of choice built into the portfolio: the main idea is to build it up throughout the term so that you have a good sample of different kinds of work. The portfolio also includes your final term’s essay (about 1000 words).
- There will be an open-book, registrar-scheduled final exam. You can access your examination dates through your **online Student Centre**. *Please note that all students must be available for examinations up to the last day of the examination period.*
- You must complete all assignment components to receive a passing grade on the course.
- Unless we state otherwise, you will be submitting major assignments electronically through the assignment dropbox in D2L. We will not accept assignments by e-mail as they often get lost. Keep copies, and back your work up. There is an after-hours dropbox for non-electronic assignments we have approved outside SS1152, the main English department office. Ensure that your name is on all electronic and paper documents please!

### Grading system:

Although final grades are converted to the 4-point system by the university, these are the grade ranges and specific numeric values assigned to letter grades in my grading program. Any individual assignment grade is converted to the mid-point value of the grade range. A borderline assignment grade is given a number that will place it between two grade ranges (e.g. 84.5 for a borderline A/A- grade). Your final grade will fall within the grade ranges listed on the chart. If your final grade falls on the borderline between two grade ranges, I round up (e.g. 84.7 would be an A).

90 – 100	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

### Other notes:

- *Electronic devices in the classroom* are welcomed for purposes of research, writing, and note-taking for the course. Indeed, we will call on you frequently if you have a laptop or smartphone handy. We reserve the right to ask you to put phones and computers away if they are getting distracting (and will during certain class exercises ask you to do so unless you have a documented reason for using them). *You cannot engage in the online component of this course with a phone only.*
- *Communicating by e-mail and office hours:* Please do not expect instant responses to your e-mails (give us at least 24 hours). You will not normally get responses to e-mail on weekends. Please identify yourself by name in your e-mails, always provide a subject, and add the course number to the subject line. It is perfectly appropriate to send a reminder e-mail within a day or two if you have not received a response. We would like to meet with you all in person, so arrange a time that works for you if office hours do not. We are happy to meet with people in groups.
- *Please ensure that you review assignment guidelines extension policies and deadlines.* While we do not have late policies per se, it is to your advantage to get your assignments in for feedback. You will be writing many of your portfolio assignments in class. Review the material below in the event that you are not able to meet all due dates by the end of term.

**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](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: [maboyd@ucalgary.ca](mailto:maboyd@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:****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](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 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](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.