

FACULTY OF ARTS  
DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH  
COURSE OUTLINE

ENGLISH 201-15  
COURSE TITLE: Approaches to Literature

FALL 2018

MW 3:30-4:45, ST127

Instructor: Dr. S. Forlini

Office: SS1120

Phone: 403-220-5483

E-mail: sforlini@ucalgary.ca

Office hours: MW 11:00-12:00, and by appointment

Futuristic Fiction

“Maybe no literature is perfect and enduring, but there is something specially and incurably topical about all these prophetic books; the more you go ahead, the more you seem entangled with the burning questions of your own time. And all the while events are overtaking you.”

—H.G. Wells, “Fiction about the Future” (1938)

**Course description:** This course will examine a wide range of fictional works that imagine possible futures. We will consider not only how such works end up “entangled with the burning questions” of the author’s own time (as H.G. Wells suggests) but also how they continue to speak to us even when they inevitably become “futures past”. We will consider these stories as forms of cultural meaning-making and as thought experiments (“what if?”) often meant to estrange, unsettle, critique, warn, and/or instill hope by modelling how we might imagine the world otherwise. The course focuses on developing foundational skills of literary study: critical, accurate, nuanced reading and writing. To this end, the course incorporates both low-stakes in-class exercises and formal written assignments.

**Texts and readings:**

H.G. Wells’s *The Time Machine* (1895)

Fritz Lang’s *Metropolis* (1927), TFDL reserves

George Orwell’s *1984* (1949)

James Tiptree Jr.’s “The Girl Who Was Plugged In” (1973), electronic text via D2L

Octavia Butler’s “Speech Sounds” (1983), electronic text via TFDL

Emily St. John Mandel’s *Station Eleven* (2014)

Cherie Dimaline’s *The Marrow Thieves* (2017)

Nnedi Okorafor’s *Binti* Trilogy, includes *Binti* (2015) *Binti: Home* (2017) and *Binti: The Night Masquerade* (2018)

*Broadview Pocket Glossary of Literary Terms*

Gerald Graff and Cathy Birkenstein’s *They Say, I Say: The Moves that Matter in Academic Writing* (2018)

**Assignments and Evaluation:**

10% Attendance and Participation

25% Critical Summary of a Secondary Source (500 words)

30% Essay (1500 words)

35% Final Exam (Registrar-scheduled)

### Attendance and Participation

Because lectures, in-class discussions, and informal writing exercises are integral to this course, regular attendance and participation are required. Students are expected to come to lectures having done all required readings and to be prepared to participate actively and appropriately in class discussions and in in-class exercises. Students are also expected to have a copy of assigned readings with them to refer to in class as necessary. The attendance and participation grade will be calculated based on students' satisfactory completion of 10 credit/no credit in-class assignments according to the following scheme:

Number of In-class Assignments Completed Satisfactorily	Grade Assigned for Attendance and Participation
8-10	A
7	B
6	C
5	D
<5	F

NOTE: These participation activities may take place at any time during the class period; students are expected to bring paper and pens to class. There will be no make-up tasks.

### Critical Summary of a Secondary Source

Students will write a brief (500-word) critical summary of a scholarly article, detailing: 1) the author's main argument; 2) the ways in which the author develops/supports the argument; and 3) the student's assessment of the author's argument and its possible implications. Detailed instructions will be provided on D2L.

### Essay

Students will prepare a 1500-word argumentative essay focusing on one or two literary works under study. Students must engage critically with at least one secondary source in this essay. Essay questions and instructions will be provided on D2L.

### Final Exam

There is a Registrar-scheduled final exam for this course. The final exam will test students' close reading skills, their critical writing skills, and their newly acquired knowledge of key critical terms and practices. Format and sample questions will be discussed by the instructor during a review session. See Lecture and Reading Schedule on D2L.

### **Additional Regulations:**

- Students must be available for examinations up to the last day of the examination period (Dec 12-22).
- There are no extra-credit assignments in this course.
- Students must complete all assignments in order to receive a passing grade for this course.
- All assignments must adhere to MLA style guidelines (most recent edition).
- All assignments must be submitted in hard copy at the beginning of class on the day that they are due.
- No extensions will be granted for course work except in cases of illness or personal distress. Assignments submitted after the deadline will be penalized with the loss of 5% for each day [including weekends] that the assignment is overdue. No assignments will be accepted one week past the assignment deadline without the prior consent of the instructor.
- The use of recording devices is not permitted in this class without the permission of the instructor.

Please make every effort to take assignments directly to the instructor. If it is not possible to do so, 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 ensure the instructor receives the assignment and 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:**

This course employs a combination of percentages and letter grades. The Department of English has a standardized percentage conversions scale, provided here:

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

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. In this course, the instructor will consider the student’s term work as a whole when deciding whether to round up or down. Students showing noticeable improvement across assignments will be rounded up if their final grade falls between two letter grades.

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.

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**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/subscribe-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>

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

Find The English Pages research guide here:

[https://library.ucalgary.ca/sb.php?subject\\_id=52619](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://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://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.