

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

**ENGLISH 201.09 APPROACHES TO LITERATURE:
ELEMENTAL ECOCRITICISM**

Winter 2018

Professor's Name: Dr. Banting

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Classes: Tuesdays and Thursdays 11:00 to 12:15

Classroom: ST 127

Office Hours: Tuesdays 2:00 – 3:00

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

In this course we will study texts pertaining to the four elements as delineated by Western culture – earth, air, water, and fire – with a view to better understanding our near-future prospects for life on planet earth in the era of climate change. It is said that the human discovery of fire is what made human civilization possible, but the rampant burning of fossil fuels has severely damaged the climate and is depleting the ocean of the oxygen we need to survive. Western culture teaches that humans are the apex of creation, and yet we are the architects of global climate breakdown. Ideologies such as humanism and capitalism tell us that other life forms are lesser than human beings and so we can use and dispose of them as we wish, even though, for example, every second breath we draw we owe to tiny creatures called plankton. Who are we really in relation to other-than-human animals, plants and minerals? If multinational corporations have the status of ‘persons’ under the law, who or what are human persons? Should we regard other animals also as ‘persons’? Is the earth just an assemblage of ‘resources’ for our use and exploitation, or is it alive? What new ideas, ethics and practices do we need for our own survival and that of other life forms? How does it feel to you to live during the Sixth Great Extinction? How can one person make a difference? Is it true that, as oceanographer Sylvia Earle says, “Everybody can make choices that will make peace with the natural world”? What role can literature play in averting planetary devastation?

TEXTS:

Richard Wagamese, *One Story, One Song* – nonfiction

Fred Stenson, *Who by Fire* --novel

Sue Goyette, *Ocean* -- poetry

Gail Anderson-Dargatz, *The Spawning Grounds* -- novel

J. B. MacKinnon, *The Once and Future World* -- nonfiction

Annabel Soutar, *Seeds* – play

Kathleen Dean Moore, *Great Tide Rising* -- nonfiction

Babington, Le Pan, Okun, *The Broadview Pocket Guide to Writing*

ASSIGNMENTS AND EVALUATION:

Mini-essay (250 words): 10%

Longer personal essay (750 words): 15%

(a personal essay is an essay written in the first person, I)

Analytical essay (1000 words): 25%

(an analytical essay analyzes the structure and/or content of a work of literature)

Grammar, style, and/or punctuation quizzes based on assigned chapters in *The Broadview*

Pocket Guide to Writing: 10% (two quizzes, each worth 5%)

Mid-term test: 20%

Final, registrar-scheduled examination: 20%

TOTAL 100%

IMPORTANT NOTES:

Grammar, punctuation and style will be assessed with respect to all assignments on the course, not just the two 5% quizzes.

If you already have a university-level grammar, style and punctuation manual, you need not also buy the *The Broadview Pocket Guide to Writing*. Most such handbooks contain essentially the same information. However, you **MUST** have and use one, and this is one of the best and least expensive on the market. It will serve your needs throughout your degree and beyond into your jobs and careers.

This course will be conducted as a mixture of lecture, class and small-group discussion, group work, and other forms of learning. Such assignments are designed for absorption of materials and further thought: they are not time fillers. Respectful participation in all such activities, not just lectures, is compulsory. An important part of intellectual work is being able to speak about it with others. In short, students will be expected to assume the role of active participants in the co-construction and dissemination of knowledge rather than that of merely passive consumers of it. This includes participation in discussion and other credit-free assignments and activities carried out during class time.

The final, registrar-scheduled examination will NOT be an open-book exam. You will not be using any course texts or notes during the writing of the final examination. Therefore regular, committed attendance of classes, taking extensive notes and studying for both tests are essential.

As per university regulations, students must be available for examinations up to and including the last day of the examination period (which is April 16 – 26).

ALL assignments for the course must be completed in order to be eligible for a passing grade for the course with the exception of the two grammar/style/punctuation quizzes. That being said, their combined weight is 10% of your final grade (i.e., the equivalent of one full letter grade) so it is highly advisable that you complete both of them too.

The Desire 2 Learn (D2L) system keeps a running total of your marks as I enter them, and your final grade will be the letter grade corresponding to the number of marks you have earned in your assignments by the end of the course. You yourself can also, of course, keep your own running total by saving your graded and returned assignments and adding up the marks you have earned, and you can look up the standard table below which correlates percentages with letter grades. This grading scale is standard across the Department.

Please download from D2L and save to your own computer both 1) the course syllabus and 2) the class and reading schedule for easy reference throughout the term and so that you can access it even if the internet is not available for logging into D2L. Consult the class and reading schedule weekly so that you know what text(s) to bring to class each week and when assignments are due. You do not need to bring all of the course texts to each class, just the one(s) we are studying that class.

Tests (a total of 40% of your final grade):

The mid-term and final tests will consist of questions pertaining to the literary texts, lectures and any and all classroom activities including short group assignments carried out in class, punctuation, grammar, MLA style, genre questions, etc. In other words, anything and everything we do in class or for which you are responsible outside of class (e.g., completing the reading of the texts) may be test material.

Any absence during the date on which a test is scheduled and request for a makeup test should be accompanied by a note from a physician or counsellor, and the professor must be notified of your pending absence at least 12 hours in advance of the test.

Only booklength works of fiction are called novels. Novels are works of the imagination. Works of nonfiction are not fiction: therefore they are not novels. You can call them nonfiction, literary nonfiction, creative nonfiction, or you can refer to them as books or texts. Genre is key to the reading and accurate comprehension of texts. The word “novel” is not synonymous with “book.”

All written assignments must be double-spaced in 12-point font with 1” margins on all four sides of the page. Times New Roman is the default font for work in English literature, though you can use another easily readable font. “Fun fonts” do not make your work appear serious or professional.

Late penalties will be deducted for late assignments. Late penalties can and sometimes do result in a failing grade on an assignment so students will want to start assignments well in advance of any due date. **The late penalty for assignments is one mark per day late.** That is, if an assignment merits a 20/25 (80%, A-) but comes in two days late, the mark will drop two marks to 18/25 (76%, B). This measure is in place in order to ensure a level playing field for everyone in the course and to facilitate timely completion both of assignments and of marking. Timely completion is made possible by starting your assignments well in advance of their respective due dates.

A strong commitment to class attendance, completing the assigned readings in advance of the class for which they are scheduled, avidly participating in your own and others’ learning, demonstrating respectful, accountable and open intellectual engagement with the course

materials and with fellow students and the professor are among the most important components of learning. Think of a course as a community, a group of living, breathing, thinking, responding, feeling, knowledge-creating beings. A kind of think tank, in effect. Intermittent attendance (more than a couple of absences per term) *always* results in losing one's place in terms of the material and the others in the course and lower grades.

Recent research studies have shown that handwritten class notes are markedly superior in terms of acquiring a more thorough understanding of course material and for retention of material in one's memory.

The instructor reserves the right to outlaw the use of phones, tablets, computers, or other distractions in class. Surfing the web, checking email or social media, taking calls or texting during class is strictly forbidden!! Moreover, taking calls or texting by leaving the classroom is similarly not allowed. Such behaviour is far more disruptive and distracting to you, the people near you and the professor than you probably realize.

Along similar lines, I highly recommend that you annotate and underline the primary course texts (preferably in paper, but you can annotate in ebook and electronic articles in formats such as the Kindle application). Don't try to preserve pristine copies of your books for resale to other students who will underline and annotate and therefore probably do better than you did in the course! Underlining and annotating in the margins are the best ways of acquiring and consolidating your knowledge of textual material. 'Make tracks' in your text (though not, of course, in any library books ever) and you will be far more likely to take ownership of the knowledge we will be co-creating in the classroom.

Please do not attempt to read the assigned materials on your phone! You cannot possibly ingest the texts on a screen as small as that of most phones. No, you cannot. We are not studying literary texts for an entire term simply in order to extract "the main idea" or "the general drift" of a text! Quite the opposite. We will be focussing on what is actually on the page. **For the same reason, you MUST bring the assigned reading(s) of the day to class. If you don't bring the text of the day to class, you are completely missing the point of literary studies, which is close textual analysis.**

There will be no extra credit assignments or opportunities to re-do and resubmit your work. That being said, if you need some guidance, help or advice with anything course-related, please visit me in my office during my office hours, and I will be very pleased to assist you in advance of the due date.

Double-sided printing of assignments is very highly encouraged in order to save paper and trees. Please feel free to use factory-recycled paper or even paper that has already been used on one side only. This is not only permissible but admirable. Just draw a line diagonally through material printed or written on the "wrong" side and make sure your pages are stapled in order as you would for any assignment.

Please **DO NOT** use any plastic cover sheets for your assignments. They have an annoying tendency to flap shut while one is trying to read and mark them, and using plastic also contributes to waste, chemical pollution and the generation of even more carbon. Just a simple staple in the upper left-hand corner of the page is perfect. Please staple or clamp your

work before handing it in. I do not normally carry a stapler with me to and from class nor is there likely to be one in the classroom. Handing in unfastened work increases the chances of loss of your work, late penalties, etc., and paper clips usually attach to other papers in a pile of papers and cause havoc.

Written assignments are due at the beginning of class on their respective due dates, and they must be physically handed to the instructor. At this point, I cannot accept electronic submissions (which is too bad as it would save paper and trees). If you absolutely cannot hand me your work in class, then do not shove your professional work under my (or anyone else's) office door. It can and does get trampled, lost, put under the wrong professor's door, discarded, etc. Instead hand them in via the English Dept. office between 8:30 and 4:30 (the office is closed from 12:00 to 1:00) or outside regular business hours via the Essay Drop Box just outside the English Department office. Assignments are date-stamped by the office staff at about 4:00 so if you have a strict deadline you should submit your work before 4:00. NOTE: The English Office is on the 11th floor of the Social Sciences Bldg. But if you hand your work directly to me, you avoid all these complexities.

Feedback. For each of your written assignments, I will give you editorial feedback on how you can improve the quality of your work. It is expected that you address any such deficiencies, errors or infelicities – or even if your writing is very good, you can always improve along the lines I highlight – prior to submitting your next assignment. To that end, I may ask you to submit both your new assignment and the previous (marked and graded) one so that I can note any improvements you have undertaken so please save your marked assignments.

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.

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: maboyn@ucalgary.ca.

Find The English Pages research guide here:

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.

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.

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. 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."

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.