

FACULTY OF ARTS
DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH
COURSE OUTLINE

ENGLISH 201.07

WINTER 2019

Approaches to Literature: Animals, Aliens, AIs

Instructor: Dr. Heather Osborne

Class: SA 129, Tuesdays and Thursdays 11:00 AM to 12:15 PM

Office: TBA

Phone: TBA

E-mail: hkosborn@ucalgary.ca

Office hours: Tuesdays, 5:30 PM - 6:30 PM, or by appointment

Course description:

When we read fiction about aliens, animals, and artificial intelligences, we are actually reading about ourselves. Fiction writers examine what sentience and ‘humanity’ mean to us by writing about non-humans. What moral responsibilities do we have towards the non-human people we encounter? In this course, we will read novels and short fiction about non-human characters who are as aware and alive as we are. English 201 is an introduction to the study of fiction, with an emphasis on critical reading and writing skills. At the end of the course, you will have a literary vocabulary with which to express your ideas; you will have learned how to write an essay defending an argument or thesis; and you will have a deeper understanding of the craft of storytelling. No prerequisites.

Course Goals:

Students in ENGL 201 will..

- Read stories both for their content and structure;
- Learn how an author creates a moral argument through fiction;
- Read critical and evaluative essays in order to learn rhetorical (argumentative) tools;
- Write responses to stories and essays from both personal and critical points of view;
- Using argumentative tools learned during the course, write a persuasive essay using supportive evidence from multiple sources.

Texts and Readings

* Mary Shelley, *Frankenstein* (1818)

Karel Capek, *R.U.R.* (1920)

Isaac Asimov, “Evidence” (1946)

* Ursula K. Le Guin, *The Word for World is Forest* (1974)

* Peter Dickinson, *Eva* (1988)

Ted Chiang, “The Lifecycle of Software Objects” (2010)

* Texts marked with an asterisk are available for purchase at the campus bookstore. I will make the other texts, including critical essays about the main texts, available as required.

Assignments

Weight	Assignment	Description
10%	Portfolio of in-class exercises (150 words per exercise, 5 exercises submitted for a total of 750 words).	Throughout the semester, I will assign written exercises during class time. Repetition is key to improving core writing skills, and these exercises will help students learn how to draft short, persuasive paragraphs that can 1) be developed into longer essays; or 2) act as practice for short answers in an exam situation. Students will choose five (5) exercises to polish and submit. There will be two submission dates during the semester. Students must submit at least two (2) exercises for each date.
20%	Close reading essay (1000 words)	Students will conduct a close reading of a section of one of the early texts (“Evidence”, <i>R.U.R.</i> , or <i>Frankenstein</i>). Students, with guidance, will choose a short excerpt from one of the readings of approximately 500 words that will be the main focus of their essay. The close reading will examine the how the excerpt is structured, how it relates to the text as a whole, and how it relates to the themes of the course.
15%	Midterm exam	Short answer questions (similar to the in-class exercises) based on the readings in the first half of the semester.
30%	Final essay (1000 words)	Students will write a persuasive essay focused on one of the themes of the course, using supportive evidence from two or more sources. One of the sources must be a text from the second half of the semester (<i>The Word for World is Forest</i> , <i>Eva</i> , or “The Lifecycle of Software Objects”). The 30% grade is broken down as follows: 5% paper proposal (150 words), 5% early draft (500-600 words), 20% final draft (1000 words).
20%	Final exam	The registrar-scheduled final exam will cover material from the entire course, with a focus on readings from the second half of the semester. This open-book exam will consist of short answer and essay questions. Students must be available for examinations up to the last day of the examination period of April 15 – April 27, 2019.

Submission of Assignments

Unless otherwise specified, assignments are due as electronic copies to D2L. Please upload as Word or PDF files. Label the file with your last name and the name of the assignment. Do not create a title page, but on the first page include the following information: your name, the instructor’s name, the course number and section, the date, and a brief, descriptive title. Please include page numbers in your document.

It is your responsibility to keep a copy of all assignments in case of loss by any cause.

There are no extra credit assignments in this class. Students must complete and submit all components of the course in order to receive a passing grade in the class.

Late and Missed Assignments

Every student has two days of grace that can be used for any component of the close reading or final persuasive paper. This allows students some flexibility in managing their workflow. After a student uses up their days of grace, graded assignments will be penalized by one-third of a letter grade (A- to B+) for each day they are late, including weekends.

Grading System

In this course, all essays, exams, and presentations will be assigned a letter grade alongside an equivalent percentage grade. The exact conversion of letter to percentage grade is at the instructor's discretion but will reflect the conversion scale below.

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.

Although the A+ is solely an honorific that entails no additional points in the 4-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.

Classroom Courtesy

There will be many opportunities to begin or work on drafts of writing exercises and assignments during class time. As such, students are responsible for bringing writing materials of their choice to every class.

Laptops, tablet computers, and smartphones are welcome in this class for writing and note-taking purposes. While in class, try not to distract yourself overmuch with any of these devices, but above all, don't distract others. Gaming, inappropriate browsing, and texting are NOT acts of courtesy, and students who are a distraction to others will be asked to cease the activity or leave the classroom.

Academic Integrity and Potential Triggers

The work you submit for this class must be your own. If you have any doubts about what constitutes plagiarism, appropriate citation and quotation, etc., please ask me or another campus resource—such as library staff—prior to handing in the assignment. This course will feature a number of works that address and challenge ideas and lived experiences on gender, sexuality, race, class, disability, and physical and psychological trauma. If you find yourself unable to complete or discuss a text, please let me know so that we can discuss accommodations. Additionally, while vigorous discussion and debate are encouraged in this course, it is with the firm expectation that all facets of the class will be conducted with civility and respect for differing perspectives, selves, and traditions. When in doubt (of any kind), please ask for clarification and guidance.

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 <https://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/academic-regs.html>

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>

Other student resources:

SU Wellness Centre: <https://www.ucalgary.ca/wellnesscentre/>

Campus Mental Health Strategy: <https://www.ucalgary.ca/mentalhealth/>

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://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/747/01/>

Students who are absent from class assessments (tests, participation activities, or other assignments) should inform their instructors as soon as possible. Instructors may request that evidence in the form of documentation be provided. If the reason provided for the absence is acceptable, instructors may decide that any arrangements made can take forms other than make-up tests or assignments. For example, the weight of a missed grade may be added to another assignment or test. For information on possible forms of documentation, including statutory declarations, please see <https://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/n-1.html>.

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.