

FACULTY OF ARTS
DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH

ENGLISH 203-04

Fall 2012

COURSE TITLE: Foundations: Literary Analysis: Play, Parody, Satire: Jonathan Swift

Instructor: David Oakleaf

Office: SS 1022

Phone: 403 220 4673

E-mail: oakleaf@ucalgary.ca

Office hours: T/R 11:00-12:00 [You're not confined to this time: talk to me after class or e-mail me to set up a mutually convenient appointment.]

Homepage/course website: Access course materials through our Blackboard site

Course description: In a nutshell: This course emphasizes the attentive close reading of literature and the process of presenting the results of that close reading in writing that is organized as argument backed by precise textual references. In the process, you will develop a more precise critical vocabulary and strategies for responding to contexts (historical, political, etc.) and to published literary criticism; that is, to arguments by other readers.

In this section ENGL 203, we'll develop these skills by reading a genuinely popular writer: Swift's poems adapt popular street cries and ballads; his masterpiece (*Travels*) has a long, successful history as a children's book. Yet many of his poems were long considered "unprintable"; meaning, of course, that they were often printed. Swift is also a savage satirist of the society he lived in. In England, he served as a government propagandist. In Ireland, he became a scathing Anglo-Irish critic of English and Irish administrations, leading the media campaign (as we'd call it) behind one of the most successful consumer boycotts in history. There's a lot in Swift to engage both your sense of wonder at its most childlike and your defensive alertness to corrosive irony at its most adult. Enjoy.

Notes: Compulsory for, and limited to, English Majors, Minors and Honours students.

Texts and readings:

Swift, Jonathan. *The Essential Writings of Jonathan Swift*. Ed. Claude Rawson and Ian Higgins. New York: Norton, 2010.

We will read a selection of poetry and prose, including *A Modest Proposal* and *Travels into Several Remote Nations of the World* (a.k.a. *Gulliver's Travels*). From time to time we'll supplement readings in Swift with online texts (links will be posted to Blackboard).

I haven't ordered a writing guide, but student needs access to a text outlining the basic rules of grammar and punctuation. There are many more or less equivalent guides, many available secondhand, and much advice is available online. Where do you turn when a parallel structure has gone awry or when you're wavering between the colon and semicolon?

Assignments and Evaluation:

- | | |
|---|-----|
| • close reading of a poem or a passage (c. 500 words) | 15% |
| • short argumentative essay (c. 750 words) | 20% |
| • abstract of argument posted to Blackboard (250 words) | 15% |
| • class discussion | 25% |
| • final essay (1200-1500 words) | 25% |

Notes:

- Class participation counts for a hefty quarter of your final grade because it matters. Discussion models the process of thoughtful reading, careful statement, and response to counter-argument that your writing will demonstrate more formally. In calculating this grade, I will consider all of the following:
 - comments demonstrating your thoughtful, informed engagement with our readings for each class (10%);
 - thoughtful engagement with classmates' comments and essay drafts, including constructive critiques (10%);
 - your regular, frequent presence in class (i.e., attendance) (5%).
- I will post topics for writing assignments posted to our Blackboard site.
- I will assign articles for abstracting, and will assign respondents to each posting.
- There will be **NO** Registrar scheduled exam in this course.
- Written assignments are due at the start of class on the due date. Failing this, they can be placed in the drop box in the English Department General Office, where they will be date stamped.
- The close reading and both essays must be submitted for a student to receive a passing grade in this course.
- The instructor reserves the right to deduct one third of a grade (turning an A- into a B+, for the unexcused late submission of assignments).
- Missed assignments (postings, for example) will receive failing grades.
- No particular assignment must be completed or passed in order to qualify for a passing grade in the course as a whole.

*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 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: [required]

- Assignments will receive grades according to the official grading system outlined in section F2 of the University Calendar: <http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/f-2>
 - Note that on this system, a grade of B means “Good - **clearly above average performance** with knowledge of subject matter generally complete.” [my emphasis]
 - According to the official grading system A+ (Outstanding) and A (Excellent-superior performance, showing comprehensive understanding of subject matter) both receive 4.0. In awarding these grades, I consider A to be the appropriate grade for the best work that I can reasonably expect at this level; an A+ rewards work that is better than that. An A+ on one or

more assignments forms part of the pattern of achievement I consider when determining final grades.

- Rounding grades up or down in determining a final grade is at the discretion of the instructor. In doing this I will consult the pattern of the student's achievement; for example, steady improvement or recovery from an evidently atypical mishap (sloppy essay, poor test score, etc.). In exceptional cases, I may underweight an obviously uncharacteristic grade (especially early) on an assignment. But this is not a free pass. I will consider your achievement on all components of the course, including class participation as well as writing. I will not, of course, give less than its full weight to a failing grade for a missed assignment.

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/content/scribe-and-muse-reading-and-writing-club>

Our email address is smrwc@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>.

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 a student’s responsibility to request academic accommodation. If you are a student with a disability who may require academic accommodation and if you have not registered with the Disability Resource Centre, please contact their office at 220-8237. Your academic accommodation letters should be provided to your instructor no later than fourteen (14) days after the commencement of this course.

Students who have not registered with the Disability Resource Centre are not eligible for formal academic accommodation. <http://www.ucalgary.ca/drc/>

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. 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>

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.