



COURSE TITLE: Monsters & Monstrosities			
Course Number	ENGL 251	WINTER 2020	
Faculty / Department	Faculty of Arts/Department of English		
Instructor Name	Mikka Jacobsen	Email	mikka.jacobsen@ucalgary.ca
Instructor Email Policy			
Office Location	SS1117	Telephone No:	
Office Hours	Monday 11:00 – 12:00, or by appointment		
Class Dates/Times/Location	M/W/F 10:00 – 10:50, ES 054		

### Course description:

What can monsters tell us about ourselves? How have historically and geographically diverse writers approached monstrosities? And to what purpose? This course asks how extraordinary creatures trouble the so-called normal nature of things. Reading across time and genre—starting with Shakespeare’s *The Tempest* and ending with David Chariandy’s *Soucouyant*—students will consider what literary monsters might reveal about the limits, possibilities, and horrors of human life. Each text begs the question: who and what is truly monstrous? The course will focus on textual analysis, critical thinking, and writing skills—particularly close reading, explication, and argument.

### Texts and readings:

William Shakespeare, *The Tempest* (The Arden Shakespeare, Revised Edition)  
 Mary Shelley, *Frankenstein* (1818 text, Broadview, 3<sup>rd</sup> Edition)  
 Franz Kafka, *The Metamorphosis and Other Stories* (Translated by Ian Johnston, Broadview)  
 Eden Robinson, *Monkey Beach* (Vintage)  
 David Chariandy, *Soucouyant* (Arsenal)

Selected poems, available online via D2L.

### Assignments and Evaluation:

#### Free-Writing Responses: 15% of final grade (3 x 5% each)

Students are required to submit three free-writing responses over the course of the term (one double-spaced page, approx. 300 words). Responses can be creative or critical in nature and should reflect a genuine engagement with a chosen text. A difficult passage, a surprising metaphor, a curious ending, a frustrating character: whatever excites, perplexes, or annoys is good material for a free-writing response. Responses need not be argumentative but should offer a substantial, thoughtful, and hopefully surprising insight about the experience of reading a particular play, poem, or novel. Quality of writing and depth of thought matter here. Responses must refrain from merely summarizing plot, and sentences should be precise and grammatically sound. **Students may respond to any three texts of their choosing. Responses must be submitted via D2L Dropbox by 11:59pm on the date specified on the course schedule. Late submissions will not be accepted for this assignment.**

**Close-Reading Responses: 15% of final grade (3 x 5% each)**

Over the course of the term, students will submit three close-reading responses. These responses take the form of a paragraph and should be no longer than one double-spaced page (approx. 300 words). Analytical in nature, a close-reading response allows students to practice crafting formal, argumentative paragraphs that could support the thesis of a longer essay.

**In-Class Midterm: 15% of final grade**

Midway through the semester, students will write an in-class midterm exam. The midterm consists of multiple-choice and short-answer questions. It will cover the texts, literary concepts, and writing techniques discussed in class up to this point.

**Research Essay: 25% of final grade**

An argumentative paper of 1250 words, the research essay provides an opportunity for students to practice engaging with critical texts to bolster their own literary analysis. All assignments should have a clear, cogent thesis and be supported by the use of two secondary sources. Sources must be cited using MLA format.

**Final Exam: 30% of final grade**

**The final exam will be an open-book examination consisting of a single essay question. The exam will be distributed on the last day of classes (Wednesday, April 15) via D2L. Completed exams must be submitted via D2L dropbox by Saturday, April 25<sup>th</sup>, 10:30am. Late exams will not be accepted.**

**Please note: the final exam will be optional. Students who decide not to write the exam will receive as a final grade their cumulative mark for term course work. There will be no penalty for not writing the exam. Students who want to improve their course grade should plan to complete the exam, but do keep in mind that there is the possibility that a term grade could go down based on the outcome of the final.**

**You will know your cumulative grade for course work on the last day of scheduled classes (April 15<sup>th</sup>) when I return your research essays. I will send out the final-exam instructions this same day. You will likely want to wait until you know your grade for all course work before you decide whether or not you will choose to write the final exam. You do not need to inform me of your decision either way.**

**If you have not submitted the final exam to the D2L dropbox by Saturday, April 25<sup>th</sup>, 10:30am, you will be assigned the cumulative grade for all completed course work as your final grade for the course.**

**Additional Regulations:**

**All assignments must be now submitted via D2L dropbox.**

**Beyond the Free-Writing Responses and Final Exam, late assignments are accepted.** Assignments submitted after the deadline will be penalized with the loss of a third of a grade (an A- to B+) for each business day [not class] that the assignment is overdue. No assignments will be accepted one week past the assignment deadline without the prior consent of the instructor.

Please capture and maintain (i.e. take a screenshot) of the confirmation of submission you automatically receive when uploading work to the D2L dropbox.

**You do not have to complete all assignments in order to receive a passing grade. There are no extra-credit assignments allowed.**

**Grading system:**

All assignments will be marked using the University of Calgary's 4-point Grading System:

90 + %	A+	4.0	67 – 69 %	C+	2.3
85 – 89 %	A	4.0	64 – 66 %	C	2.0
80 – 84 %	A–	3.7	60 – 63 %	C–	1.7
77 – 79 %	B+	3.3	55 – 59 %	D+	1.3
74 – 76 %	B	3.0	50 – 54 %	D	1.0
70 – 73 %	B–	2.7	0 – 49 %	F	0

Please note that, according to the University Calendar (F.1)

<https://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/f-1.html>, 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 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.

**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 <https://arts.ucalgary.ca/english>. 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](mailto:maboyn@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:** <https://www.ucalgary.ca/student-services/ombuds/role>

### **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://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/m-1.html>.

## **DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH STATEMENT ON PRINCIPLES OF CONDUCT**

According to the University Calendar; <https://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/k-2.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.