



UNIVERSITY OF
CALGARY

HOW TO SURVIVE THE ZOMBIE APOCALYPSE			
Course Number	ENGL 251.06	Winter 2021	
Faculty / Department	Faculty of Arts / Department of English		
Instructor	Dr. Derritt Mason (he/him) Dr. Faye Halpern (she/hers)	Email	derritt.mason@ucalgary.ca fhalpern@ucalgary.ca
Teaching Assistants	Leah Van Dyk (she/hers) leah.vandyk@ucalgary.ca Janelle Grue (she/hers) janelle.grue@ucalgary.ca Omar Ramadan (he/him) omar.ramadan.1@ucalgary.ca Please note that all course communications must occur through your @ucalgary email. We answer email during regular business hours: Mon-Fri, 9am-5pm. Please allow up to 48 hours for a response.		
Office Location	Zoom		
Office Hours	FH: R, 1:30-2:30 DM: R, 1:30-2:30 JG: W, 1-2 OR: R, 10-11 LV: T, 10-11		
Class Dates/Times/Location	Tuesday & Thursday on Zoom, 8-9:15am (for SIX synchronous sessions. See reading schedule for dates)		

Course Description:

The zombies are coming, and they are after your brains! In this class, students will learn how to survive the zombie apocalypse (or at least learn how to analyze fictional zombies) as well as develop techniques to analyze literature and write academic essays. These techniques of literary analysis will enable students to get at deeper meanings in poems, short stories, and novels--and learn that they make them more interesting to read. They include recognizing the surface of a text and what's beneath it (surface/depth reading); identifying meaningful patterns in a text; describing the significance of character, setting, perspective, and a variety of literary devices; making connections between a text and its surrounding context; and interpreting the social relevance of a text. Upon successful completion of the class, students will be able to interpret and write about fictional zombies in ways that go beyond the obvious. Having survived the literary zombie apocalypse, students will depart the class with their brains intact (almost guaranteed). This class has no prerequisites.

Course Learning Outcomes.

By the end of the class, students will be able to:

Skills Regarding Analyzing Literary Texts

- Apply different strategies of literary analysis (discussed in the course description) in order to generate non-obvious interpretations of a literary work

- Apply those strategies to zombie texts in particular
- Uncover how literary texts featuring zombies speak to their current moment (zombies are never just zombies).
- Describe how one could experience pleasure in digging deeply into a text

Skills Regarding Writing About Literary Texts

- Formulate a debatable thesis
- Persuade readers of your thesis with textual evidence

This course will take place **online** via Desire2Learn (D2L) and occasionally Zoom. To succeed in the course, you will need to complete the asynchronous learning tasks using the D2L learning environment and participate in the synchronous sessions on Zoom. Full-class synchronous sessions will be recorded and posted online, but synchronous sessions hosted by individual instructors will not be recorded or shared.

There will be **SIX synchronous sessions** throughout the term, to be held on **Tuesdays & Thursdays** from **8-9:15am MST**. For more information, please see the class reading schedule.

Primary Texts (available in ebook or print formats):

Textbook:

Wolfe, Joanne, and Laura Wilder. *Digging into Literature: Strategies for Reading, Analysis, and Writing*. Bedford/St. Martin's, 2016.

Fiction:

Ireland, Justina. *Dread Nation*. HarperCollins, 2019.

*** Additional readings will be made available online via D2L. Please see the reading schedule for more information.**

Learning Technologies and Requirements:

The required readings and other relevant class resources and materials can be found on D2L (please see <https://d2l.ucalgary.ca/d2l/home/357027>)

In order to successfully engage in learning experiences at the University of Calgary, students taking online, remote and blended courses are required to have reliable access to the following technology:

- A computer with a supported operating system, as well as the latest security, and malware updates;
- A current and updated web browser;
- Webcam (built-in or external);
- Microphone and speaker (built-in or external), or headset with microphone;
- Current antivirus and/or firewall software enabled;

- Broadband internet connection.

Most current laptops will have a built-in webcam, speaker and microphone.

Assignments and Evaluation

- **Participation Exercises (30%).**

There are six exercises, spaced throughout the term, designed to allow you to practice the skills we will be discussing in each module. You will submit them to the D2L dropbox. Each one is worth up to 2 points (more details under “Assignments” in D2L). Here is how the total points you receive translate into a grade: 12 points=A+ (90%); 10-11 points=A (87%); 9 points=B (75%); 8 points = C (65%); 7 points=D (52%), 5-6 points=F (49%); 0-4 points=No credit (0%).

- **Short essay (20%): *Digging Below the Surface of a Poem (700-750 words)***

This essay will give you the chance to put the techniques you’ve been practicing to use and engage in one of the most fundamental moves of literary analysis. More details under “Assignments” in D2L.

- **Final Essay Assignment (40%): *Zombies Are Never Just Zombies: Making an Argument About the Zombies in Dread Nation (1000-1200 words)***. Due at the end of the course, this essay allows you to put together what you’ve been learning about analyzing literary texts and writing academic essays. Even though you will be making an argument about a literary text, what you’ll be doing in terms of formulating a debatable claim and backing it up with evidence can be transferred to classes outside of English. More details under “Assignments” in D2L.

- **Participation Self-Assessment (10%):** At the end of class, you will assess your level of participation in the course. Your assessment will be based on 3 factors: what percentage of the course readings you have completed, what percentage of the asynchronous and synchronous sessions you have attended and/or watched; and what level of participation you’ve demonstrated in your synchronous section sessions.

Late Assignments:

Because these are difficult times and emergencies can easily arise, you are allowed to turn in any *one* assignment up to two days late. However, you do need to let your section leader know you are taking the extension at least twenty-four hours before it's due. Turning in more than one assignment late will result in a 1/3 grade deduction on that assignment for every day late. You cannot split up the extension and use it for more than one assignment.

Students must complete both essays in order to qualify for a passing grade in this course.

There is no final exam in this course. All assignments will be submitted online, via D2L. Assignments submitted via email will not be accepted unless prior arrangements have been made.

Conduct:

When participating in class, please keep in mind that we all bring a diversity of knowledge, lived experiences, and blind spots to the table. Engaging in lively discussion and debate is one of the most rewarding parts of the university experience; please remain collegial at all times when interacting with your fellow students and instructors, even if you find yourselves disagreeing. Racist, sexist, homo/queer/transphobic, or otherwise inflammatory remarks will not be tolerated in the classroom.

Students, employees, and academic staff are expected to demonstrate behaviour in class that promotes and maintains a positive and productive learning environment. For more details, see the University of Calgary Calendar, the Code of Conduct and Non-Academic Misconduct policy and procedures, which can be found at <http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/k.html>

Expectations Around Turning In Your Own Work

You are expected to be the sole author of the writing you do for this class—no part of it should be written by someone else or taken from the web. Academic writers often *incorporate* the words of other scholars to help them make their own points; when you do this, you need to make it clear when you are including the words or ideas of other writers, including any anonymous writers from the web. We'll discuss in class how to use parenthetical references and a works cited list to do this.

If you feel pressured or tempted to violate any of these expectations, please let your designated instructor know, and you and they can work together to figure out a way for you to succeed in the course without having to resort to these activities.

Internet and Email Use:

Students are responsible for being aware of the University's Internet and email use policy, which can be found at <https://www.ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/electronic-communications-policy.pdf>

Guidelines for Online Sessions:

Zoom is video conferencing software that will allow us to meet at specific times for a live video conference, so that we can have the opportunity to gather virtually and discuss relevant course topics as a learning community.

To help ensure sessions are private, please do not share conferencing links or passwords with others, or on any social media platforms. Course links and passwords are only intended for students registered in the class. Zoom recordings and materials presented on Zoom/D2L, including any teaching materials, must not be shared, distributed or published without the instructor's permission.

The use of video conferencing programs relies on participants to act ethically, honestly and with integrity, and in accordance with the principles of fairness, good faith, and respect (as per the [Code of](#)

Conduct). When entering video conferencing sessions, you play a role in helping create an effective, safe and respectful learning environment. Please be mindful of how your behaviour in these sessions may affect others. Participants are required to use names officially associated with their UCID (legal or preferred names listed in the Student Centre) when engaging in these activities.

Instructors/moderators can remove those whose names do not appear on class rosters. Non-compliance may be investigated under relevant University of Calgary conduct policies (e.g [Student Non-Academic Misconduct Policy](#)). If participants have difficulties complying with this requirement, they should email the instructor of the class explaining why, so the instructor may consider whether to grant an exception, and on what terms. For more information on how to get the most out of your Zoom sessions visit: <https://elearn.ucalgary.ca/guidelines-for-zoom/>.

Please be prepared, as best as you are able, to join class in a quiet space that will allow you to be fully present and engaged in Zoom sessions. Students will be advised by their instructor when they are expected to turn on their webcam (for group work, presentations, etc.).

The instructor may record online class sessions for the purposes of supporting student learning in this class – such as making the recording available for review of the session or for students who miss a session. Students will be advised before the instructor initiates a recording of a Zoom session. These recordings will be used to support student learning only and will not be shared or used for any other purpose.

Grading System:

In this course, assignments will receive a numerical grade, to be converted using the following scale:

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. **Our policy: we round grades upwards if they are within 0.50% of a higher grade. Please do not contact us to request an adjustment to your final grade unless (1) you suspect we have made an error, or (2) you are planning to formally appeal your results.**

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.

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. “Plagiarism” occurs when a Student presents the ideas, expression of ideas or work of another individual as the Student’s own. Work may include algorithms, code, composition, data, methods, design, formulae, images, indigenous oral teachings, art and ceremonies, organization of ideas, and scientific and mathematical concepts.

<https://ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/student-academic-misconduct-policy.pdf>

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 <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: maboym@ucalgary.ca.

Find The English Pages research guide here:

<https://library.ucalgary.ca/sb.php?subjectid=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/welcome.html>

Grade appeals:

Consult the following University Calendar link and request advice from the English Department office, SS 1152 or email adveng@ucalgary.ca. 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: <https://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/b-6-1.html>

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

<https://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/b-6.html>

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 <https://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/b-6-2.html>

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.

***INSTRUCTOR'S INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY**

Course materials created by instructors (including presentations and posted notes, labs, case studies, assignments and exams) remain the intellectual property of the instructor. These materials may NOT be reproduced, redistributed or copied without the explicit consent of the instructor. The posting of course materials to third party websites such as note-sharing sites without permission is prohibited. Sharing of extracts of these course materials with other students enrolled in the course at the same time may be allowed under fair dealing.

***FREEDOM OF INFORMATION AND PROTECTION OF PRIVACY**

Student information will be collected in accordance with typical (or usual) classroom practice. Students' assignments will be accessible only by the authorized course faculty. Private information related to the individual student is treated with the utmost regard by the faculty at the University of Calgary.

***COPYRIGHT LEGISLATION**

All students are required to read the University of Calgary policy on Acceptable Use of Material Protected by Copyright (<https://www.ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/acceptable-use-of-material-protected-by-copyright-policy.pdf>) and requirements of the copyright act (<https://laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/eng/acts/C-42/index.html>) to ensure they are aware of the consequences of

unauthorised sharing of course materials (including instructor notes, electronic versions of textbooks etc.). Students who use material protected by copyright in violation of this policy may be disciplined under the Non-Academic Misconduct Policy <https://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/k.html>.

***MEDIA RECORDING (if applicable)**

Please refer to the following statement on media recording of students: <https://elearn.ucalgary.ca/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/Media-Recording-in-Learning-Environments-OSPFINAL.pdf>

***Media recording for lesson capture**

The instructor may use media recordings to capture the delivery of a lecture. These recordings are intended to be used for lecture capture only and will not be used for any other purpose. Although the recording device will be fixed on the Instructor, in the event that incidental student participation is recorded, the instructor will ensure that any identifiable content (video or audio) is masked, or will seek consent to include the identifiable student content to making the content available on University approved platforms.

***Media recording for self-assessment of teaching practices**

The instructor may use media recordings as a tool for self-assessment of their teaching practices. Although the recording device will be fixed on the instructor, it is possible that student participation in the course may be inadvertently captured. These recordings will be used for instructor self-assessment only and will not be used for any other purpose.

***Media recording for the assessment of student learning**

The instructor may use media recordings as part of the assessment of students. This may include but is not limited to classroom discussions, presentations, clinical practice, or skills testing that occur during the course. These recordings will be used for student assessment purposes only and will not be shared or used for any other purpose.

SEXUAL VIOLENCE POLICY

The University recognizes that all members of the University Community should be able to learn, work, teach and live in an environment where they are free from harassment, discrimination, and violence. The University of Calgary's sexual violence policy guides us in how we respond to incidents of sexual violence, including supports available to those who have experienced or witnessed sexual violence, or those who are alleged to have committed sexual violence. It provides clear response procedures and timelines, defines complex concepts, and addresses incidents that occur off-campus in certain circumstances. Please see the policy available at <https://www.ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/sexual-violence-policy.pdf>

***OTHER IMPORTANT INFORMATION**

Please visit the Registrar's website at: <https://www.ucalgary.ca/registrar/registration/course-outlines> for additional important information on the following:

- Wellness and Mental Health Resources
- Student Success
- Student Ombuds Office

- Student Union (SU) Information
- Graduate Students' Association (GSA) Information
- Emergency Evacuation/Assembly Points
- Safewalk

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/m-1.html>.

DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH STATEMENT ON PRINCIPLES OF CONDUCT

According to the University Calendar

“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.