



UNIVERSITY OF
CALGARY

FACULTY OF ARTS
Department Of English

COURSE OUTLINE

ENGL 251 Literature and Society: L04 Worlds We Could Become

Winter 2022

MWF 14:00 – 14:50 / Room: ST 130

Instructor	Shuyin Yu
Email:	shuyin.yu1@ucalgary.ca Please note that all course communications must occur through your @ucalgary email. I answer emails during on business days within 48 hours.
Web Page:	D2L (access via MyUofC portal)
Office Hours:	W 12:45 – 13:45 Room SS 1117. Or via Zoom. Other times available via appointment.

Course description:

If you could build your own world, what would you do?

What would you change? What heroes would you write about; what dangers would you encounter; what magic would you imbue into the world? And what would remain the same?

What stories would you echo; what histories would you revisit; who are the people you would want to see?

This course wants to take you on an adventure through a selection of speculative works and explore worlds of *what-ifs* and *could-bes* while never forgetting to ground those stories in this world that we are living in. We will learn about what is considered ‘canonical’ English literary tropes and histories and contexts, then we will step outside of establishment English literature into spaces often forgotten to listen to voices often ignored. Even though we are covering uncomfortable, difficult, and controversial topics (such as trauma, colonialism, abuse, assault, etc.), we are also going to experience vulnerable, valuable, and joyous moments. These stories and worlds are a lot like our own in that way. We will explore what happens when metaphors are literal in *Manifest*; we will listen to many different voices in *Love After the End* we will visit the silkpunk land of Ea in *The Black Tides of Heaven*; and we will find magic hidden inside our own world in *The City We Became*. Maybe, by exploring these other imagined worlds, we can also learn a little more about our own social, historical, and cultural contexts and their importance. Along the way, this course will introduce you to a few different genres (poetry, short stories, novels, etc.), show you a few tricks for unpacking different forms of media, and teach you how to ask questions that you can then seek to answer. This course will teach you how to read closely,

form a thesis, develop your analysis, look for evidence, write a formal essay, and connect those ideas to their impact in the real world.

From the Calendar: ENGL 251 Literature and Society

An examination of the relationship of literature to the world around us, with instruction in close reading and critical writing. Considers how literature as a cultural practice responds to and reflects its social context. Includes the study of at least one text by an Indigenous author.

Course Hours: 3 units.

Antirequisite(s): Credit for English 251 and 201 will not be allowed.

Course learning outcomes:

By the end of the course, you should have the following skills:

Reading Skills:

- Close-reading and noticing details, thinking about the meaning behind those details, and understanding the significance of those details.
- Recognizing literary patterns, like the conventions of the speculative literary genre; and analyze formal elements, like tropes, schemes, and figures of speech.
- Generate unique interpretations of a literary work and connect the text to broader contexts and themes.

Writing Skills:

- Write a convincing/persuasive academic paper using the conventions of English as an academic discipline
- Form an argumentative thesis statement/craft a persuasive argumentative paragraph by scaffolding claims, evidence, and analysis.
- Research within the field of English Literature and citation of academic papers.
- Engage in meaningful conversations about literature with your peers and enter academic discourse through your writing.

Texts and readings:

Required Texts (available at the bookstore; *marks books available as audiobooks):

Foster, Thomas C. *How to Read Literature Like a Professor*. *

Pierre, Terese Mason. *Manifest*.

Whitehead, Joshua (editor). *Love After the End*.

Jemisin, N.K. *The City We Became*. * (Book 1 of *Great Cities Series*.)

Yang, Neon. *The Black Tides of Heaven*. * (Book 1 of *Tensorate Series*.)

Required Digital Texts (available through D2L Leganto):

Ellis, Lindsay. “Death of the Author.”

———. “The Whole Plate” Series. (Episodes 5-8.)

Weekes, Princess. “Afrofuturism: From Books to Blockbusters | It’s Lit.”

Bee, Zoe. “Poetics (or, What makes poems good?) | A Professor Explains.”

Michelin, Ossie. “How to Talk about Indigenous People.”

King, Thomas. *The Truth About Stories*. Massey Lectures.

Sanchez, Nikki. "Decolonization is for Everyone."

Recommended Reference Texts (available at the bookstore or on Leganto):

Tuck, Eve, and K. Wayne Yang. "Decolonization is not a metaphor."

Adams, Stephen. *Poetic Designs*.

Abrams, M.H. *Glossary of Literary Terms*.

MLA Handbook, 9th Edition.

Assessments and Evaluation:

Analysis #1 – 15% – Due February 4

Students will analyze one of two poems selected from *Manifest* to craft a short analytical paper (650-900 words) based on close-reading. The paper will function like a take-home exam. Class time has been scheduled for students to write the paper in person (either digitally or physically), but students are welcome to write the paper on their own time/in other spaces. The essay prompts will be posted the day before the paper is due, and students will have until the end of the day to submit their papers.

Revision Worksheet – 5% – Due February 11

Students will revise their papers (partners optional) by following the instruction guide on how to colour-code their Analysis #1. They are then expected to write a short response (250-450 words) which analyse their writing styles as well as their strengths and weaknesses. The worksheet is graded qualitatively according to the undergraduate grading system.

Analysis #2 – 20% – Due February 18

Students write an analytical paper (950-1350 words) on *Manifest* or *Love After the End*. Students should make a persuasive argument that is based on close-reading and introductory theory. Students may and are encouraged to draw upon theories in class, but Analysis #2 will not require secondary sources. The essay prompts will be posted at least one week in advance.

Library and Research Worksheet – 10% – Due April 1

Students will choose either *The Black Tides of Heaven* or *The City We Became* as their focus for Analysis #3. They will pose 1-2 questions for further research and summarize 1-2 peer-reviewed articles that they will engage with. They will then use those sources to complete the Library and Research worksheet. Students are expected to have at least one peer reviewed source. The worksheet is graded qualitatively according to the undergraduate grading system.

Analysis #3 – 25% – Due April 8

Students write an analytical-research paper (1350-1850 words) on *The Black Tides of Heaven* or *The City We Became*. Analysis #3 will require secondary sources as well as close reading. Students should make a nuanced persuasive argument that engages with the text as well as the academic discourse (conversations). The essay prompts will be posted at least two weeks in advance.

Final Exam – 25% – TBD

A registrar-scheduled final exam will take place during the exam period at the end of the semester. The final exam will be cumulative and include multiple-choice questions, short-answer questions, and short analyses based on passage identification. Students are allowed to bring with them one double-sided 8.5”x11” sheet of handwritten notes. Students should keep in mind the dates of the exam period, during which students need to be available for the registrar-scheduled exam.

Grade Breakdown:

Assignment	Weight	Due Date	Expected Length
Analysis #1	15%	February 4	650 – 900 words
Revision	5%	February 11	250 – 450 words
Analysis #2	20%	March 4	950 – 1350 words
Research Worksheet	10%	April 1	
Analysis #3	25%	April 8	1350 – 1850 words
Final Exam	25%	(TBD between April 19-29)	
Total	100%		

Assignments must be submitted via D2L in .docx, .doc, or .pdf format. 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 that the assignment is overdue. No assignments will be accepted one week past the assignment deadline without the prior consent of the instructor. All assignments need not be completed to obtain a passing grade.

Attendance and participation expectations:

Students are encouraged to attend class regularly and to be fully present and engaged in class activities and discussions. Students are required to follow University Covid Policies, including social distancing and isolation requirements. Students who cannot make it to class should message the instructor as soon as possible to make up the necessary materials.

Learning technology requirements:

Students will need to have internet access to the course D2L site which contains required readings and other relevant class resources and materials. It is strongly recommended that students have access to a smart device (phone, tablet, laptop) to answer quizzes in class, though physical handwritten assignments will also be accepted. In the case of the class being moved online for unforeseen circumstances (pandemic, weather, etc.), it is recommended students have a device with a webcam/microphone and an operating system that can host Zoom.

Policy on use of electronic devices:

The use of laptop and mobile devices in class is acceptable when used in a manner appropriate to the course and classroom activities. Please refrain from accessing websites and resources that

may be distracting to you or for other learners during class time. Students are responsible for being aware of the University's [Internet and email use policy](#).

Conduct:

Students, employees, and academic staff are also expected to demonstrate behaviour in class that promotes and maintains a positive and productive learning environment. As members of the University community, students, employees, and academic staff are expected to demonstrate conduct that is consistent with 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>

Grading System:

Explanation of how you arrive at final grades: whether you use the 4-point system entirely or a combination of percentages and letter grades. If, the latter, please note that the department has now standardized the percentage conversion scale.

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

“Students must reach the minimum percentage threshold for the grade range to receive that letter grade (e.g., to receive an A- a student will have surpassed the minimum threshold of 80.00% in the course).”

- There is no D- grade.
- 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 far exceeds expectations in style, correctness, intellectual depth and breadth, sophistication, and originality.
- The interpretation of the undergraduate university grading system can be found at <https://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/f-1-1.html>

Academic Integrity:

This course, like all courses at the University of Calgary, holds students to high standards of honest and responsible scholarship. Please consult the [Academic Integrity website](#) for a detailed description of university policies, which will be enforced in this course. Cases of suspected academic misconduct will be referred to the Associate Dean of Arts for a ruling.

Plagiarism is a type of academic misconduct. Plagiarism occurs when a student presents the ideas, expression of ideas, or work of another person as their own. Another equally serious form of plagiarism occurs when a student submits something they have written themselves for credit in two or more courses without first securing written permission from all those course instructors. Consequences for plagiarism include failure on the assignment, failure in the course, and possible suspension or expulsion from the university. Using any source whatsoever without clearly documenting it is a serious academic offense.

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](#) must be completed. It is the student's responsibility to initiate this process with the instructor. The University also has regulations governing the [deferral of final examinations](#).

Grade appeals:

To pursue a Reassessment of Graded Term Work or a Reappraisal of an Academic Assessment, Consult the [University Calendar](#) and request advice from the English Department at engl@ucalgary.ca. Please note that mere dissatisfaction with a grade is not sufficient grounds for an appeal.

English Department website:

[English Department Website](https://arts.ucalgary.ca/english): <https://arts.ucalgary.ca/english>

For more information about courses, programs, policies, events, and contacts in the Department of English.

Scribe and Muse Club for English Students:

The [Scribe and Muse Reading and Writing Club](#) fosters and champions reading and writing through community service, leadership, and engagement. The email address is smecuofc@gmail.com.

Writing support:

[The Student Success Centre](#) offers both online and workshop writing support for U of C students.

Academic Regulations and Schedules:

[Academic regulations and schedules](https://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/academic-regs.html): <https://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/academic-regs.html>

Student Academic Accommodations:

The Student Accessibility Services website is available [here](https://ucalgary.ca/student-services/access/prospective-students/academic-accommodations): <https://ucalgary.ca/student-services/access/prospective-students/academic-accommodations>.

University accommodation policies can be found at the following links:

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

<https://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/b-6-1.html>

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

Program Advising and Student Information Resources

is done through the Faculty of Arts Students' Centre. Office location: SS102; phone: 403-220-3580; email: ascarts@ucalgary.ca

Website: <http://arts.ucalgary.ca/undergraduate>

Instructor's Intellectual Property

Course materials created by instructors, including presentations, 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 usual classroom practice. Students' assignments will be accessible only by the authorized course faculty and teaching assistants. Private information related to the individual student is treated with the utmost regard by the faculty at the University of Calgary.

Sexual violence policy:

<https://www.ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/sexual-violence-policy.pdf>

Other important information:

- [Wellness and Mental Health Resources](#)
- [Student Success](#)
- [Student Ombuds Office](#)
- [Student Union \(SU\) Information](#)
- [Emergency Evacuation/Assembly Points](#)
- [Safewalk](#)

Universal Student Ratings of Instruction (USRI):

Please participate in [USRI Surveys](#) toward the end of the course. The feedback they provide helps us evaluate teaching, enhance student learning, and guide students as they select courses.