

Instructor: Michael Tavel Clarke
Winter 2022
TuTh 11:00-12:15
Science Theatres 127
Course Web Page: <https://d2l.ucalgary.ca>

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FACULTY OF ARTS
DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH
COURSE SYLLABUS
251.06 LITERATURE AND SOCIETY:
LOVE AND ROMANCE IN LITERATURE

Course Description

Do concepts of love and romance vary over time and across social groups? What can romance stories tell us about our culture(s), including differences across cultures and the power of our social environment to shape some of our most intimate desires and beliefs?

In this course we will explore contemporary notions of romantic love that sustain the romance novel, arguably the most popular form of North American literature today. We will also consider the origins and development of those notions and the history of the romance genre. Our readings will begin with a pioneering modern romance, Charlotte Brontë's *Jane Eyre*. From there we will move to contemporary romances, including Indigenous romances for young adult readers and a novel that challenges the romance tradition, Xiaolu Guo's *A Concise Chinese-English Dictionary for Lovers*.

This course will use assigned texts to introduce students to literary studies as an academic discipline on the university level. Through close reading, critical writing and rewriting, and thoughtful discussion of specific texts, students will develop the practical skills necessary in the discipline. Writing will be considered as both a process of discovery and an academic practice with particular forms and conventions.

Required Texts

Charlotte Brontë, *Jane Eyre*
Cynthia Leitich Smith, "A Real-Live Blond Cherokee and His Equally Annoyed Soul Mate" (link provided in D2L)
Susan Power, "Reunion" (link provided in D2L)
Xiaolu Guo, *A Concise Chinese-English Dictionary for Lovers*
Excerpt from Lawrence Stone, *The Family, Sex and Marriage in England 1500-1800* (link provided in D2L)
Excerpt from Ian Watt, *The Rise of the Novel* (link provided in D2L)
Excerpt from Mandy Suhr-Sytsma, *Self-Determined Stories: The Indigenous Reinvention of Young Adult Literature* (link provided in D2L)

Recommended Texts

Wolfe and Wilder, *Digging into Literature* (2016)
A good dictionary and thesaurus
A good grammar manual

Course Requirements

	<u>Percentage of Final Grade</u>
Essay 1 (600 words)	30%
Essay 2 (900 words)	30%
Writing Exercises (1,000-2,000 words in total)	15%
Final Exam	25%

Learning Outcomes

- Students will practice analyzing different elements of fiction, including plot, characterization, symbols, style, etc., and they will consider the implications of these things for the meaning of texts.

- By writing essays, preparing informal written exercises, and engaging in class discussions, students will practice close reading, including generating insights about the details of texts and using those insights to develop and support debatable arguments about literature.
- Students will read scholarship in literary studies and practice conversing with scholars about literature as students develop their own written scholarly arguments.
- Students will learn about the history of romance fiction in English and some of the enduring debates about the form. They will also learn about the cultural influences on romance fiction, and changing ideas of love.

About the Assignments

Essay 1 requires a close reading of a selected passage from Brontë's *Jane Eyre*. Essay 2 demands engagement with a scholarly argument about Indigenous romances. Writing exercises include 6 or more in-class and out-of-class assignments designed to help you practice the major skills in the course. Essays are graded with a letter (A-F). A separate document on D2L explains the grading criteria for essays in more detail. Writing exercises are due in a portfolio submitted no later than Apr. 12 and evaluated on the basis of completeness and care. Some of the exercises will be described in assignments posted on D2L, while others will be announced in class only, so attendance is important for success on these exercises. No books, computers, or electronic devices are allowed at the final exam.

Grading System

You must complete both essays and the final exam to qualify for a passing grade. There are no extra credit opportunities available in the course. Students must be available for examinations up to the last day of the examination period, Apr. 29.

The University of Calgary's four-point Grading System, as described in the Calendar (<http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/f-2.html>), will be used in this course.

A+/A (4.0); A- (3.7); B+ (3.3); B (3.0); B- (2.7); C+ (2.3); C (2.0); C- (1.7); D+ (1.3); D (1.0); 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).”

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 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.

Late Assignments

Each essay will have two deadlines. Students who submit an essay by the earlier deadline will receive written feedback on their work. Students who submit an essay by the later deadline will receive a grade with no written feedback. An essay may not be submitted later than the second deadline without prior permission. The writing exercise portfolio also may not be submitted late without prior permission. If a legitimate emergency (illness, death in the family, etc.) prevents you from submitting an assignment on time or getting prior permission for an extension, you must provide supporting documentation and contact Dr. Clarke as soon as possible to discuss alternative arrangements. Assignments submitted late without permission or documentation of emergency will be penalized a third of a grade for each late day (e.g., an A paper that is one day late will receive an A-, two days late a B+, and so on; weekend days and holidays are counted in this total).

Turning in Assignments

Essays should be submitted through the digital dropbox on D2L. Writing exercises should be submitted as a portfolio (do not submit writing exercises individually) no later than the last day of class. If these submission methods are not possible, you may deliver assignments in hard copy to Social Sciences 1152 and put them in the drop box, where your work will be date-stamped and placed in Dr. Clarke's mailbox. Please keep a copy of your assignment in case of loss. Assignments cannot be returned by staff in the department office. Assignments may not be delivered by email without prior permission.

Learning Technology Requirements

There is a D2L site for this course which contains required readings and other relevant class resources and materials (see d2L.ucalgary.ca).

Conduct

Students, employees, and academic staff are 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>

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](#). Electronic devices are not permitted during the Final Examination.

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 Deferral 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

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. Our 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

Student Academic Accommodations

The Student Accessibility Services website is available [here](#). University accommodation policies can be found at the following links:

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

<https://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/b-6.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](#)
- [Graduate Students' Association \(GSA\) 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.