



FACULTY OF ARTS
Department of English

COURSE OUTLINE

ENGL 251-L01: Literature and Society
Winter 2023
Online Synchronous: MWF 9-9:50 am

Instructor	Christopher Brown
Email:	christopher.brown1@ucalgary.ca
Instructor Email Policy:	I will respond to student email within two (2) business days. Students are required to correspond using their @ucalgary.com email addresses.
Web Page:	D2L (access via MyUofC portal)
Office Hours:	Fridays from 10-11 am or by appointment (via Zoom)

Course description:

This course provides 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. This course may not be repeated for credit.

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

Theme: The Discursive North

Whether it be geographically, symbolically, commercially, or ideologically, Canada has staked part of its identity within the North long before its national anthem proclaimed the “true north strong and free.” Yet despite Canada’s preoccupation with its own “northly-ness,” its actual northern territories are often misrepresented, caricaturized, or forgotten altogether within the scope of the Canadian consciousness. We might have an idea of where is the North, but how often do we ask what, or more importantly, who, is the North? One of the ways we can engage with these questions is through how the North is rendered in writing – what Sherrill Grace calls the “discursive formation of North.” This course offers a survey of how literatures have responded to the North over the course of Canadian history. In introducing students to the kinds of narratives both settler and Indigenous peoples have created to evoke a sense of the North, the hope above all is to reflect upon the colonial impact settlers have had upon the North, its land, and its peoples.

This course is set in a **synchronous online format**, meaning students will meet via Zoom (through Desire2Learn) on MWF during the scheduled class time (9-9:50 am). There will be a

registrar-scheduled final exam to be set during the Winter semester exam period. This course has no prerequisites.

Course learning outcomes:

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

1. Demonstrate ability to analyze and discuss central issues in the area of communication
2. Use a range of research skills to investigate colonial and settler-colonial processes at work across Canada's history
3. Articulate the impact that settlement and its ongoing structures have had on Indigenous communities
4. Closely analyze a given text in terms of its language and context
5. Engage in meaningful conversation with peers regarding literature and its social and historical contexts

Required texts, readings, and other media:

(available at the U of C Bookstore)

- Marie Clements, *Burning Vision* (play)
- Elizabeth Hay, *Late Nights on Air* (novel)
- Adam Shoalts, *Beyond the Trees* (nonfiction)
- Tanya Tagaq, *Split Tooth* (novel)
- Richard Van Camp, *The Lesser Blessed* (novel)

(available on D2L)

- Samuel Hearne, *Journey from Fort Prince Wales in Hudson's Bay to the Northern Ocean* (excerpt)
- Al Purdy, "Lament for the Dorsets" and "Trees at the Arctic Circle" (poems)
- Richard Van Camp, "the uranium leaking from port radium and rayrock mines is killing us" (short story)

(short films available via D2L):

- Links will be provided for short films available on nfb.ca

*****NOTE***** Any readings assigned for a given week must be read BEFORE we discuss them over Zoom. I have tried to break up longer texts into smaller portions throughout the semester, so although I might not require you to have read an entire novel for any given week, you must at least read to the point I've assigned up to.

Learning technology requirements:

This course uses a designated D2L site which contains required readings and other relevant class resources and materials (see [d2L.ucalgary.ca](https://d2l.ucalgary.ca)).

In order to successfully engage in their 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.

Assessments and Evaluation:

Grade Distribution:

Close Reading #1	(500 words)	10%	due Jan. 25 th
Close Reading #2	(500 words)	10%	due Feb. 13 th
Analytical Essay	(1000 words)	20%	due Mar. 24 th
Midterm Exam	(via D2L)	10%	Feb. 17 th
Discussion Forums	(5 forums x 4%)	20%	
Zoom Attendance		5%	
Final Exam	(via D2L)	25%	date TBA

Close Readings #1 and #2: Each of these assignments requires you to write a brief analytical response (500 words) to one of the assigned texts in the course. Using evidence drawn directly from a given text, you will be expected to employ close reading methods to form an argument about some aspect – whether based in character, theme, history, narrative, etc – of text in order to demonstrate critical engagement with ideas and contexts discussed in class. Here, you will have the chance to practice and hone your thesis statement writing abilities for later assignments.

Midterm Exam: In this (50 minute) exam, which will be accessible through the D2L course homepage, you will demonstrate your engagement with ideas and texts discussed in class. Although quality of writing is important, the emphasis will be on analysis and attentiveness. This exam will be **open-book**.

**** Students will be able to access the exam for the 24-hour period leading up to the exam's scheduled end time. Although the exam will be designed to be completed in 50 minutes, students will receive a bonus of 25 minutes, or 50% over time. Once the exam has been initiated, students will have a maximum of 75 minutes to complete it.*

Analytical Essay: This assignment requires you to write a 4-5 page (1000 words) essay which analyzes **one major text** discussed in class while applying at least **one scholarly resource** in your analysis. The structure of the paper will include all of the essential components of an analytical essay, including an introduction with a thesis statement, body paragraphs which respond to the two to three key points of your argument, and a conclusive paragraph.

Final Exam: In this long-form exam to be accessed through your D2L course homepage, you will demonstrate engagement with thematic, historical, cultural, and formal ideas discussed in class as they relate to course texts and our larger contextual discussions around the discursive formation of the Canadian North. This exam will be scheduled by the registrar and will be **open-book**.

****Students will be able to access the exam for the 24-hour period leading up to the exam's scheduled end time. Although the exam will be designed to be completed in 2 hours, students will receive a bonus hour, or 50% over time. Once the exam has been initiated, students will have a maximum of 180 minutes to complete it.*

Zoom Overview: Class will be held via Zoom (through D2L) every MWF between 9-9:50 am unless otherwise stated. Students are expected to attend class regularly and to be fully present and engaged in class activities and discussions. If students miss a class session that is included as a component of participation, and wish to receive credit for that day's work, they must contact me within 24 hours to discuss options to make up that component. **Attendance is mandatory:** students will lose a half-point per unexcused absence.

Discussion Forums: Over the course of the semester, five different forums will be accessible to students through D2L with questions or open-spaces regarding the most recent texts and themes covered in class. You will engage with each forum, either by offering an answer to a question, responding to a fellow student's question or comment, or asking a question of their own. This will allow you to communicate openly about the texts (along with key terms, concepts, etc) and show that you are actively engaging with course materials. Your engagement with each forum will be worth 4%, with the Discussion Forums worth a total of 20% over the course of the term.

*****IMPORTANT*****

- **Dropboxes** will be created within your D2L portal for the submission of all major assignments.
- **All assignments** should be submitted to the allotted Dropbox, and not to your Instructor's email. It is your responsibility to keep a copy of all assignments in case of loss by any cause.
- **Late Assignments** handed in after the submission deadline will face a penalty deduction of **a third of a grade per business day** (from B+ to B, etc). Submissions will not be accepted after **10 days** past a submission deadline.
- Students will no longer be able to post in a discussion forum past its close date.
- For students who've missed class, please be in touch with your peers or post questions in the forum to catch up on material.

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>

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](#).

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

- 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>
- There is no D- grade.
- Students must reach the minimum percentage threshold for the grade range to receive that letter grade. For example, to receive an A- a student must have surpassed the minimum threshold of 80.00% in the course.

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:](#)

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.