



# UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY

FACULTY OF ARTS

DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH

COURSE OUTLINE

ENGL 251 L05: Literature and Society

Winter 2023

<b>Instructor</b>	Tathagata Som
<b>Email:</b>	<a href="mailto:tathagata.som@ucalgary.ca">tathagata.som@ucalgary.ca</a>   Please note that all course communications must take place through your @ucalgary email address. Please allow 48 business hours for a response.
<b>Web Page:</b>	D2L (access via MyUofC portal)
<b>Office Hours:</b>	Wednesdays 2:00 PM – 3:00 PM at SS 1033
<b>Class Hours:</b>	Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays 1:00 PM – 1:50 PM
<b>Classroom</b>	ST 130

## Course Description

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.

In our everyday lives, we are inundated with non-humans, who come in different forms: as objects of daily use, as animals and plants, or even as our hope, fear, and wonder embodied in the form of ghosts, spirits, and aliens. In terms of scale, the non-human could be something as small as a microorganism or as large as an entire galaxy. Given the abundance of non-humans in our everyday lives, it is worth examining the role they play in shaping our histories, cultures, and literary imaginaries. In this course, students will learn how to read the representation of non-humans across a number of literary forms (novel, poetry, and short story) as well as develop skills that will help them close read literary texts and write academic research essays.

## Course Learning Outcomes:

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

- Examine the representation of non-humans in a wide range of literary texts
- Close read literary texts and use literary terms relating to figurative devices and narrative theory to analytically talk about how a text is constructed
- Use library resources for research and documentation
- Write academic essays by engaging with other scholars

## Required Texts:

### Books to Purchase:

Ghosh, Amitav. *Sea of Poppies*. Penguin Canada, 2008.

Vandermeer, Ann and Jeff Vandermeer, ed. *Sisters of the Revolution: A Feminist Speculative Fiction Anthology*. PM Press, 2015.

Major, Alice. *Welcome to the Anthropocene*. University of Alberta Press, 2018.

### Texts available via D2L:

Links to additional texts will be available in D2L. For more, see the reading schedule.

## Learning technology requirements:

Students will need to have access to a laptop computer or smartphone in class time. There is a D2L site for this course which contains required readings and other relevant class resources and materials (see [d2L.ucalgary.ca](http://d2L.ucalgary.ca)).

## Assessments and Evaluation:

### Assignments:

- **D2L Discussion Post (10% X 3 times = 30%)**  
For this assignment, you will write **three discussion posts from five prompts** that will be provided in D2L. You will have two weeks to submit a post based on a given prompt. The prompts will be reflective, based on topics discussed in class. Each post should be between 450 and 500 words.
- **Close Reading Assignment (15%)**  
For this assignment, you will write a close reading essay of 600-650 words on **any one text** from the reading list. You will be graded on the strength of your thesis, the clarity of your arguments, structure and formatting of the essay, your ability to use and incorporate quotations in support of your arguments, and proper citations.

- **Comparative Analysis Essay: (25%)**

You will write a comparative analysis essay (700-750 words) comparing **any two texts from the reading list** and referring to at least **one secondary text** to support your arguments. You will be evaluated on the strength of the thesis, the clarity of arguments, the use and incorporation of quotations, structure and formatting of the essay, engagement with the secondary text(s), and proper citations. You may choose as one of the primary texts the same text that you chose for your close reading assignment.

- **Participation Report: (5%)**

You will fill out a report about your participation in the course. In the report, you will mention how much of the course reading you completed, how many classes you attended, how you engaged in class discussion, and how you prepared for the class. The participation report form will be available in D2L.

- **Final Exam: (25%)**

There will be a registrar-scheduled final exam. Students need to be available during the entire examination period (from Saturday, April 15, 2023 to Wednesday, April 26, 2023). See <https://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/grad/current/academic-schedule.html>.

#### **Please Note:**

1. There will be a registrar-scheduled final exam. Students need to be available during the entire examination period (from Saturday, April 15, 2023 to Wednesday, April 26, 2023). See <https://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/academic-schedule.html>.
2. There are no extra credit assignments.
3. The close reading essay, comparative analysis essay, and participation report should be submitted to D2L drop box as either .docx or .pdf files.
4. Students must complete both close reading and comparative analysis assignments in order to receive a passing grade.

#### **Late Assignment Policy:**

Since these are difficult times, you will have the option to turn in **any one** assignment up to **three business days** after the deadline without any penalties. You will not have to let the instructor know. Please note that for more than one late submission, the assignment will be penalized with **the loss of a third of a grade** (e.g., an A- to B+) for each calendar day (not class meeting) that the assignment is overdue. No assignments will be accepted **one week** past the assignment deadline without the prior consent of the instructor.

### Attendance and participation expectations:

Students are encouraged to come to class regularly, complete the readings for the week, and engage in class discussions. The D2L Discussion Posts will be mostly based on topics discussed in the class, and the participation report will ask for your preparation for and participation in the class.

### 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**, which can be found here <https://www.ucalgary.ca/legal-services/university-policies-procedures/acceptable-use-electronic-resources-and-information-policy>. Electronic devices are not permitted during the Final Examination.

### Grading System:

For the assignments, D2L discussion posts, and exams, students will receive a numerical grade to be converted into letter grade. 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

### Further Clarification:

- The close reading essay, comparative analysis essay, and participation report should be submitted to D2L drop box as either .docx or .pdf files.
- Students must complete both close reading and comparative analysis assignments in order to receive a passing grade.
- In calculating final grades, students must have surpassed the minimum grade threshold to qualify for any letter grade — that is, grades will never be rounded up into the nearest grade category even if very close to that minimum threshold.
- 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.

### 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** at <https://ucalgary.ca/student-services/student-success/learning/academic-integrity> 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** (<https://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/g-7.html>) 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](mailto: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](mailto: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](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-6-1.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](mailto: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.

### **Research Ethics**

- If a student is interested in undertaking an assignment that will involve collecting information from members of the public, they should speak with the course instructor and consult the CFREB Ethics (<http://www.ucalgary.ca/research/researchers/ethics-compliance/cfreb>) before beginning the assignment.

### **Sexual Violence Policy:**

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

### **Other important information:**

- Wellness and Mental Health Resources <https://www.ucalgary.ca/wellness-services/services/mental-health-services>
- Student Success <https://www.ucalgary.ca/student-services/student-success>
- Student Ombuds Office <https://www.ucalgary.ca/student-services/ombuds>
- Student Union (SU) Information <https://www.su.ucalgary.ca/>
- Graduate Students' Association (GSA) Information <https://gsa.ucalgary.ca/>
- Emergency Evacuation/Assembly Points <https://www.ucalgary.ca/risk/emergency-management/evac-drills-assembly-points/assembly-points>
- Safewalk <https://www.ucalgary.ca/risk/campus-security/your-safety/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.