



UNIVERSITY OF
CALGARY
FACULTY OF ARTS
Department of English

COURSE OUTLINE

COURSE TITLE: Literature and Society			
Course Number	ENGL 251 L06	WINTER 2023	
Faculty / Department	Faculty of Arts/Department of English		
Instructor Name	Dania Idriss	Email	didriss@ucalgary.ca
Instructor Email Policy	I am happy to respond to specific questions within two business days. I will not summarize lectures or restate information that is already mentioned in the course Outline.		
Office Location	Working remotely	Telephone No:	-----
Office Hours	TU/TH 11:00-12:00 or by appointment via Zoom https://ucalgary.zoom.us/j/93801081827?pwd=Vit1blRVQm1PRWgvbERjOTlHcmdrZz09		
Class Dates/Times/Location	TU/TH: 9:30-10:45 MST https://ucalgary.zoom.us/j/91413707764?pwd=WE9weFdUdHJ2VUZoNU1zdU4aHRZQT09		

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.

Course Hours: 3 units; (3-0) or (2-1T) or (1.5-1.5T)

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

Course delivery:

The course will be delivered in a **synchronous** context. We will be using both Zoom and D2L. This means that students must be available during the course dates and times that are already timetabled. In case of absence, it is necessary for students to propose an activity that shows their effort to make up for what they missed.

Course notes:

- a) The texts that we discuss in this class can be uncomfortable to some for different reasons. The texts that we are reading sometimes describe war, violence, and controversial ideological and geopolitical issues.
- b) Zoom sessions will be recorded for the purpose of accessibility. This does **not** mean attendance in class is optional.

Course learning outcomes:

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

1. Analyze and close read literary texts within the political and historical contexts that inform them
2. develop and refine their ability to read literary texts closely and carefully, with attention to language, patterns, and details
3. develop and refine their ability to connect their close reading of literary texts with the overarching course theme(s)
4. write well-argued, organized, fluent and grammatical essays
5. Integrate ideas and concepts from scholarly reading materials into their own work
6. React to and actively participate in group discussions that aim to challenge our taken-for-granted assumptions about colonial history.
7. Demonstrate an ability to reflect on the connection between the texts and their contexts. This is a necessary process as it responds to the way Thomas King, for instance, describes Indigenous stories. For King, stories are not only a reflection of reality and a contribution to “our sense of who we are, [but also] stories are who we are.”
8. Implement the course terminologies and technical terms to clearly articulate forms of interconnectedness—or dissimilarities—between various texts, policies or/and histories.
9. Critically and persuasively integrate the researched materials into the analysis of the literary texts.

Texts and readings:

Required texts: (available for purchase at the UCalgary Bookstore, Indigo, Amazon etc. Some of these texts can be found as digital copies at the University of Calgary Library. Please come talk to me if you are unable, for whatever reason, to purchase these books)

- Désil, Junie. *Eat Salt | Gaze at the ocean: Poems*. Talon Books, 2020
- Jones, Stephen Graham. *Mapping the Interior*. Tor, 2017.
- Oyeyemi, Helen. *White is for Witching*. Picador, 2010.
- Soucy, Gaétan. *The Little Girl Who Was Too Fond of Matches*. House of Anansi Press, 2016.

The remainder of the course texts (selected essays and short stories) will be provided through D2L.

Learning technology requirements:

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
- 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 (ethernet connection is preferable). Most current laptops will have a built-in webcam, speaker and microphone.

Assessments and Evaluation:

All assignments will be submitted to D2L Dropbox

Close Reading Essay: 30%

16 February 2023

500 words

For this paper, you will be required to provide a close, detailed, and well-argued reading of one of our course's primary texts. You will be asked to connect your analysis to the themes of the course, and I will provide you, in advance, with a selection of topics for this assignment. The required length for this paper is 500 words or approximately 3 double-spaced pages, not including your works cited. You will be assessed on your ability to read the text that you select closely and perceptively, to organize your ideas around a central argument, and to provide sufficient textual support for your analysis. Your paper will also be assessed for grammar, sentence structure, spelling, word choice, MLA formatting, and overall organization. You are not allowed to consult secondary sources for this assignment.

Research/Analytical Essay: 35%

10 April 2023

1500-2000 words

For this research/analytical essay, you will write an essay on the topic of your choice, based on course readings, discussions, and themes. Your essay must include at least **one** primary text from our course syllabus. As this is a research paper you must supplement your own critical argument about the text with existing scholarly sources (books and/or articles) on the text. You must make use of at least **two** peer-reviewed, scholarly sources, which will demonstrate some engagement with the existing criticism on your text/topic.

Final Exam: 25%

This class will have a registrar-scheduled final exam. You must be available for the entire exam period (**15 April- 26 April 2023**). The exam will be open book.

Participation: 10%

To be successful in this component, it is important to constantly engage with the discussion threads on our class platform (Slack or D2L, will be specified). Further details about participation will be provided (see below). Evidence of active and substantial engagement in this course will include: making comments that consistently demonstrate careful thought and creative analysis, listening actively and responding thoughtfully to your peers. Coming to our sessions fully prepared with specific questions and ideas to share during each class is so important to succeed in this component.

Attendance and Participation Expectations

Students are expected to attend class regularly and to be fully present and engaged in class activities and discussions. These are part of the participation grade, as outlined in the assessment components section above. If students miss a class session that is included as a component of participation, they must contact the instructor within 24 hours to discuss options to make-up for that component. Any unexcused absences in excess will reduce the final class participation grade.

A rubric with detailed information about the assessment of participation is available on the course D2L site.

A = Student engages in all activities, and frequently contributes *thoughtful* comments and questions to class discussions that enhance understanding of the material being discussed.

B = Student engages in most of the activities and occasionally offers a comment or question in class.

C = Student engage in some activities and/or class discussions

D= There is little evidence of engagement in class activities and discussions.

Assignment Policies and Writing Expectations:

- All written assignments must be in MLA style (8th edition). Consult the *MLA Handbook Eighth Edition* or the Purdue OWL MLA [website](#) for formatting and citation guidance.
- 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 [not class day] that the assignment is overdue. No assignments will be accepted one week past the assignment deadline without the prior consent of the instructor.
- Assignments will be submitted electronically in the appropriate D2L dropbox unless otherwise specified in the assignment description.
- All assignments are due at 12:00am MST. Assignments submitted after 12:00am will be considered late and assessed a late penalty.
- While I endeavour to answer emails promptly leading up to an assignment due date, emails received within 24 hours of the due date (5pm the day before) may not be responded to prior to the deadline.
- There will be no assignments given for extra credit in this course.
- All assignments must be completed to pass the class.

Classroom Expectations:

This is a respectful and inclusive space. We will be dealing with some difficult and/or controversial topics in our texts, including but not limited to: racism, sexism, religion, legacies of and ongoing oppression, and physical and sexual violence. We will navigate these topics together respectfully and without an assumption of others' personal histories. If there is a text or moment which you find difficult, I am happy to discuss how to negotiate that with you in my office hours.

Students are expected to keep up with course readings, arriving in class prepared to discuss the materials assigned for that day. Additionally, lecture notes, slide presentations, and summaries of class discussion will not usually be distributed electronically in this class and may not be made available to students who miss classes. Students are responsible for maintaining their own notes throughout the course, and are encouraged to develop strategies during this course for effective note-taking. Students are not permitted to record lectures, tutorials, meetings, or office hours without the prior consent of the instructor.

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:

You are, of course, permitted to use electronic devices in this course. 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:

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; grades will not be rounded up. 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.