



FACULTY OF ARTS  
Department Of English

COURSE OUTLINE

ENGL 253.01.02

Fall 2022

Tuesday and Thursday 11:00am-12:15pm

Room: ST 127

Modality: In-person

<b>Instructor</b>	Prof. C. Olbey
<b>Email:</b>	cwolbey@ucalgary.ca
<b>Web Page:</b>	D2L (access via MyUofC portal)
<b>Office Hours:</b>	Thursday 1:30-3:30 on Zoom

**Calendar description:**

A study of the conventions of a genre, with emphasis on close reading and critical writing skills. Includes the study of at least one text by an Indigenous author.

**Course description:**

This course in short fiction will give students the opportunity to develop their close reading and critical writing skills through an engagement with the genre of the short story. We will develop an understanding of some of the general conventions of the short story form itself, and explore examples of short stories from the 19<sup>th</sup>, 20<sup>th</sup>, and 21<sup>st</sup> centuries. In addition to developing their critical writing skills, students will also get the opportunity, if they so desire, to produce their own original short story.

**Course learning outcomes:**

Upon successful completion of this course, students will:

- 1) Develop skills of close reading, which, among other things, requires a student to realize that a text is constructed, and not a transparent reflection of reality
- 2) Learn a range of technical terms and critical tools with which to interpret texts
- 3) Extend and expand their ability to write a strong, well-supported, clearly written academic essay. This includes teaching students the idea of writing as a process by

guiding them through the various stages of composition and teaching students how to create effective arguments

- 4) Extend an understanding of proper documentation, including what constitutes plagiarism
- 5) Develop or extend library research skills: how to search and locate reference works, books and articles, both electronic and print; how to access and use scholarly resources and databases; and how to use print and online resources responsibly and thoughtfully
- 6) Engage with other scholars by assigning at least one exercise or assignment that asks them to respond to at least one critical text
- 7) Develop their ability to value and build upon each other's ideas by actively fostering discussion
- 8) Develop, extend, and expand their knowledge of how narrative fosters the exploration of questions of difference, otherness, history, contemporary social and political issues, and identity

### **Texts and readings:**

Janet E. Gardner.      *Reading and Writing About Literature (Fourth Edition)*

This book is available through the course listing at the U of C Bookstore.

Note: In addition to short fiction examples in *Reading and Writing About Literature*, the course will also include selected short story links provided through the U of C library at no cost. These links are located on your course schedule available on the D2L course website. Students will require their library account to be in good standing to access course readings.

### **Learning technology requirements:**

Students will require a computer or other electronic device to access the 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:**

#### **10%** Participation Grade

Students are required to contribute to the discussion boards on D2L for this course.

This grade is scored out of 10 and must consist of 5 original posts and 5 replies to a peer's post on eligible short stories in this class.

Students receive 1 point for each contribution which can be either a post or a reply to another post. Posts and replies do not have to be on the same story so that a student could post on 5 short stories and reply to comments on 5 other short stories, or produce any other combination that equals 5 posts and 5 replies over the duration of the course.

Students are limited to a maximum of two points (one post and one reply) per short story in this class. Students may make more posts to any discussion board but can score no more than 2 points per short story. This means that students must respond to a minimum of 5 of the short stories in this class to receive full marks for this grade component.

Posts will not be given letter grades.

To qualify as point scoring, posts and replies must be between 100 and 200 words and show evidence of an original critical engagement with the story that demonstrates an awareness of the methods and modes of literary criticism consistent with and connected to lecture/discussions in this class.

Discussion board calculations for points have deadlines, after which points can no longer be accumulated on a particular story.

**10%** Exam #1 on assigned reading from Janet E. Gardener's *Reading and Writing About Literature*  
– In-person; in-class; closed book

- Exam date appears on your course schedule
- Exam will consist of multiple choice and/or matching questions
- Time 60 minutes in class only

**15%** Exam #2 (mid-term) – In-person; in-class; closed book

- Exam date appears on your course schedule
- Exam will consist of multiple choice and/or matching questions on material from class lecture/discussion (stories, terms, concepts, close reading)
- Time 60 minutes in class only

**15%** Short Written Explication Assignment (2 typed, double-spaced, 12pt Times or Arial font: Approximately 500 words). Note: Page/Word count does not include appended bibliographic material like footnotes, appendices, or Works Cited pages.

- Students will produce a thesis statement and an explication/close-reading of their choice of a passage/quotation from course texts studied to this point in the course.

**25%** Long Written Assignment 6 typed, double-spaced pages (12 pt. Times New Roman or Arial font; Approximately 1500 words). Note- Page/Word count does not include appended bibliographic material like footnotes, appendices, or Works Cited pages.

Critical Essay:

- This assignment must include a substantial engagement with at least one critical secondary source
- This assignment may not be on any short story contained in *Reading and Writing About Literature* or on the story you worked on for your first written assignment.

**25%** Final Exam – In-person/closed book

- Exam time and room are scheduled by the Registrar and students must be available to write till the end of the exam period
- Exam will consist of multiple choice and/or matching questions on terms, concepts, and material from class lecture/discussion and a written component
- Time 120 minutes

Assignment Information

- There is a Registrar scheduled final exam in this course.
- Students must be available for examinations up to the last day up to and including the final day of the university final exam period. (Saturday Dec. 10 – Wed. Dec. 21 2022)
- Students are not required to complete all assignments to receive a passing grade in the course.
- There are no extra credit assignments in this course.
- All written assignments must be submitted in a .doc format through dropbox in the D2L site for this course.
- All assignments must be submitted by the due date given. Assignments submitted more than 24 hours after the assigned due date will be considered late. Any assignments submitted after the due date may receive a grade only without additional comments.
- With the possible exception of adjustments due to ongoing COVID health concerns, all exams in this course are closed book and completed in class. Students are not allowed to use any electronic devices or any other aids like dictionaries during examinations. All phones must be turned off (except with consent of the instructor) and out of sight in

bags or pockets during exams. Any phones visible during exams can qualify as academic misconduct.

- Any student that misses exam 1 or the mid-term will receive an opportunity to write a make-up exam within 7 days of the original exam date. The make-up exam may be in a different format than the original in-class exam.
- This course is delivered in-person and online with possible exceptions like illness, dangerous weather or other circumstances. In such situations the instructor may choose to deliver a class or classes online through the Zoom platform in D2L

### **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.

### **Grading System:**

All assignments will receive a numerical grade, to be converted to letter grades using the following scale:

90 + %	A+	4.0	67 – 69.99 %	C+	2.3
85 – 89.99 %	A	4.0	64 – 66.99 %	C	2.0
80 – 84.99 %	A–	3.7	60 – 63.99 %	C–	1.7
77 – 79.99 %	B+	3.3	55 – 59.99 %	D+	1.3
74 – 76.99 %	B	3.0	50 – 54.99 %	D	1.0
70 – 73.99 %	B–	2.7	0 – 49.99 %	F	0

This scale is also used to calculate final grades in this course.

Note that this scale does not include a “rounding up” feature and will produce the final grade in this class. For example, a final grade of 84.99% will normally be recorded as A-, 79.99% will normally be recorded as B+, and so on throughout the grading scale. Students should not expect that any numerical grade will be rounded upward or downward in this class.

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.

#### Assignment Submission Late Policy

Written assignments submitted more than 24 hours after the due date will be considered late. Such assignments may not receive editorial comments and may have 3% per 24 hours subtracted from their final percentage grade for the assignment. For example, an assignment that scores 75% and handed in within 24 hours of the due date will not receive any penalty; the same assignment handed in between 24.1 and 48 hours late may receive a penalty of 3% for a total score of 72% for the final assignment grade; an assignment handed in between 48.1 and 72 hours of the due date may receive a penalty of 6% for a final grade of 69%. This scale would continue in the same way for each additional 24 hour period.

#### Attendance

There is no specific grade for attendance in this course. However, students should understand that each class, in a variety of ways, will develop skills and deliver information needed to learn and acquire the learning objectives for this course and to score effectively on assignments and exams, and that in most cases there is a direct correlation between attendance and the student's ability to produce a successful educational and grading experience in this course.

#### Participation

The participation grade in this course consists of specific contributions to the Discussion Board in D2L. However, students should be aware that student participation in various ways (questions, comments, discussions, debates, arguments, presentations etc.) will be a key feature and an important tool to facilitate student success in this course. Students are encouraged, but not required, to speak in class and effective participation can be just as much the act of attentive, engaged listening and thoughtful consideration as insightful speaking. Since our readings will lead us into a wide range of critical investigations of social, cultural, historical, aesthetic and political issues, and since the class is a relatively large, diverse group of human beings with different ideas, opinions, arguments and positions on the issues and ideas the stories present, this course will proceed with a fundamental tone of respect, tolerance, and thoughtful consideration of the ideas of others (the instructor for students, students for the instructor, and students for each other). This guiding tone of respect does not mean that ideas, opinions, and arguments, expressed by students or instructor, cannot be challenged and debated from other positions and through different arguments. Indeed this can and should be an interesting and engaging aspect of our course. It means that when we disagree we try to persuade others through offering a more convincing argument. When students engage this sort of participation they further develop skills required to produce success on assignments and exams. This is one key reason for why, in most cases, there is a direct implicit correlation between participation and the student's ability to produce a successful experience in this course.

## 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](#). 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 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](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](#). 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>

### **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.
- If students are going to be used as research subjects or expected to conduct research (such as interviews), a statement about this expectation must be included. Please note that if you plan to have students conduct research for class, you must get ethics approval for the course.

Sexual violence policy:

<https://www.ucalgary.ca/legal-services/sites/default/files/teams/1/Policies-Sexual-and-Gender-Based-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.