

**FACULTY OF ARTS**  
**DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH**

**ENGLISH 302 A/B-01**

**Fall 2013/Winter 2014**

**TITLE:** Foundations: Introduction to Contemporary Theoretical Practices  
**Instructor:** Rebecca Sullivan  
**Office:** SS1142  
**Phone:** 403-220-3397  
**E-mail:** rsulliva@ucalgary.ca  
**Office hours:** Fall: T 9:30-10:30; R 10:30 – 11:30 // Winter: T 9:30-10:30; W 10:30-11:30

**Course description:**

This course examines the claims and assumptions of a range of contemporary critical practices. Students will have the opportunity to practice the application of theory to various assigned texts, including fiction, film, and other forms. Prerequisite: Two half-course equivalents of English and/or Comparative Literature, or consent of the Department.

**Student conduct:**

Some of the materials and topics in this class may include explicit content (violence, sexuality, profane language, objectionable or illegal conduct). If these materials make you uncomfortable, you are encouraged to speak with the professor. You will not be exempt from any assigned work but we will work together to accommodate your concerns. This class respects difference and diversity while welcoming thoughtful, critical debate and discussion.

Responsibility for attending and fulfilling the requirements for all aspects of the course resides with the student. The professor will not give out lecture notes, repeat information, nor provide replacement copies of material that was provided during regular class hours. The course includes a combination of individual assignments, group work, lectures, screenings, and readings. Students are expected to arrive to class on time and prepared to work.

Use of recording technologies by students in class is prohibited.

A Blackboard portal has been set up for this course which allows for group correspondence, course announcements, assignment submissions, and other forms of communication. Students are expected to check Blackboard before class time for any last minute changes or cancellations.

Students are welcome to bring portable word processing devices (tablets, laptops, airbooks, Acer, anything you got) to class. Just turn off the recording devices, and sound. Abuse of these devices (surfing inappropriate or offensive material, use of social network sites, texting, playing music, watching videos, etc.) is prohibited and may result in having your privileges to use your device in class revoked and/or being removed from the class.

Plagiarism, defined as using any source whatsoever without clearly documenting it, is a serious academic offense. Consequences include failure on the assignment, failure in the course and possible suspension or expulsion from the university. Please refer to the following information and make sure you are familiar with the statement on plagiarism provided at the end of the syllabus.

<http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/k-2-1.html>

**Texts and readings:**

The required readings will be provided in a digital course pack on Blackboard. Students may also be required to conduct online search and download for some texts.

Some of the theories and theorists discussed in class are very dense and complex. Therefore, students are encouraged to do the corresponding readings from two introductory textbooks available on 1HR Reserve at the Taylor Francis Digital Library:

Parker, Robert Dale. 2011. *How to Interpret Literature: Critical Theory for Literary and Cultural Studies*. 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition

Tyson, Lois. 2006. *Critical Theory Today: A User-Friendly Guide*. 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition

Also check out the online lectures by Yale University professor Dr. Paul Fry

[www.academicearth.org/courses/literary-theory](http://www.academicearth.org/courses/literary-theory)

This course will make use of a series of thematically connected texts to elucidate key issues and concepts in the theories under discussion. Students are expected to closely familiarize themselves with them.

*Frankenstein, or, The Modern Prometheus*

Mary Shelley

Edited by D. L. McDonald and Kathleen Scherf

Broadview Press, 1994

1 HR Reserve PR5397.F73 1999

\* also available electronically from the university library catalogue

*Frankenstein: based on the novel by Mary Shelley*

Nick Dear

Faber and Faber, 2010

1HR Reserve PR6054.E235 F73 2011

*“Sonnet – to Science”*

Edgar Allan Poe

\* available all over the Internet

*Frankenstein*

Directed by James Whale

Universal Pictures, 1931

### **Assignments and Evaluation:**

Quizzes	20%	weekly online
Seminar Participation	5% / 5%	Thursdays
Midterm Exam	25%	December 5 <sup>th</sup>
Wikispace	15%	Tuesdays, 8:00 AM
Final Essay	30%	April 14 <sup>th</sup> / April 21 <sup>st</sup> , 11:59 PM

### ***Weekly Quizzes***

Online quizzes will be made available through Blackboard every week from Tuesday at 9:30 AM until Thursday at 8AM. They will be multiple choice and based solely on the required reading for that week. The test is automatically set for “force completion” the first time it is launched, and must be completed within 15 minutes. You may refer to the reading, or any other sources during the test. Each test comprises four questions but is marked out of three. They are each worth 1% with your lowest mark dropped for a total of 20%. You must complete at least 10 of the quizzes and provide at least one correct answer on each of the 21 quizzes or you may receive a grade of 0 for the total.

### ***Seminar Participation***

Students are expected to attend both the Tuesday lectures and the Thursday seminars, but only participation in the latter will be graded. At the end of each Tuesday lecture, 2-3 discussion questions will be made available. Students are expected to prepare for the seminar by developing responses to all the questions. Please note that the Seminar Instructor will call for

volunteers to help lead discussion, with the assumption that everyone has come to class prepared. The onus is on you to participate, if you do not volunteer the Instructor is not obliged to ask for your contribution and you risk receiving a low grade or even failure. Quality matters more than quantity – rambling, disorganized responses do not generate strong discussions. Ideas need to be clear and coherently expressed. You are welcome to organize study groups among yourselves to help you prepare for the seminar. Each term will be graded separately and worth 5% each. You will receive brief written feedback from your Seminar Instructor by the beginning of second term via email. Please note the university's policy on attendance in classes where participation is graded. <http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/e-3.html>.

### ***Midterm Exam***

The midterm exam will be based on all materials discussed in the Tuesday lectures, plus required readings. It will be in-class and last 75 minutes. The student may not consult any support materials during the test, nor may they leave the classroom until they have submitted the test to the Seminar Instructor.

### ***Wikispace***

The ideas presented in this course are often complex, multi-layered, dependent on other theoretical paradigms, and historically contingent. But underneath all the “academese” are sound and even deceptively simple concepts. The goal of this assignment is for you to distill these ideas into a format that is simpler and more accessible, while demonstrating your clear grasp of the material, by helping to create a Wikispace study guide for the whole class.

There are twenty-one paradigms and twenty-three scholars under examination in this class. Each seminar group will be randomly assigned a set of paradigms and scholars from which to select your topic. You will have the opportunity to sign up for your chosen topic on September 12<sup>th</sup>, with priority going to those attending the seminar. If you do not sign up on September 12<sup>th</sup>, the seminar instructor will select a topic for you and advise you by email through Blackboard. They will not take requests.

Working in groups of 2-3 (depending on enrolment), you will create a wikispace page for either the paradigm or the scholars studied for a specific paradigm. Using wikispace.com's ENGL302, design an effective study guide summary. Required sections include Notes, Further Reading, External Links, and References, and the final page must be between 2500-4000 words, all inclusive. The rest is up to you. Be extremely careful not to plagiarize other online sources. Writing must be original and independent, with the exception of (judiciously selected) quotes from relevant scholars. Liberal borrowing of other work, even if cited correctly, may result in a grade of D or lower.

For those working on topics covered in the first 10 weeks of class (up to Nov 12/14), you have two weeks from the lecture date to complete your Wiki page. After Nov 12/14, you have one week from the lecture date. For example, for the group that selects New Criticism, your Wiki page is due Oct 1 (two weeks from the Sept 17 lecture). The group that selects Jacques Derrida has until Nov 26. All spaces must be up and running by 8AM on the due date.

Grading will be based on clarity, comprehensiveness, synthesis, and organization, in addition to all other criteria outlined in the Written Assignment Assessment Rubric. Technical proficiency and design will also be taken into account in determining your grade. A minimum of six (6) peer-refereed sources must be cited in the body of the page (appearing under both “Notes” and “References”). You may use the abbreviated Notes style (author p#) to save room. Failure to meet this minimum research requirement may result in a grade of D or lower.

You may ask the professor to review your page before “going live.” If you take advantage of this option, you must make the request by e-mail ([rsulliva@ucalgary.ca](mailto:rsulliva@ucalgary.ca)) and include the link in the e-mail no later than 8:00 AM on the Friday morning before your page is due. The professor will scan for clarity in both content and design, as well as confirm that all requirements have been met. Some recommendations may be made. However, the professor will not indicate any potential grade nor does following the professor's advice guarantee an A.

### ***Final Essay***

The final essay will be a long essay question that requires you to reflect on all that you've learned and how you can apply it to continued studies in English literature. It must be between 2500-3500 words (@ 7-10 pages), not including your

bibliography or notes, and follow a scholarly framework as outlined in the Written Assignment Assessment rubric. You must complete the assignment independently. Students are expected to conduct scholarly research with a minimum of eight sources, at least three but no more than five from assigned scholarly readings. The readings must be applied in your essay, not merely referenced in your bibliography. Failure to meet minimum requirements in research may result in a grade of D or lower. Detailed instructions will be provided in class on April 1<sup>st</sup> and must be strictly followed.

All essays must be submitted through Blackboard's Digital Dropbox. The deadline is April 14<sup>th</sup> at 11:59 PM. All students are granted an automatic extension to April 21<sup>st</sup> at 11:59 PM. The only penalty for late assignments will be grading without comments. No assignment will be accepted after the final extension deadline and you will receive a grade of zero. Students are strongly encouraged to consult with the professor about their exam to ensure their best quality work. Only Word (doc or docx) and Pages formats are accepted. Do not forget to include the proper file extension or your essay may not open properly and will be considered not submitted.

### **Policy for Late Assignments**

Unless otherwise stated, no extensions will be granted on assignments except in cases of documented medical or personal distress. Failure to submit on time will result in a grade of F (zero).

Failure to complete all of the required exams and assignments may result in a grade of F (zero) in the course. If you complete all assignments but receive more than two Fs, the professor reserves the right to give you a final grade of F. For the purposes of these rules, the weekly quizzes count in total as one assignment.

It is the student's responsibility to keep a copy of all assignments in case of loss by any cause.

**There will be no Registrar-scheduled final exam.**

### **Grading system:**

This course uses a combination of letter and number grades, according to the chart below. The university's Undergraduate Grading System is available here: <http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/f-2.html>. In most cases where the final letter grade for the course is less than 1% from the next higher grade, the professor will round-up.

Percentage	Letter	Usually Graded	Point
90 + %	A+	95	4.0
85 – 89 %	A	87	4.0
80 – 84 %	A–	82	3.7
77 – 79 %	B+	78	3.3
74 – 76 %	B	75	3.0
70 – 73 %	B–	72	2.7
67 – 69 %	C+	68	2.3
64 – 66 %	C	65	2.0
60 – 63 %	C–	62	1.7
55 – 59 %	D+	57	1.3
50 – 54 %	D	52	1.0
0 – 49 %	F	0	0

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**Scribe and Muse Club for English Students:**

The Scribe and Muse Reading and Writing Club (SMRWC) fosters and champions reading and writing through community service, leadership, and engagement. We strive to enhance the academic and social experience of undergraduate students by promoting academic excellence and interaction between students, faculty, and the community, through social, cultural, and academic events. <http://english.ucalgary.ca/content/scribe-and-muse-reading-and-writing-club>

Our email address is [smrwc@ucalgary.ca](mailto:smrwc@ucalgary.ca).

**English Department Website:**

For more information about courses, programs, policies, events and contacts in the Department of English, please go to our website at <http://english.ucalgary.ca>. Please note that the course outlines posted on the English Department website constitute the official course outline for purposes of appeals. Students should verify any hard copies against this posted version. For courses which employ numerical grades, the official departmental percentage to letter grade conversion scale is also posted on the department website.

**Writing support:**

The Student Success Centre offers both online and workshop writing support for U of C students.

<http://www.ucalgary.ca/ssc/writing-support>

**Follow the Department of English on Facebook & Twitter:****Academic regulations and schedules:**

Consult the Calendar for course information, university and faculty regulations, dates, deadlines and schedules, student, faculty and university rights and responsibilities. The homepage for the University Calendar is

<http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/index.htm>

**Guidelines on e-mail Etiquette:** <https://www.ucalgary.ca/it/help/articles/email/etiquette>

**Grade appeals:**

Consult the following University Calendar link and request advice from the English Department office, SS 1152. Please note that “mere dissatisfaction with a decision is not sufficient grounds for the appeal of a grade or other academic decision.”

<http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/i.html>

**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 form must be completed. The University also has regulations governing the deferral of final examinations. See Calendar: <http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/g-6.html>, <http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/g-7.html>.

**Academic Accommodation:**

It is the students' responsibility to request academic accommodations. If you are a student with a documented disability who may require academic accommodations and have not registered with Student Accessibility Services, please contact them at 403-220-6019. Students who have not registered with Student Accessibility Services are not eligible for formal academic accommodations. More information about academic accommodations can be found at [www.ucalgary.ca/access](http://www.ucalgary.ca/access).

**Emergency Evacuation/Assembly Points:** <http://www.ucalgary.ca/emergencyplan/assemblypoints>;

**Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act:** <http://www.ucalgary.ca/legalservices/foip/>

**“Safewalk” Program:**

Campus Security will escort individuals day or night: call 220-5333 for assistance. Use any campus phone, emergency phone or the yellow phone located at most parking lot pay booths.

<http://www.ucalgary.ca/security/safewalk/>

**Faculty of Arts Program Advising and Student Information Resources:**

Have a question, but not sure where to start? The new Faculty of Arts Program Information Centre (PIC) is your information resource for everything in Arts! Drop in at SS110, call us at 403-220-3580 or email us at [artsads@ucalgary.ca](mailto:artsads@ucalgary.ca). You can also visit the Faculty of Arts website at <http://arts.ucalgary.ca/undergraduate> which has detailed information on common academic concerns.

For program planning and advice, contact the Student Success Centre (formerly the Undergraduate programs Office) at (403) 220-5881 or visit them in their new space on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor of the Taylor Family Digital Library.

For registration (add/drop/swap), paying fees and assistance with your Student Centre, contact Enrolment Services at (403) 210-ROCK [7625] or visit them at the MacKimmie Library Block.

**Contact for Students Union Representatives for the Faculty of Arts:**

[arts1@su.ucalgary.ca](mailto:arts1@su.ucalgary.ca), [arts2@su.ucalgary.ca](mailto:arts2@su.ucalgary.ca), [arts3@su.ucalgary.ca](mailto:arts3@su.ucalgary.ca), [arts4@su.ucalgary.ca](mailto:arts4@su.ucalgary.ca)

**Contact for Students Ombudsman's Office:** <http://www.ucalgary.ca/provost/students/ombuds>

## PLAGIARISM

Plagiarism is an extremely serious offence. Please read the following information carefully. The penalty routinely recommended by the English Department for documented plagiarism is failure of the course in which the offence occurred; academic probation is also routinely applied at the Faculty level. Suspension or expulsion can result from severe or repeated plagiarism.

The University Calendar states:

1. Plagiarism - Essentially plagiarism involves submitting or presenting work in a course as if it were the student's own work done expressly for that particular course when, in fact, it is not. Most commonly plagiarism exists when:
  - (a) the work submitted or presented was done, in whole or in part, by an individual other than the one submitting or presenting the work (this includes having another impersonate the student or otherwise substituting the work of another for one's own in an examination or test),
  - (b) parts of the work are taken from another source without reference to the original author,
  - (c) the whole work (e.g., an essay) is copied from another source, and/or,
  - (d) a student submits or presents work in one course which has also been submitted in another course (although it may be completely original with that student) without the knowledge of or prior agreement of the instructor involved.

While it is recognized that scholarly work often involves reference to the ideas, data and conclusions of other scholars, intellectual honesty requires that such references be explicitly and clearly noted.

Plagiarism occurs when direct quotations are taken from a source without specific acknowledgement, or when original ideas or data from the source are not acknowledged. Citing your sources in a bibliography is not enough, because a bibliography does not establish which parts of a student's work are taken from other sources. MLA (Modern Language Association) documentation or other recognized forms of citation must be used for this purpose. Advice on adequate documentation can be found at the following web sites:

<http://www.dianahacker.com/resdoc/>

<http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/747/01/>

## DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH STATEMENT ON PRINCIPLES OF CONDUCT

According to the University Calendar, (<http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/j.html>)

“The University of Calgary community has undertaken to be guided by the following statements of purpose and values: to promote free inquiry and debate, to act as a community of scholars, ..., to respect, appreciate, and encourage diversity, [and] to display care and concern for community”. The Department of English, like the university as a whole, is committed to a “positive and productive learning and working environment.” This environment is characterized by appreciation and encouragement of diversity and respect for the dignity of all persons: students, support staff, and faculty. The department will not tolerate unacceptable behaviour, such as threatening gestures, threatening or abusive verbal or written communication (including e-mails), or any conduct that “seriously disrupts the lawful education and related activities of students and/or university staff”. Any cases of such misconduct should be reported immediately to the department Head, who, depending on the nature and severity of the incident, may then take further appropriate action.