

FACULTY OF ARTS  
DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH  
COURSE OUTLINE

ENGLISH 353-L01  
DRAMA: READING AND ANALYSIS  
TOPIC: THE SELF

WINTER 2015

Instructor: Dr Basil Chiasson  
Office: SS 1125  
Phone: +1 (403) 220-4654  
E-mail: basil.chiasson@ucalgary.ca  
Office hours: Thursday 11-12  
Meeting Time: Tuesday and Thursday 12.30-1.45  
Location: ICT 114  
Course website (D2L): <https://d2l.ucalgary.ca/d2l/home/84639>

### Course Description

A study of dramatic literature in English from a wide range of historical periods and social and national contexts. Through textual analysis and close reading, this course acquaints students with the characteristic techniques of playwriting and basic theatric terminology, giving detailed attention to the formal conventions of literature written to be performed on stage. The chief aims of English 353 are to exhibit the diversity of dramatic literature, to acquaint students with drama as a unique medium within literature, and to foster an appreciation for it. Following the course description's emphasis of playwriting techniques and terminology as well as textual analysis and close reading, students will study the 'grammar' of dramatic literature – elements, convention, genre, style – and what text, interpretation, and close reading can mean. In this way, they will work towards developing a diverse and efficacious practice for reading dramatic literature. Lectures are foundational to the course but are frequently opened up to class discussion. 353 also provides an opportunity to develop skills in writing, reading, and critical analysis, mainly through a combination of discussion and debate, personal research, and written engagements with the course material.

Note that English 353 may not be repeated for credit. It is not open to students with credit in English 356. It cannot be used by Majors or Honours students to fulfill historical breadth requirements. It is reading and writing intensive.

### Readings

Anonymous. *Everyman*  
Beckett, Samuel. *Act Without Words I*.  
\_\_\_\_\_. *Act Without Words II*.  
\_\_\_\_\_. *Breath*.  
Glaspell, Susan. *Trifles*.  
Kan'ami. *Matsukaze*.  
Kelly, Dennis. *Love and Money*.  
Kennedy, Adrienne. *Funnyhouse of a Negro*.  
Kotzebue, August. *The Stranger*.  
Pirandello, Luigi. *Six Characters in Search of an Author*.  
Sophocles. *Oedipus the King*.

### Recommended Secondary Texts

Bentley, Eric. *The Life of the Drama*.  
Edgar, David. *How Plays Work*.  
Styan, J.L. *Drama: A Guide to the Study of Plays*.

## NOTE

There are no books to purchase for English 353. All readings can be accessed through the course website (D2L) as downloadable PDFs. At the same time, all plays can be found in the University library in hard copy and in some instances as electronic texts.

The schedule for this course will be distributed in the first week of the course. While the readings will not change, the reading schedule may at the Instructor's discretion.

## Assignments and Evaluation

*Response (x1)—due 5 February; length: 2 pages max., double-spaced* 10%

This assignment is designed to encourage students to think about drama by writing about it. There are a number of approaches available, and your instructor will discuss them in the lead up to the assignment's due date. NOTE: Regardless of how argumentative or impressionistic your orientation for this assignment, your work will be evaluated for the care and effort put into it: critical reflection, drafting and revision, and the quality of the prose, grammar, mechanics, and formatting.

*Reading Quizzes (x3)—12 February; 19 March; 9 April* 10% each—30%

Designed to keep you reading attentively, these in-class tests are fact-based and comprised of a combination of multiple choice and identification questions and one-word or phrase answers. These quizzes are fixed, so there will be no alternative opportunities to sit them.

*Close Reading Assignment (x1)—due 5 March; length: 2 pages max., double-spaced* 20%

The aim of this assignment is to sharpen skills for textual analysis and meaning making. Students will craft an essay which close reads a passage, scene, or act from one of the plays on the course reading list. The basic approach is to select a portion of play text, to scrutinize it for notable features and patterns, and to then demonstrate how what you observe relates to and accrues meaning in relation to the play at large. As part of this process, students should draw upon several of the various conventions taken up in the analysis of each play, for example: character, plot, dialogue, theme, and so on. Your instructor will give a presentation on how to approach a close reading and will rehearse that information throughout the semester and post relevant material on the course website; also, online sources abound which offer definitions, explanations, and even demonstrations of close reading.

*Term Paper (x1)—due 20 April; minimum word count: 1200 words* 30%

Essay topic options will be distributed by your instructor. You are, however, welcome to select your own topic and from that devise your own argument—but in doing so you must consult with the Instructor to ensure you are on the right track. The term paper must have a thesis—be organized and driven by a clearly articulated argument or main idea—and use at least two scholarly secondary sources. Students are expected to write in conformity with the basic standards of university-level essay writing: Content, Organization, Style, and Mechanics. Essays must adhere to MLA (the Modern Language Association of America) style guidelines and be typed in the following format: double-spaced (spacing is vital for it leaves room for the Instructor to respond in writing) in black, 12 point, Times New Roman font with regular margins. *Essays not adhering to these criteria will not be accepted, nor will essays submitted electronically.* Essays are due at 4.30 on the submission date indicated above. Essays submitted one week past their due date will no longer be accepted. Extensions are generally not provided but can be negotiated with your instructor by consultation no less than two days prior to deadline.

*Participation* 10%

Participation will be evaluated according to the following criteria: attendance with text; contributions to general discussions that demonstrate thoughtful and thorough reading; contribution by volunteering to read aloud from the dramatic works; attention to the contributions of others (by way of acknowledgment of points made or by way of productive follow-up questions or comments); and the extent to which written assignments indicate involvement

in the course (*demonstrable improvement across the written assignments will factor notably in the determination of the participation grade*).

---

**NOTE**

There is no Registrar-scheduled final examination for this course.

Students must complete and submit all assignments in order to be eligible to pass English 353.

Assignments are to be submitted to the Department of English Office (11<sup>th</sup> floor Social Sciences), where they will be date stamped before they are delivered to your instructor's mailbox.

Back up your work, keeping a copy of your essays in case of loss—whatever the cause.

Reasonable notice will be given for each assignment (at least two weeks). Extensions will only be given to the entire class or to individuals in exceptional circumstances.

Your instructor does NOT accept emailed assignments. Assignments will only be returned in class.

It is your responsibility to become familiar with this course outline: let it guide you through the semester, and do not approach your instructor, in person or by email, with questions whose answers can be found in this document.

---

**Grading System**

In English 353, assignments will be given numerical grades—in the form of percentages—according to the Undergraduate Grading System (see left column of chart below), as described in the Calendar (<http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/f-2.html>). Note that the Department has now standardized the percentage conversion scale.

|           |    |     |
|-----------|----|-----|
| 90 + %    | A+ | 4.0 |
| 85 – 89 % | A  | 4.0 |
| 80 – 84 % | A– | 3.7 |
| 77 – 79 % | B+ | 3.3 |
| 74 – 76 % | B  | 3.0 |
| 70 – 73 % | B– | 2.7 |
| 67 – 69 % | C+ | 2.3 |
| 64 – 66 % | C  | 2.0 |
| 60 – 63 % | C– | 1.7 |
| 55 – 59 % | D+ | 1.3 |
| 50 – 54 % | D  | 1.0 |
| 0 – 49 %  | F  | 0   |

**NOTE**

There is no grade of D-.

According to the University Calendar (F.1), instructors may use their discretion when rounding upwards or downwards when the average of term work and exams is between two letter grades.

Although the A+ is solely an honorific that entails no additional points in the four-point system, your instructor for this course will employ this mark to distinguish superlative work that exceeds expectations in style,

correctness, intellectual depth and breadth, sophistication, and originality.

A grading rubric for essays will be distributed at the beginning of the semester. The criteria for any non-essay based assignments will be delineated, by your instructor, in class.

### Late Assignments

Late essays will be penalized at the rate of 5 points per day of lateness (including both Saturdays and Sundays). Thus, if you hand in a paper one day late and it scores a 9.5/10 (95%), it will be downgraded to a 9 (90%).

---

### **Learning Environment**

Desire2Learn (D2L) has now replaced Blackboard. For assistance regarding the course website and learning environment in general go to <http://elearn.ucalgary.ca/desire2learn/home/students>, where you will find Student Help and FAQs about D2L. It is your responsibility to consult the course's website pages regularly for updates.

### **E-mail Protocol and Etiquette**

You must have (and use) a [ucalgary.ca](http://ucalgary.ca) email address to receive emails from and contact your instructor. Your instructor responds to emails on the basis of their import. You should not expect a response before 9am or after 5pm. You can expect, for standard emails (i.e. inquiries and notifications), a response time of roughly two to three days. For information pertaining to proper email usage see:

<https://www.ucalgary.ca/it/help/articles/email/etiquette>.

### **Laptops and Other Mobile Devices**

Laptop computers are permitted only for taking notes or following along with course-related activity. Anyone using them otherwise will be asked to leave the class. Cell phones must be shut off during all classes. (If you have an emergency situation, please inform the Instructor at the beginning of class.). Mobile devices are not permitted during quizzes or exams.

### **Important Dates**

13 January: ENGL 353 begins  
15-22 February: Reading Week—no lectures  
3 April: Good Friday—university closed  
14 April: Last ENGL 353 lecture of term  
15 April: Lectures end for semester

Note: Classes fall within \*14 weeks for the Winter semester, with \*25 classes for this course.

Consult the Academic Calendar at: <http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/academic-schedule.html>.

### **Plagiarism:**

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 below on plagiarism.

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

### **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/scribe-and-muse-english-club>. Our email address is [smecuofc@gmail.com](mailto:smecuofc@gmail.com).

**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>

**Guidelines on e-mail Etiquette:**

<http://www.enough.utoronto.ca/computeruse/eetiquette.htm>

**Library and Research Support:**

Melanie Boyd, Librarian for English, offers research support to students, including strategies for finding articles, books, and other library materials. Contact: [maboyn@ucalgary.ca](mailto:maboyn@ucalgary.ca)  
Find *The English Pages* research guide here: <http://libguides.ucalgary.ca/english>

**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>

**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 Arts Students' Centre (ASC) is your information resource for everything in Arts! Drop in at SS102, call us at 403-220-3580 or email us at [ascarts@ucalgary.ca](mailto:ascarts@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>

**Universal Student Ratings of Instruction (USRI):**

"At the University of Calgary, feedback provided by students through the Universal Student Ratings of Instruction (USRI) survey provides valuable information to help with evaluating instruction, enhancing learning and teaching, and selecting courses ([www.ucalgary.ca/usri](http://www.ucalgary.ca/usri)). Your responses make a difference - please participate in USRI Surveys."

## **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.