

FACULTY OF ARTS  
DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH  
COURSE OUTLINE

**ENGLISH 383.19-01 TOPIC IN LITERATURE AND THE ENVIRONMENT**  
**WANDERLUST: LITERATURE IN MOTION**

Fall 2015

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Classes: M/W 6:00 – 7:15  
Classroom: EDC 388  
Office hours: Wednesdays 1:00 to 2:00

**COURSE DESCRIPTION:**

Everything is in motion. From animals and water to people, clouds and trees. Even stone isn't still; however slow the process might be, it's being worn by weather and time into new shapes and designs. And yet we have a tendency to expect stasis of a place.

“Writing Beyond Nature: Interview with Julian Hoffman,” 132  
<http://www.ecozona.eu/index.php/journal/article/view/530/1047>

In literary studies, we often tend to focus on the significance of how characters speak and otherwise react to one another. In this course, we will read works that are rooted in walking and other forms of physical locomotion and shift the focus slightly to encompass an examination on characters' relationship to setting as well, on their movements through space, usually outdoors. We will analyze the ways in which movement and human muscle have powered the work of many writers and examine how motion is represented in selected works. How do motion and stasis (sitting at a desk) come together in the act of writing? How, in an age of post-peak fossil fuel, might we reclaim our bodies' own energy not only for leisure pursuits but also for healing, physical work and transportation? Among other assignments, over the first ten weeks of the term, students will design and carry out a weekly locomotion project of their own (walking or hiking, canoeing, kayaking, swimming, or riding horses, etc.) and keep a thoughtful diary in which they record their thoughts about their own project in relation to the course materials.

We will read a cultural history of walking, a novella, a novel, two works of creative nonfiction (aka literary nonfiction), at least one documentary film, some research articles, and more. Most of the required texts will be by writers from Alberta, Saskatchewan and British Columbia.

A few keywords: walking literature; sense of place; walking as healing or healing walks, healing journeys; keeping a nature diary; the flâneur; running; space; horseback riding; canoeing; swimming; flying; kayaking; hiking; climbing; walking and/as activism; marches; psychogeography; driving; boots and shoes; legs and feet; pilgrimage (the hajj; Canterbury

Tales; walkabout; Santiago de Compostela, Spain; Journey of the Nishiyuu; other); walking and disability; walking indoors (at the gym, the mall, stair-climbing, other)....

## REQUIRED TEXTS:

### Nonfiction:

Rebecca Solnit, *Wanderlust: A History of Walking*

(nonfiction; history of walking; walking in literature and art; USA)

Sharon Butala, *The Perfection of the Morning: An Apprenticeship in Nature*

(literary or creative nonfiction; walking/hiking; horseback riding; ranch life; sense of place; SK)

Jamaica Kincaid, *A Small Place*

(literary or creative nonfiction; the mobility of First-World tourism; sense of place; the tourist and 'the native'; the Caribbean)

### Fiction:

Gillian Wigmore, *Grayling* (a novella; canoeing a river in northern BC)

Richard Wagamese, *Medicine Walk* (novel about a boy growing up, intimate relationships and the meaning of family; a healing journey; horseback riding; First Nations; BC)

### Film:

Leanne Allison, dir., *Being Caribou* (documentary film; walking with other animals; life lessons from another species; AB, the far north)

### Grammar, punctuation and style manual:

If you do not yet have one, you must purchase and USE one. Just visit the U of C Bookstore and select the one that you think is best for you. Those of you who are English majors or minors will likely already have the *MLA Handbook*. Others may choose a handbook that is best for their needs.

## ASSIGNMENT PORTFOLIO:

Body in Motion Project Proposal (1 – 2 pp.):	10%
Body in Motion Project Diary (2 pp. per week over 10 weeks = 20 pp.):	40%
In-class oral presentation about your project: (presentation length will ultimately be determined by the number of students in the course but will not exceed 15 minutes)	15%
Mid-term exam:	20%
Final take-home exam:	15%
TOTAL	100%

## SOME MORE IMPORTANT NOTES:

Students must complete and submit in a timely fashion ALL of the assignments in order to be eligible for a passing grade for this course. Failure to complete all of them will result in an automatic failure of the course (F).

This includes oral assignments. Failure to show up for your own oral presentation – which is a course assignment – will constitute failure to complete all of the assignments for the course and may also result in an automatic failure of the course.

Students experiencing distress or having extenuating personal reasons for lateness or protracted absences should contact the instructor as soon as possible.

There will NOT be a registrar-scheduled examination in this course. The final examination will be of the take-home, open-book format. The final examination is due **no later than noon on Monday, Dec. 14<sup>th</sup>**. **Failure to submit it to the English General Office, 11<sup>th</sup> floor, SS, before noon on that day will result in an automatic failure of the assignment and the course. (You may submit it before that time and date, if you wish.)**

Page lengths for written assignments are calculated on the following basis: All written assignments must be double-spaced in 12-point font with 1” margins on all four sides of the page.

Late penalties: Late penalties will be deducted for late assignments. Late penalties can and sometimes do result in a failing grade on an assignment so students will want to start assignments well in advance of any due date. **The late penalty for written work is one mark per day late.** That is, if an assignment merits a 20/25 (80%, A-) but comes in two days late, the mark will drop two marks to 18/25 (76%, B). This measure is in place in order to ensure a level playing field for everyone in the course.

This course will be conducted as a mixture of lecture, class and group discussion, groupwork, fieldwork, readings, exercises (for instance, possibly a field trip, some audio or video recording, or other creative opportunities for learning and class participation), and other forms of learning. Respectful participation in all class-time activities, not just lectures, is compulsory. An important part of intellectual work is being able to speak about it with others. There is no point in hoarding your insights by keeping them solely to yourself: the world needs them, as we shall see as we read and think about the course materials. In short, students will be expected to assume the role of active participants in the construction and dissemination of knowledge rather than that of merely passive consumers of it. This includes participation in discussion and in credit-free assignments and activities carried out during class time. Students will have hands-on (or should I say feet-on), community-based engagement with literature through their major assignment. In short, you will have a chance to “walk the talk.”

A strong commitment to class attendance, completing the assigned readings in advance of the class for which they are scheduled, avidly participating in all class and group discussions and in-class exercises and activities, demonstrating respectful and open intellectual engagement with the course materials and with fellow students and the professor are highly

valued. Intermittent attendance (more than a couple of absences per term) *always* results in losing one's place in terms of the material and the others in the course. We will have a lot of fascinating material to talk about, work on and play with in this course! Think of a course not as a marks factory but as a community of living, thinking, responding, researching, knowledge-creating beings.

Recent research studies have shown that handwritten class notes are markedly superior in terms of acquiring a more thorough understanding of course material and for retention of material in one's memory. The instructor reserves the right to outlaw the use of phones, tablets and computers in class. Surfing the web, checking email or social media, or taking calls or texting during class is strictly forbidden!!

Along similar lines, I highly recommend that you annotate and underline the primary course texts (preferably in paper, but you can annotate in ebook and electronic articles in formats such as the Kindle application). Don't try to preserve pristine copies of your texts for resale to other students who will underline and annotate and therefore do better than you did in the course! Underlining and annotating in the margins are the best ways of acquiring and consolidating your knowledge of textual material. Studying is also vastly easier and more efficient if you have already 'made tracks' in your text (though not, of course, in any library books ever).

Please do not attempt to read the assigned materials on your phone! You cannot possibly ingest the texts on a screen as small as that of a phone. Just as visual arts courses examine the quality of the paint strokes in a painting or the forms in clay, literary studies are based on engagement with the language of the text. We are not studying course materials for an entire term simply in order to extract "the main idea" or "the general drift" of a text! We will be focussing on what is actually on the page. For the same reason, you must bring the assigned readings of the week to class. If you don't bring the text of the day to class, you are completely missing the point of literary studies. (It would be not unlike leaving your frog for dissection home during biology class.)

Sources of information about literary readings, festivals and book launches include the English Department website, in-class announcements, *Sverve Magazine* (published with the Friday edition of the *Calgary Herald*), and individual bookstore's websites (see ShelfLife and Pages Books, for example).

There will be no extra credit assignments or opportunities to re-do and resubmit your work. That being said, if you need some help or advice with anything course-related, please visit me in my office during office hours, and I will be very pleased to assist you.

Double-sided printing of assignments is highly encouraged in order to save paper and trees. Please feel free to use factory-recycled paper or even paper that has already been used on one side only. This is not only permissible but admirable. Just draw a line diagonally through the material printed or written on the "wrong" side and make sure your pages are stapled in order.

Please **DO NOT** use any plastic cover sheets for your assignments. They have an annoying tendency to flap shut while one is trying to read them, and using plastic contributes to waste,

pollution and excess carbon. Just a simple staple in the upper left-hand corner of the page is perfect. Please staple your work before handing it in. I do not normally carry a stapler with me to and from class.

Written assignments are due at the beginning of class on their respective due dates, and they must be physically handed to the instructor. At this point, I cannot accept any electronic submissions (which is too bad as it would save paper and trees). If you absolutely cannot hand me your work in class, then do not shove your professional work under my (or anyone else's) office door. It can and does get trampled, lost, put under the wrong professor's door, etc. Instead hand them in via the English Dept. office between 8:30 and 4:30 (the office is closed from 12:00 to 1:00) or the Essay Drop Box just outside the English Department office. Assignments are date-stamped by the office staff at about 4:00 so if you have a strict deadline you should submit your work before 4:00.

NOTE: The English Office is on the 11<sup>th</sup> floor of the Social Sciences Bldg.

In this course, final grades will be marked on the University of Calgary's four-point Undergraduate Grading System, as described in the Calendar:

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

A+/A (4.0); A- (3.7); B+ (3.3); B (3.0); B- (2.7); C+ (2.3); C (2.0); C- (1.7); D+ (1.3); D (1.0); F (0)

All individual assignments will receive a numerical grade and can be converted using the following 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

Please note that, 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 4-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.

**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: [maboym@ucalgary.ca](mailto:maboym@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>.

**Student Accommodations:**

Students seeking an accommodation based on disability or medical concerns should contact Student Accessibility Services ; SAS will process the request and issue letters of accommodation to instructors. For additional information on support services and accommodations for students with disabilities, visit [www.ucalgary.ca/access/](http://www.ucalgary.ca/access/).

Students who require an accommodation in relation to their coursework based on a protected ground other than disability should communicate this need in writing to their Instructor.

The full policy on Student Accommodations is available at [http://www.ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/student-accommodation-policy\\_0.pdf](http://www.ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/student-accommodation-policy_0.pdf).

**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.