

FACULTY OF ARTS
DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH
COURSE OUTLINE

**ENGLISH 383.20-01 TOPIC IN LITERATURE AND THE ENVIRONMENT:
ENERGY IN LITERATURE**

Classes: Tu/Th 11:00 to 12:15
Classroom: EDC 386
Dr. Pamela Banting
Office: SS 1010, 403.220.5480
Office hours: T/R 3:30 to 4:30
pbanting@ucalgary.ca

Winter 2017

Course Description:

If energy is the ‘hottest’ issue of our time, then where are our novels, literary nonfiction and poems about energy: where is our petro-literature? In this course we will examine *representations* of different forms of energy in literature. What *is* energy? How are the processes of its production, sale, distribution, and consumption represented in literature, photographs and film? How does energy affect our lives, our minds and bodies, our sense of place, and our sense of ourselves as individuals and as a society? How does it feel to live downstream or downwind? What is the physical labour in the field like? To what extent are we dependent on and bonded with motor vehicles and global supply chains? What is extraction and how does it affect other-than-human animals? How do we negotiate such problematic variables as our own complicity and denial? How do writers of fiction, literary nonfiction and even poetry write about oil, gas, electricity, and alternative forms of energy and their associated benefits, risks and liabilities such as climate change, spills, pollution of air and water, acidification of the ocean and depletion of oxygen and marine life, etc.? What might a post-fossil fuel world be like? Are there ideas and ideologies that can help us quickly transition to healthier, more sustainable and more equitable ways of living? What role can literature and the other arts play in illuminating problems and possibilities for the future?

Required Books:

Jon Gordon, *Unsustainable Oil: Facts, Counterfactuals and Fictions* (critical-theoretical text)
David Gessner, *The Tarball Chronicles: A Journey Beyond the Oiled Pelican* (literary nonfiction)
Mathew Henderson, *The Lease* (poetry collection)
Karsten Heuer, *Being Caribou: Five Months on Foot with an Arctic Herd* (literary nonfiction)
Fred Stenson, *Who by Fire* (novel)

You MUST ALSO OWN AND USE a grammar, punctuation and style manual. You may choose the one that appeals to you the most – just make sure it has a section on MLA Style. Just browse a few in the U of C Bookstore, and select one.

Assignment Portfolio:

Weekly reading journal (10 two-page entries tied to the topics and materials of the week – i.e., 500 words per two-page entry), due week 5 and week 10:	40%
Three tests, 10% each (dates are on class schedule):	30%
Analytical research essay (due week 12):	30%
TOTAL	100%

There is no final exam in this course.

IMPORTANT NOTE: Students must complete and submit in timely fashion **ALL** of the course assignments in order to be eligible for a passing grade for the course.

Please download and save this document and the class and reading schedule to your computer for easy reference throughout the term and so that you can access it even if the internet is not available for logging into D2L.

A Weekly Reading Journal (40% of your final grade)

Your reading and responding journal will be marked with editorial feedback in two installments of five entries each, 20% installment. See the Class and Reading Schedule for the exact due dates in weeks 5 and 10, and please come to class regularly so that you know what the topic is for each week's entry. The main purpose of the reading journal is to allow you to ground yourself more thoroughly in the readings and all other aspects of the course, to provide a less formal space for reflection than that offered by the genre of the analytical paper, and to improve your writing and thinking skills.

The journal will be complete (10 two-page entries) by the end of Week 10 of the course in order to allow students to devote their entire energies to their research essay. That is, you do not need to keep the journal for all thirteen weeks of the course.

Please see the detailed document "How to Keep a Reading Journal" posted on D2L, and which will also be gone over carefully in class. This document also explains how the journal will be assessed.

Tests (30% of your final grade):

The tests will consist of questions pertaining to the content of the texts, lectures and any and all classroom activities including short group assignments carried out in class, glossary-type questions, punctuation, grammar, MLA style, genre, etc.

Research paper (2500 words)

Your research paper will take into account and weave into your argument a **MINIMUM** of **THREE** scholarly journal articles, book chapters and/or an extensive interview with the author of the book(s) **that are NOT also course texts**. If there is no "search" involved in your "re-search," then you need to venture further afield.

That is not to say that you cannot **ALSO** use the course materials in your research paper, but you must also include a minimum of three sources that you searched for and tracked down

and fully utilized on your own. Note: “minimum” means minimum and is not necessarily synonymous with maximum or optimum for purposes of your own paper.

You may also draw upon additional research sources such as book reviews, but you must include at least three substantial scholarly sources such as the above. This is because reviews are usually very brief and evaluative rather than analytical.

Note: A research paper that contains no research is not a research paper. Any research paper that fails to contain research cannot receive a grade of higher than 50% of what the assignment is worth. The purpose of research is not only to support or prove your argument by citing authorities but to allow you to enter into a dialogue with others who have, like you, thought deeply and extensively about a given topic or question, to allow ideas from those other voices to spur you to generate new insights, and to practice negotiating and orchestrating all these voices together. It’s an academic skill, a job skill and a life skill.

Only booklength works of fiction are called novels. Works of nonfiction are not fiction: therefore they are not novels. You can call them nonfiction, literary nonfiction, creative nonfiction, books, or texts. Genre is important.

All written assignments must be double-spaced in 12-point font with 1” margins on all four sides of the page.

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 and to facilitate timely completion of assignments and of marking.

This course will be conducted as a mixture of lecture, class and group discussion, group work, 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, 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 co-construction and dissemination of knowledge rather than that of merely passive consumers of it. This includes participation in discussion and other credit-free assignments and activities carried out during class time.

A strong commitment to class attendance, completing the assigned readings in advance of the class for which they are scheduled, avidly participating in learning, demonstrating respectful, accountable and open intellectual engagement with the course materials and with fellow students and the professor are among the most important components of learning. Think of a course as a community, a group of living, breathing, thinking, responding, researching, knowledge-creating beings. 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 and lower grades.

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, computers, or other distractions in class. Surfing the web, checking email or social media, taking calls or texting during class is strictly forbidden!! Moreover, taking calls or texting by leaving the classroom is not allowed.

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 books for resale to other students who will underline and annotate and therefore probably 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. 'Make 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. No, you cannot. 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, which is close textual analysis.**

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 my office hours, and I will be very pleased to assist you in advance of the due date.

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 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 or clamp 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 after hours via 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 11th 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.

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:

<https://gsa.ucalgary.ca/wp-content/uploads/2016/09/Email-Etiquette.pdf>

Library and Research Support:

Christie Hurrell, Interim Librarian for English, offers research support to students, including strategies for finding articles, books, and other library materials. Contact:

christie.hurrell@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/.

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.

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. 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 3rd 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, arts2@su.ucalgary.ca, arts3@su.ucalgary.ca,
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). 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.