DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH
English 481-01
Literary Theory Pre-1900
WINTER 2022

Instructor	Shaobo Xie
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Web Page:	D2L (access via MyUofC portal)
Office Hours:	Monday 11:00-noon or by appointment. Office: SS 1012

Course description:
This is a survey of the major theories of and approaches to literature from classical times to 1800. According to the editors of *The Norton Anthology of Theory and Criticism*, "The history of theory and criticism from ancient times to the present is one of contending ideas and opinions about such apparently self-evident topics as 'literature' and 'interpretation.'" The main focus of the course is to examine how the conceptions of literature have changed over time, highlighting dialogues among theorists and champions of different traditions. Course readings and class discussions will be structured around the questions of truth, meaning, text, language, representation, literature and society, and aesthetics and politics.

The course format will be a mixture of lectures, class conversations, and group discussions and presentations. Each group presentation will take 35 minutes. You will write a research paper of approximately 3000 words. You will need to do library and/or online research before you start writing the paper. Your essay must have a clear, arguable thesis, and should be coherently structured and rigorously argued. To ensure you are on the right track, you should submit an essay proposal electronically two weeks prior to the due date.

Texts:
The Norton Anthology of Theory and Criticism

Assignments and Evaluation:
Review essay   20%
Critical essay   35%
Class participation   10%
Group presentation   15%
Take-home examination   20%
There is no Registrar-scheduled exam in this course.

Class participation is expected from every student. I will take attendance on a regular basis. Class participation means active participation in class discussion and group activities, interaction with classmates, and contribution to advancing debate in the classroom.

Students must submit all assignments to qualify for a passing grade. Except in cases of illness or crisis, late papers will be penalized with the loss of a fraction of a grade (a B to a B-) per day. No assignments will be accepted one week past the assignment deadline without the prior consent of the instructor.

The group work grade is designed to encourage students to take group work seriously. All members of a group will receive the same grade, except for students absent when the group work assignment is prepared or presented, who will receive an F. Each group will be required to submit a written version of the presentation.

All take-home written assignments must be typewritten and double-spaced. You should use a 12 point type-size and a readable font. Take-home essays must adhere to the format and documentation outlined in the *MLA Handbook* (8th Edition). To avoid plagiarism, please read the attached statement on plagiarism.

I will try my best to respond to your emails in a timely manner, but I will only reply to brief inquires and won't be able to discuss any matter in detail by email. If you wish to discuss course material, essay assignments, or group projects, you need to make an appointment to see me during my office hours.

Course Learning Outcomes:
Upon successful completion of this course, students will
1. Secure a good reading knowledge of the major theories of and approaches to literature from classical times to 1800.
2. Acquire a good understanding of how conceptions of literature have changed over time and why the history of theory and criticism is one of contending ideas and opinions about topics like literature and interpretation.
3. Have the ability to write about or contribute to debate or dialogue on the questions of truth, meaning, text, language, representation, literature and society, and aesthetics and politics.
4. Build a conceptual toolbox for reading and writing about literary theory and criticism.
5. Be able to rigorously examine different theories and positions by bringing them into conversation.
6. Acquire their initial capacity to theorize on their own.

Learning Resources:
Include any required textbooks and/or readings. Specify if a link to any required textbooks and/or readings will be provided in the course D2L site. Review copyright information for all resources included (see **https://library.ucalgary.ca/copyright**) and ensure all readings and

other electronic resources have been reviewed for copyright compliance by contacting **copyright@ucalgary.ca** prior to the start of term.

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**

Use of Internet and electronic Communication Devices in Class:
The use of laptop and mobile devices 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, which can be found at **https://www.ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/electronic-communications-policy.pdf**

Grading System:

Letter Grade	Percentage	Grade Point Value
A+	96% or above	4.0
A	90-95%	4.0
A-	85-89%	3.7
B+	80-84%	3.3
B	75-79%	3.0
B-	70-74%	2.7
C+	67-69%	2.3
C	64-66%	2.0
C-	60-63%	1.7
D+	55-59%	1.3
D	50-54%	1.0
F	0-49%	0

- 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 far exceeds expectations in style, correctness, intellectual depth and breadth, sophistication, and originality.
- Students must reach the minimum percentage threshold for the grade range to receive that letter grade (e.g., to receive an A- a student will have surpassed the minimum threshold of 80.00% in the course)
- The interpretation of the undergraduate university grading system can be found at https://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/f-1-1.html
    - o Or, for graduate courses: please refer to the Graduate Grading System at the following link: http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/grad/current/gs-h-1.html

- There is no D- grade.

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. 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.

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
Website: http://arts.ucalgary.ca/undergraduate

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.

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 [delete section if not applicable]
- 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/policies/files/policies/sexual-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.