

FACULTY OF ARTS

DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH  
COURSE OUTLINE

ENGLISH 499.01

WINTER 2019

COURSE TITLE: Advanced study of Margaret Atwood

Tu/Thurs, 12:30 – 1:45, SH 288

Instructor: Dr. Donna Coates

Office: SS1130

Phone: 403-220-4684

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Office hours: Tuesday 11:00-12:00

Homepage/course website:

**Course description:** Advanced study of Margaret Atwood's oeuvre in social, historical, and theoretical contexts. To date, Atwood has produced sixteen novels, eight volumes of short fiction, eight children's books, ten works of non-fiction, approximately twelve books of poetry, one play, one graphic novel, and four television/radio scripts. (This list does not include fiction and poetry published by small presses.) She has won numerous prestigious prizes, including the Man Booker, the Canadian Giller prize, and two Canadian Governor-General's awards for poetry and fiction. (At the end of the course, students will compile a letter to send to the Nobel Prize committee asking them to award Atwood the prize for literature.)

Although various wars (including the battles between the sexes) appear in Atwood's work, to my knowledge, insufficient critical attention has been paid to this subject. That said, the course will begin with the study of three major texts which will demonstrate how Margaret Atwood "works the wars" in fiction and drama. From there, students will continue the investigation of Atwood and war by working in small groups which will endeavor to read as much of Atwood's work as possible. In order to do so, they will engage in what is commonly referred to as "blended learning": that is, they will work in small groups and undertake independent study of other texts (selected from poetry, non-fiction, short fiction, essays, art [Atwood is also an artist and cartoonist]), as well as three additional major texts (selected early in the term and supported by at least three theoretical sources). During this part of the course, students will attend classes only when required to submit progress reports (approximately every two weeks) in the form of annotated bibliographies, which will indicate whether or not they contain sufficient material on Atwood and war writing to be useful for their final project. (You may opt to meet in the library during this period.) In order to avoid duplication, at these classroom meetings, students will be required to share their lists of sources, including theory. One month before the end of term, students will submit a project proposal for their final submission, which will consist of a major essay (15-20 pages) on Atwood's fascination with war. (Peer evaluation of the project proposals will also occur at this time.) If time permits, students will present their papers at a mini-conference. A small percentage of their final grade (5%) will be awarded to the exercise of students' own creative imaginations in the production of an artistic work, such as music, poetry, a story for children, or art relevant to their project.

**Texts and readings:**

Margaret Atwood, *The Robber Bride*

- . *The Blind Assassin*.
- . *The Penelopiad* (play)

### Assignments and Evaluation:

A ten 10-page essay on how Margaret Atwood “works the wars” on the three above-listed mandatory texts. (A list of topics and instructions for this assignment will be placed on D2L.)	30%
Submission of three project reports which include annotated bibliographies (3 x 5%)	15%
Submission of a project proposal	10%
Circulation of project proposals for the purposes of peer evaluation	5%
Submission of (and if possible presentation of) a 15-20 page essay, with 5% of the final grade devoted to the production of an artistic component, which need not be divulged prior to the submission (5% plus 35%).	40%

Please note that students will receive group grades for group work.

### Additional Regulations:

- Examinations and Tests for weighting of tests during the last 14 days of lecture may not count for more than 10% of the final grade, except in the case of laboratory or oral testing, take home examinations or terminal projects. (Calendar, G. Examinations and Tests: <http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/g.html>).
- Please note the recently passed (June 10, 2013) departmental regulation: Instructors of undergraduate courses will provide marked feedback on 40% of a student’s final grade (provided students meet posted deadlines) by the following dates: 1) one week before the withdrawal date for half courses; or 2) by the end of the first week of the second term for full courses.
- There are no extra-credit assignments in this course.
- Students must complete all (or specific) assignments in order to receive a passing grade in the course.
- I will not accept electronic submissions, nor will I ask students to make multiple copies of assignments.
- Please submit all assignments at the beginning of the class. Papers submitted after the class has begun will be regarded as late and will be subject to penalty. Students who submit late papers will be penalized with the loss of a full grade for each business day that the assignment is overdue. No assignments will be accepted one week past the assignment deadline without the prior consent of the instructor. Also, I will grade, but not mark, late submissions.

Please make every effort to take assignments directly to the instructor. If it is not possible to do so, take your assignment to SS 1152 and put it in the dropbox. Your assignment will be date-stamped and placed in the instructor's mailbox. It is your responsibility to keep a copy of all assignments in case of loss by any cause. Assignments cannot be returned by staff in the Department office.

### Grading system:

The University of Calgary’s four-point Grading System, as described in the Calendar; (<http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/f-2.html>) will be used in this course. 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)

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 four-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.

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.

**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-5.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>

**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:

[https://library.ucalgary.ca/sb.php?subject\\_id=52619](https://library.ucalgary.ca/sb.php?subject_id=52619)

**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 <https://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/academic-regs.html>

**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:**

**ACADEMIC ACCOMMODATIONS**

The student accommodation policy can be found at: [ucalgary.ca/access/accommodations/policy](http://ucalgary.ca/access/accommodations/policy).

Students needing an Accommodation because of a Disability or medical condition should communicate this need to Student Accessibility Services in accordance with the Procedure for Accommodations for Students with Disabilities [ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/student-accommodation-policy](http://ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/student-accommodation-policy).

Students needing an Accommodation based on a Protected Ground other than Disability, should communicate this need, preferably in writing, to the course instructor.

The full policy on Student Accommodations is available at <http://www.ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/student-accommodation-policy.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 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](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>

**Other student resources:**

**SU Wellness Centre:** <https://www.ucalgary.ca/wellnesscentre/>

**Campus Mental Health Strategy:** <https://www.ucalgary.ca/mentalhealth/>

**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://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/747/01/>

Students who are absent from class assessments (tests, participation activities, or other assignments) should inform their instructors as soon as possible. Instructors may request that evidence in the form of documentation be provided. If the reason provided for the absence is acceptable, instructors may decide that any arrangements made can take forms other than make-up tests or assignments. For example, the weight of a missed grade may be added to another assignment or test. For information on possible forms of documentation, including statutory declarations, please see <https://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/n-1.html>.

## **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.