

FACULTY OF ARTS  
DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH  
COURSE OUTLINE

**ENGLISH 517.02-01 THEORETICAL AND CULTURAL STUDIES:  
ANIMALS AND ANIMALITY**

Fall 2014

Dr. P. Banting

Classes meet Tu/Th 2:00 to 3:15

Classroom: SS 1153

Contact: SS 1010; 403.220.5480; pbanting@ucalgary.ca

Office hours: Tuesdays 15:30 to 16:30 (any necessary changes to this schedule will be announced in class)

**COURSE DESCRIPTION:**

Do you really believe you are an animal? In this course we will examine texts that help us explore social and cultural constructs of animals and animality, including “humanimals.” This course will introduce students to the field of animal studies. We will read texts about both human animals and other-than-human animals; zoos and captivity; animals and experimental testing; the figure of the pet; tamed and domestic animals; wild animals; globalization and animality; animal narrators and texts written as if from an animal’s point of view; birds and the music of the more-than-human world; animals, the animate, animation; fur and feathers; animals and edibility; predators and prey; issues around extirpation and extinction; animals and sense of place.

**REQUIRED TEXTS:**

Dawne McCance, *Critical Animal Studies: An Introduction*

Nicole Shukin, *Animal Capital: Rendering Life in Biopolitical Times*

Fred Bodsworth, *Last of the Curlews*

J.B. MacKinnon, *The Once and Future World: Nature As It Was, As It Is, As It Could Be*

Carrie Tiffany, *Mateship with Birds*

Karsten Heuer, *Being Caribou: Five Months on Foot with an Arctic Herd*

Colin McAdam, *A Beautiful Truth*

**ASSIGNMENT PORTFOLIO:**

Representation exercise (2 pp.)	15%
Class participation:	10%
Oral research presentation (30 minutes + 30 minutes Q & A)	30%

Research essay (due last week of class) (12 pp., typed, double-spaced, including endnotes and works cited)	30%
Oral response to a critical article	15%
TOTAL	100%

**Research.** This is obvious but worth putting in writing nevertheless. Both your research essay and your research-based oral presentation require, well, that some scholarly research materials to be incorporated and taken into account.

Students must complete and submit all of the assignments in order to be eligible for a passing grade for the course.

**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 the due date. **The late penalty for written work is one mark per day late. That is, if your assignment merits a 30/50 (60%) but comes in two days late, the mark will drop two marks to 28/50 (56%) in order to ensure a level playing field.**

**Class participation:** Attending classes regularly, participating respectfully in class, and in general playing your part in creating an intellectually engaging, friendly and positive classroom environment will enhance your own learning and pleasure in the classroom and beyond as well as that of others. An important part of intellectual work is being able to speak about it with others. Students will be expected to assume the role of active participants in the construction and dissemination of knowledge rather than merely passive consumers of it. This includes participation in discussion and in credit-free assignments and activities carried out in class.

Etiquette: Using your computer, phone or other 'smart' device for any purpose other than note-taking or instructor-designed activities during class is not permitted. It detracts from your ability and that of others to pay attention and concentrate. The instructor reserves the right to eject anyone causing any kind of disruption from the classroom. (Incidentally, recent studies have shown that handwritten notes are more effective in terms of recollection and memory and therefore understanding of the material than notes typed on an electronic device.)

Please try to arrive for class on time. Late arrivals are intrusive and disruptive.

All work must be typed and properly formatted. Using incorrect formatting or trying to fudge assignment length by using a larger or smaller font than required (12 point font is required) and/or putting additional spaces between paragraphs or widening or narrowing page margins is unprofessional. Such improperly formatted assignments may be penalized in terms of grade and/or returned to the student for reformatting, and a late penalty will be applied.

Double-sided printing is highly encouraged. Let's save paper and let's keep trees for birds and other animals. Using factory recycled paper or even paper that has already been used on one side is permissible and even 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 assignments handed in. They have an annoying tendency to flap shut while one is trying to read them, for one thing, and for another using more plastic than is absolutely necessary contributes to waste and pollution. Just a simple staple in the upper left-hand corner of the page is elegant in its simplicity. (Please staple your work before handing it in. I do not tote a stapler with me.)

Written assignments are due in class at the beginning of class on their respective due dates, and they must be handed to the instructor. 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, 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. However you submit your work, your name and mine must be on the first page or cover page. If my name is not on the front page, the office staff cannot know into whose mailbox to place your work.

There will not be a final examination in the course. Your mark will be calculated entirely on the quality of your term work as per the assignment portfolio above.

Grading System: Course grades are based on the University of Calgary four-point Undergraduate Grading System and the standard percentage conversion chart of the Department of English.

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 [smec@ucalgary.ca](mailto:smec@ucalgary.ca).

**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 Faculty of Arts Program Information Centre (PIC) is your information resource for everything in Arts! Drop in at SS110, call us at 403-220-3580 or email us at [artsads@ucalgary.ca](mailto:artsads@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.