

FACULTY OF ARTS

DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH

ENGLISH 517.86-01

Fall 2012

COURSE TITLE: Theoretical and Cultural Studies: Cultures of Time in Canada

Instructor: Dr. Paul Huebener

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Office hours: Wed 13:45-14:45

**Course description:**

Description: As Johannes Fabian and other theorists have shown, the conceptualizations of time that are built explicitly and implicitly into everyday cultural practices are always political. However, despite the importance of time to all aspects of personal and social life, the workings of time as a contested site of cultural power have often been overlooked. Through studies of cultural, theoretical, and literary texts that highlight or resist the social, personal, political, and environmental issues at stake in different representations of time, this course invites critical analysis of cultural models of time and temporality with a particular emphasis on how these contested temporalities operate in Canada.

**Prerequisite:** One full-course equivalent in English at the 400 level, or consent of the Department.

**Texts and readings:**

Required texts:

- Margaret Atwood, *The Year of the Flood*. Vintage Canada, 2010.
- Catherine Bush, *Minus Time*. 1993. Harper Perennial Canada, 2000.
- Thomas King, *Green Grass, Running Water*. 1993. Harper Perennial Canada, 2010.
- Marlene Nourbese Philip, *Looking for Livingstone: An Odyssey of Silence*. 1991. Mercury, 2011.
- Custom course pack.

**Assignments and Evaluation:**

Grading scheme:

Position papers	30% (6 x 5%)
Found text response paper	10%
Time activism response paper	10%
Participation	10%
Final paper proposal	5%
Final paper	35%

Position papers (one double-spaced page each, due dates assigned on syllabus):

Throughout the term you will write six position papers responding to the day's assigned readings. A

position paper should identify a compelling or problematic aspect of the assigned text and offer a brief argument for how we should interpret, apply, or complicate some aspect of the work. Given the short length of the position paper you will not be expected to present a fully developed argument; instead, you should focus on raising a thoughtful point to facilitate discussion. Bring your position paper to class on the day it is due, and be prepared to spend a few minutes either reading or informally explaining your response to the class.

Found text response paper (two double-spaced pages, due Oct. 3<sup>rd</sup>):

You will be asked to discover a “text” (a news article, an advertisement, a speech, a legal code, a song, a poem, an activity, an artifact, some other cultural object, or something from the natural world) that engages time in some way, and to share this text with the class. Your response paper should interpret how this object conceives of time – for instance, by analyzing how the object either contains or questions certain temporal assumptions. Bring your paper to class for discussion.

Time activism response paper (two double-spaced pages, due Nov. 7<sup>th</sup>):

In the days or weeks leading up to this assignment you will devise and carry out a form of personal time activism. In other words, you will perform some act or series of acts intended to change the way you understand or use time. Your response paper will tell the story of your act(s), and should evaluate the intended or actual consequences. Bring your paper to class for discussion.

Final paper proposal (two double-spaced pages plus a one-page tentative bibliography, due Nov. 14<sup>th</sup>)

Final paper (2,000 words, due Dec. 5<sup>th</sup>):

Your final paper will develop a topic of your choice that relates to one or more of the course readings and discussions. Bring your paper to class on Dec. 5<sup>th</sup>. While the paper itself is a formal essay, the class discussion on Dec. 5<sup>th</sup> will give you a chance to offer your informal thoughts on the outcome of your project, and to learn about the results of your colleagues’ projects.

Other notes on evaluation:

There will be no Registrar scheduled exam or extra-credit assignments, and there is no specific assignment that must be completed to receive a passing grade on the course.

Writing and the grading thereof will be a factor in all of the graded components except participation.

Assignments submitted after the deadline will be penalized with the loss of a third of a grade (an A- to B+) for each business day (not class) that the assignment is overdue, unless prior arrangements have been made with the instructor.

*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:**

## Grade Equivalencies:

A+	4.0	88-100%
A	4.0	84-87
A-	3.7	80-83
B+	3.3	77-79
B	3.0	74-76
B-	2.7	70-73
C+	2.3	67-69
C	2.0	64-66
C-	1.7	60-63
D+	1.3	57-59
D	1.0	50-56
F	0	0-49

**Electronic devices:**

The communication/internet functions of electronic devices must be switched off in the classroom except in cases of emergency.

**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/content/scribe-and-muse-reading-and-writing-club>

Our email address is [smrwc@ucalgary.ca](mailto:smrwc@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>.

**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>

**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>

**Guidelines on e-mail Etiquette:**

<https://www.ucalgary.ca/it/help/articles/email/etiquette>

**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 a student’s responsibility to request academic accommodation. If you are a student with a disability who may require academic accommodation and if you have not registered with the Disability Resource Centre, please contact their office at 220-8237. Your academic accommodation letters should be provided to your instructor no later than fourteen (14) days after the commencement of this course. Students who have not registered with the Disability Resource Centre are not eligible for formal academic accommodation. <http://www.ucalgary.ca/drc/>

**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>

## 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.