

FACULTY OF ARTS

DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH

ENGLISH 517-04

FALL 2012

Instructor: Dr. S. Forlini

Office: SS 1002

Phone: (403) 220-5483

E-mail: sforlini@ucalgary.ca

From Bibliographies to Dust: The Practice of Collecting

Course description: The figure of the collector amongst his or her accumulated things invites speculation about the drive to collect, the peculiar relationships between people and things, and the ways in which things come to circulate in (and out) of systems of signification and exchange. It is perhaps not surprising that the figure of the collector emerges as an identifiable character in fiction from the mid- to late-nineteenth century as what Elaine Freedgood calls “thing culture” gives way to commodity culture, but how can we understand the collector and the practice of collecting? This course will examine the figure of the collector and the practice of collecting both in fiction and in fact, focusing primarily (though not exclusively) on this key moment in the transition from thing to commodity culture. We will also examine a number of key theoretical approaches to material culture as we explore possible understandings of the relationships between language, people, and things.

Students will bring their new knowledge of collectors, collecting and material culture to bear on one of the University of Calgary’s most impressive collections—Bob Gibson’s Collection of Speculative Fiction, which contains material from the late eighteenth to the late twentieth century. This collection, one of the largest of its kind in North America, includes over 40, 000 books, periodicals, and personal “anthologies” compiled and illustrated by a life-long bibliophile. At least one assignment will ask students to find a way to engage meaningfully with this Albertan collector and/or his collection.

Reading List:

- Honoree de Balzac *Cousin Pons* (1847)
- Mary Elizabeth Braddon *Lady Audley’s Secret* (1862)
- Oscar Wilde *The Picture of Dorian Gray* (1891)
- Arthur Machen *The Three Impostors* (1895)
- H.G. Wells *The Time Machine* (1895)
- Henry James *The Spoils of Poynton* (1897)
- Mark Z. Danielewski *House of Leaves* (2000)
- Critical readings (from course pack or online resources)

Assignments and Evaluation:

Participation	10%
Class Bibliography Annotation	5%
Oral Presentation	15%
Short essay	20%
Gibson Collection Proposal	15%
Final Essay Proposal & Consultation	10%
Final essay	25%

Participation: Participation grades will be based on attendance and the quality of a student's contributions to class discussions, but will also include performing the role of discussant for at least one student presentation.

Presentation: Students will prepare a 15-minute presentation on specific pairings of primary and secondary readings. Presentations should be analytical in nature, constituting an early draft of what will become a short essay. Students will be evaluated based on the quality of the presentation and the student's ability to respond to other students' questions.

Short essay: Based on feedback from the oral presentation, students will develop a short essay (5-7 pages long).

Gibson project: Following a class visit to Special Collections, students will be asked to prepare a brief research proposal (4 pages) on one specific aspect of this collection and/or its collector. Sample topics will be discussed in class.

Final Essay Proposal & Consultation: Students will meet with the instructor during office hours at least two weeks prior to the final essay deadline to discuss a proposed research topic for the final paper. Students must bring a written one-page proposal to the meeting.

Final essay: Students will prepare a final essay (8-10 pages long) on a topic of their choice. Final essays may build upon previous assignments for this course but must be sufficiently different to be approved.

There is no Registrar-scheduled exam for this course.

Class Policies:

1-Students are expected to come to class having done all required readings (specified in the reading schedule) and to be prepared to participate actively in class discussion.

2-All assignments must be submitted at the beginning of class on the date that they are due. Electronic submissions are not acceptable.

3-Assignments submitted after the deadline will be subject to a late penalty of 5% per day (including weekends). Late assignments should be submitted through the department dropbox. It is the student's responsibility to confirm that the instructor receives it. Assignments that are more than 5 days late will not be accepted without appropriate medical documentation.

3-In order to receive a passing grade in this course, students must complete all assignments and attend class regularly.

4-All assignments must adhere to MLA style guidelines (7th edition).

5-There will be no extra-credit assignments.

Note: Please make all efforts to take assignments directly to the instructor. If it is not possible to do so, take your assignment to SS1152 and put it in the dropbox, where your assignment will be date-stamped and placed in the instructor's mailbox. Please keep a copy of your assignment in case of loss by any cause. Assignments cannot be returned by staff in the Department office.

Grading system:

The following grading system is used in this course:

A+	96-100
A	90-95
A-	85-89
B+	80-84
B	75-79
B-	70-74
C+	65-69
C	60-64
C-	55-59
D	50-54
F	0-49

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.

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. 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>

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.