

FACULTY OF ARTS
DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH
COURSE OUTLINE

ENGLISH 519.40 L01

Winter 2016

COURSE TITLE: Studies in a Literary Period: Humour in Modernist Fiction

(T/R 12:30-13:45 in SS1015)

Instructor: Dr. Harry Vandervlist

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Office hours: Tuesday 2:00 to 3:00 pm or by appointment at other times

Homepage/course website: via Desire2Learn

Course description: Studies in Modernist fiction from the early 20th century stress its important explorations of consciousness and its confrontation with formerly taboo subjects. It seems inevitable that this would lead to laughter--isn't it true that we laugh in the face of uncomfortable subjects? And yet the period is rarely thought of as very humorous. (Sardonic and satirical perhaps, but not actually very funny.) Is Modernist humour invariably "mirthless," as Tyrus Miller argues in his book *Late Modernism*? Or have critics simply missed key authors such as Flann O'Brien, and forgotten or failed to appreciate the humour in Joyce, Woolf and Beckett? After familiarizing ourselves with some early twentieth century theories of humour (Bergson, Freud), we will as a class investigate the nature of humour in Modernist fiction from the early 20th century.

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

Texts and readings (all are available in the University bookstore). Texts will be studied in the order below:

"Philosophy of Humor." <http://plato.stanford.edu/entries/humor/#Oth>

Please read this brief synopsis before the first class. (Excerpts from Bergson and Freud will be presented by the instructor in class.)

Wilde, Oscar. *The Importance of Being Earnest*. Dover.

Waugh, Evelyn. *Decline and Fall*. Penguin.

O'Brien, Flann. *The Third Policeman*. Dalkey Archive Press.

Beckett, Samuel. *Murphy*. Grove.

Woolf, Virginia. *Between the Acts*. Mariner.

Assignments and Evaluation:

Seminar Presentation 30%

(a written version of the presentation is due one week after class presentation)

Term Paper proposal 25%

(detailed proposal guidelines will be provided early in the term)

Term Paper (3000 – 3500 words, due in the final week of classes) 45%

(Term papers may develop and extend material discussed in the seminar presentation, but in such cases they must involve significant additional research and reading. The proposal offers a chance to demonstrate how the term paper will do this.)

Important notes on grading and assignments: There will be no final examination. Students must pass all assignments in order to receive a passing grade in the course. No extra-credit assignments will be given. Please read the attached statement on plagiarism.

Assignments submitted after the deadline will be penalized with the loss of a third of a grade (an A- to B+) for each week day [not class] on which the University is open, after the assignment is overdue.

*Note: You must submit assignments directly to the instructor, in class. If it is absolutely not possible to do so, first **notify the instructor**, and then take your assignment to SS1152 and place it in the drop-box. Your assignment will then be date-stamped and placed in your 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.***

E-mail and electronic submissions policy: I am happy to reply to short, specific questions via e-mail, and will answer as promptly as possible. However I cannot guarantee that you will have a reply within any specific amount of time. Please keep in mind that email correspondence will not be used as a substitute for discussions in class or during office hours. *Essays and course work must be submitted on the due date, in printed form, unless other specific arrangements have been made. In particular, submitting work by e-mail without prior agreement is not an acceptable alternative to handing in work on time, in class.*

***Please include "ENGL 519" in the subject line of any email you send. Often, student e-mail gets "spam-filtered" and this allows me to check whether any course mail has been sent to the "junk" mailbox. For some reason Hotmail addresses in particular are likely to be filtered by the U of C system. *Your ucalgary email address is the one most likely to work without problems.*

Grading system:

You will receive letter grades for all assignments. The letter grades correspond to percentage ranges as shown in the chart below.

These will be used to calculate your final course grade. (When you receive your official transcript, you will see the final overall letter grade for the course, plus the corresponding grade point shown in the chart.)

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.

90 + %	A+	4.0
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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

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 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>

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: maboym@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>.

Student Accommodations:

Students seeking an accommodation based on disability or medical concerns should contact Student Accessibility Services; SAS will process the request and issue letters of accommodation to instructors. For additional information on support services and accommodations for students with disabilities, visit www.ucalgary.ca/access/.

Students who require an accommodation in relation to their coursework based on a protected ground other than disability should communicate this need in writing to their Instructor.

The full policy on Student Accommodations is available at http://www.ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/student-accommodation-policy_0.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. 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>

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). 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.