

FACULTY OF ARTS
DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH

ENGLISH 520-01
COURSE TITLE: Community Engagement Through Literature

Fall Term 2019

Instructor: Dr. Susan Bennett

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Office hours: Mondays 11:00-13:00, drop-in. Students are also welcome to arrange appointments on other days/times by prior arrangement via email.

Teaching assistant: Donna Williams

Contact information and office hour will be posted to D2L at the start of term.

Course description: This course will combine classroom and community-based learning in partnership with the Calgary Public Library's "Creative Writing Club" program. The goals of "Community Engagement through Literature" are to explore practical ways that knowledge gained in the study of English might serve the community and to reflect on the relationship between literary studies and public service.

Students will meet in a formal classroom setting to examine and discuss assigned readings on service learning and community engagement. Once a week students, in teams of two, will work in a community partner setting (one of five library branches), bringing their expertise and interest in literature to help students in grades 5-9 improve their writing skills. In this role, you will be encouraged to actively test possible approaches to engaging younger students with creative writing through a wide range of activities of your choice/design. University volunteers are also expected to be positive mentors and role models. Students in ENGL 520 have the opportunity to shape how the "Creative Writing Club" works and to offer valuable feedback to the Library on the program's strengths and challenges. Please note that the School Support program is dependent on the grade 5-9 students signing up; in the event that a library branch chooses to cancel the program at their location because of no or low enrollment, students in ENGL 520 volunteering at that branch will be assigned appropriate research activities within the Calgary Public Library in close consultation with the ENGL 520 instructor.

Students are required to have successfully completed the criminal record check, as explained by the Calgary Public Library, in advance of volunteer sessions. Each week, students are expected to arrive at their assigned branch punctually and to contribute to the programming described by the branch coordinator. If a student cannot, for good reason, attend a session, it is important that both the instructor and the branch are notified ahead of their expected arrival. Further, a student must notify the instructor and the Library immediately in the event s/he is ill or injured or involved in any claims concerning the activities he or she has taken or not taken during the sessions.

In the on-campus seminar with the course instructor, students will read a variety of articles that explore service learning in the context of literary and related studies and discuss these ideas as well as reflect critically on their volunteer practice. A list of readings will be circulated in the first meeting of our class and posted to D2L; students are expected to have completed assigned readings prior to the relevant seminar.

There will be a orientation meeting at your Library branch in the week of September 9 (the volunteer component will start the following week) and a wrap-up meeting with all participants in December: students must attend both of these sessions.

Assignments and Evaluation:

Four short papers that offer critical reflection on the volunteer experience OR a response to the assigned readings OR an outline of work developed for use in the volunteer sessions with an evaluation of its success, each worth 15%. Each paper should be 500-750 words in length and will be submitted to the instructor electronically via email (sbennett@ucalgary.ca) and will be posted (without the instructor's comments/grade to D2L) unless the student specifically asks for the paper to be withheld.

Two papers must be submitted by November 1st, and all must be submitted by December 1st.

Oral presentation: jointly prepared by each student team (i.e., the two students assigned to a particular library branch) for delivery at a final wrap-up session. The presentations should include a summary reflection and critical assessment of the "School Support: Language Arts" pilot program and the volunteer experience as well as suggestions for future practice. The presentation should take no longer than 20 minutes to deliver. Students must be prepared to discuss their ideas at this session and to give feedback to others' presentations. The presentation and wrap-up session participation will be worth 20% of the course grade.

Final paper: each student will write a ten-page paper, drawing on their volunteer experience and the readings engaged in class discussion, to discuss the value of community engagement courses in an English undergraduate degree. The paper, worth 20% of the course grade, will be submitted electronically via email to the instructor no later than December 20th.

There will be no Registrar scheduled final exam in this class. Students must complete all assignments in order to receive a passing grade in this class.

Grading system:

The University of Calgary's four-point Undergraduate 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.

Use of pronouns:

This course will follow the Modern Language Association's guidelines: <https://style.mla.org/singular-they/> and draws attention to their comment "Writers who wish to use a non-gender-specific pronoun to refer to themselves may prefer *they* and *their* (or a neologism like *hir*). Likewise, writers should follow the personal pronoun choices of individuals they write about, if their preferences are known, and editors should respect those preferences. *They* may be used in a singular sense according to a person's stated preference for it."

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.

English Department Website:

For more information about courses, programs, policies, events and contacts in the Department of English, please go to our website at <https://arts.ucalgary.ca/english>. 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: maboyd@ucalgary.ca.

Find The English Pages research guide here:

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

<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:**ACADEMIC ACCOMMODATIONS**

The student accommodation policy can be found at: [ucalgary.ca/access/accommodations/policy](http://www.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://www.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. 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: <https://www.ucalgary.ca/student-services/ombuds/role>

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://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/m-1.html>.

DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH STATEMENT ON PRINCIPLES OF CONDUCT

According to the University Calendar; <https://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/k-2.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.