



UNIVERSITY OF  
CALGARY

<b>COURSE TITLE:</b>			
<b>Course Number</b>	ENGL 529.01	<b>FALL 2020</b>	
<b>Faculty / Department</b>	Faculty of Arts/Department of English		
<b>Instructor Name</b>	Dr. Bart Beaty	<b>Email</b>	beaty@ucalgary.ca
<b>Instructor Email Policy</b>	I do not respond to emails outside of normal working hours.		
<b>Office Location</b>	SS 1138	<b>Telephone No:</b>	403 220-7246
<b>Office Hours</b>	Tuesday 9:00 – 10:00		
<b>Class Dates/Times/Location</b>	NA		

**Course description:**

An examination of the processes by which the ‘graphic novel’ came to be regarded as a significant literary form relative to the more dubious format of the ‘comic book’. Specifically, this term we will examine how *Watchmen* by Alan Moore and Dave Gibbons (1986-1987) came to be regarded as ‘the most important superhero comic ever published’ and how that status has been remediated in film, television, and by the work’s original publisher, despite the stated disavowal of one of the original authors.

This course will be fully asynchronous. This course will take place **online** via Desire2Learn (D2L). To best succeed in the course, students are encouraged to participate in the asynchronous learning tasks using the D2L learning environment.

**\*COURSE LEARNING OUTCOMES**

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

1. Demonstrate a knowledge of the history of the comic book in the United States
2. Demonstrate an understanding of the formal properties of comics
3. Demonstrate an understanding of the way works come to be regarded as canonically important
4. Demonstrate an understanding of how media industries challenge and support authorial understandings of culture

**Texts and readings:**

All texts for this course are available for sale in the University of Calgary bookstore.

Alan Moore and Dave Gibbons. *Watchmen*. DC Comics

*Watchmen* movie dvd. Zack Snyder. Warner Home Entertainment.

*Watchmen: AN HBO Limited Series*. Damon Lindelof. DVD

Darwyn Cooke and Amanda Conner. *Before Watchmen: Minutemen/Silk Spectre* DC Comics.

Geoff Johns and Gary Frank. *Doomsday Clock: The Complete Collection*. DC Comics.

Please note: The *Watchmen* movie is available to rent from many streaming services at a much more affordable price than the DVD. Similarly, the *Watchmen* tv show is available to view on Crave.ca which offers a free 30-day trial to new customers. You might wish to use this trial in November. Also note that the single-volume edition of *Doomsday Clock* will be released on October 13; we will not be discussing that material until December.

### **\*LEARNING TECHNOLOGIES AND REQUIREMENTS**

There is a D2L site for this course which contains required readings and other relevant class resources and materials (see [d2L.ucalgary.ca](http://d2L.ucalgary.ca)).

In order to successfully engage in their learning experiences at the University of Calgary, students taking online, remote and blended courses are required to have reliable access to the following technology:

- A computer with a supported operating system, as well as the latest security, and malware updates;
- A current and updated web browser;
- Current antivirus and/or firewall software enabled;
- Broadband internet connection.

### **Assignments and Evaluation:**

**Discussion Contributions (throughout the term).** While discussion forums have been created for each lecture and reading in this course and will be monitored throughout. All students are expected to provide a substantive contribution to the discussion in these forums (at least 200 words of writing) that shows attention to earlier contributions and which extends and expands the discussion, or which begins a new discussion line entirely. Students will be graded on the quality of their contribution to the online discussions and their twenty highest grades will be counted towards their final grade. Each of these twenty contributions are worth one per cent of the grade in this course, for a total of twenty per cent.

**Discussion Leadership (throughout the term).** For each class we will assign one student to take a leadership role in facilitating the discussion of the Required Reading. This student will author the initial post in the discussion forum and provide prompts for discussion for other students. Each student will be responsible for one discussion leadership, and it should not be on the same week as their video presentation is due. Dates will be assigned during the first week of term. This is worth ten per cent of the final grade in this course.

**Video Presentation (throughout the term).** For each class session supplemental readings have been assigned. These include interviews with creators, dossiers of criticism, and additional graphic novels that are

not required (although, of course, all students are encouraged to engage with the material). During the first week of term, students will sign up to make a video presentation of between 5 and 10 minutes about the supplemental material for that class. The presentation should summarize the major themes and discuss how the material highlights certain elements in the required reading(s) for that class. Students will also be expected to respond to questions about the supplemental material and their presentation in the discussion forums. This assignment is worth twenty-five per cent of the final grade in this course.

**Adopt-a-character (October 13, 2020).** Following the Julian Barnes' description of Justin in Flaubert's *Madame Bovary* as "a small major character", students will be assigned a minor or major-minor character from *Watchmen* (ie not one of the six protagonists) and will provide an overview of that character's narrative arc, detailing the role that the play in the story and how (or even if) the character is developed. This overview should be no longer than two pages and the overviews will be posted to the discussion forums for commentary by the class. This assignment is worth five per cent of final grade in this course.

**Article Précis (November 3, 2020).** A list of twenty-five peer-refereed scholarly articles available digitally through the University library will be placed on D2L. Each student is responsible for a short (three to five pages) overview of the article that considers the background of the author, the major arguments advanced, and the major supporting evidence of the piece. Students are also encouraged to provide an analysis of the relative strengths and weaknesses of the assigned essay. The overviews will be posted to the discussion forums for commentary by the class. This assignment is worth ten per cent of final grade in this course.

**Final Project (December 3, 2020).** The final project can be an essay (12 – 15 pages) or take on another form (film, data set, creative project). If a student opts to proceed with a project that is not an essay, this should be approved prior to the commencement of Reading Week so that the project can be calibrated as representing an equivalent amount of work as the paper. This assignment is worth thirty per cent of the final grade in this course.

**There is no Registrar scheduled exam for this course. There are no extra-credit assignments for this course. You do not need to complete all assignments to receive a passing grade in this course.**

**Assignments submitted after the deadline will be graded with no loss of marks, but will receive no written comments.**

## **ATTENDANCE AND PARTICIPATION EXPECTATIONS**

As this is an asynchronous course, there are no attendance and participation expectation.

## **CONDUCT**

Students, employees, and academic staff are also expected to demonstrate behaviour in class that promotes and maintains a positive and productive learning environment. As members of the University community, students, employees, and academic staff are expected to demonstrate conduct that is consistent with the University of Calgary Calendar, the Code of Conduct and Non-Academic Misconduct policy and procedures, which can be found at: <http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/k.html>

## USE OF INTERNET AND ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATION DEVICES IN CLASS

The use of laptop and mobile devices is acceptable when used in a manner appropriate to the course and classroom activities. Please refrain from accessing websites and resources that may be distracting to you or for other learners during class time. Students are responsible for being aware of the University's Internet and email use policy, which can be found at <https://www.ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/electronic-communications-policy.pdf>

- **Grading system:**

The University of Calgary's four-point Grading System, as described in the Calendar; ) will be used in this course. <https://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/f-1-1.html>

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) <https://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/f-1.html>, 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.

### **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](mailto: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](mailto:maboyd@ucalgary.ca).

Find The English Pages research guide here:

[https://library.ucalgary.ca/sb.php?subject\\_id=52619](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://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://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](mailto: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.

### **\*RESEARCH ETHICS (if applicable)**

If a student is interested in undertaking an assignment that will involve collecting information from members of the public, they should speak with the course instructor and consult the CFREB Ethics (<http://www.ucalgary.ca/research/researchers/ethics-compliance/cfreb>) before beginning the assignment.

### **\*INSTRUCTOR'S INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY**

Course materials created by instructors (including presentations and posted notes, labs, case studies, assignments and exams) remain the intellectual property of the instructor. These materials may NOT be reproduced, redistributed or copied without the explicit consent of the instructor. The posting of course materials to third party websites such as note-sharing sites without permission is prohibited. Sharing of extracts of these course materials with other students enrolled in the course at the same time may be allowed under fair dealing.

### **\*FREEDOM OF INFORMATION AND PROTECTION OF PRIVACY**

Student information will be collected in accordance with typical (or usual) classroom practice. Students' assignments will be accessible only by the authorized course faculty. Private information related to the individual student is treated with the utmost regard by the faculty at the University of Calgary.

### **\*COPYRIGHT LEGISLATION**

All students are required to read the University of Calgary policy on Acceptable Use of Material Protected by Copyright (<https://www.ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/acceptable-use-of-material-protected-by-copyright-policy.pdf>) and requirements of the copyright act (<https://laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/eng/acts/C-42/index.html>) to ensure they are aware of the consequences of unauthorised sharing of course materials (including instructor notes, electronic versions of textbooks etc.). Students who use material protected by copyright in violation of this policy may be disciplined under the Non-Academic Misconduct Policy <https://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/k.html>.

### **\*MEDIA RECORDING (if applicable)**

Please refer to the following statement on media recording of students: [https://elearn.ucalgary.ca/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/Media-Recording-in-Learning-Environments-OSP\\_FINAL.pdf](https://elearn.ucalgary.ca/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/Media-Recording-in-Learning-Environments-OSP_FINAL.pdf)

#### **\*Media recording for lesson capture**

The instructor may use media recordings to capture the delivery of a lecture. These recordings are intended to be used for lecture capture only and will not be used for any other purpose. Although the recording device will be fixed on the Instructor, in the event that incidental student participation is recorded, the instructor will ensure that any identifiable content (video or audio) is masked, or will seek consent to include the identifiable student content to making the content available on University approved platforms.

#### **\*Media recording for self-assessment of teaching practices**

The instructor may use media recordings as a tool for self-assessment of their teaching practices. Although the recording device will be fixed on the instructor, it is possible that student participation in the course may

be inadvertently captured. These recordings will be used for instructor self-assessment only and will not be used for any other purpose.

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### **\*Media recording for the assessment of student learning**

The instructor may use media recordings as part of the assessment of students. This may include but is not limited to classroom discussions, presentations, clinical practice, or skills testing that occur during the course. These recordings will be used for student assessment purposes only and will not be shared or used for any other purpose.

### **SEXUAL VIOLENCE POLICY**

The University recognizes that all members of the University Community should be able to learn, work, teach and live in an environment where they are free from harassment, discrimination, and violence. The University of Calgary's sexual violence policy guides us in how we respond to incidents of sexual violence, including supports available to those who have experienced or witnessed sexual violence, or those who are alleged to have committed sexual violence. It provides clear response procedures and timelines, defines complex concepts, and addresses incidents that occur off-campus in certain circumstances. Please see the policy available at <https://www.ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/sexual-violence-policy.pdf>

### **\*OTHER IMPORTANT INFORMATION**

Please visit the Registrar's website at: <https://www.ucalgary.ca/registrar/registration/course-outlines> for additional important information on the following:

- Wellness and Mental Health Resources
- Student Success
- Student Ombuds Office
- Student Union (SU) Information
- Graduate Students' Association (GSA) Information
- Emergency Evacuation/Assembly Points
- Safewalk

### **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://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.