UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY

DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH
English 607-S01
Towards a Genealogy of Minoritarian Writing
WINTER 2023
Tuesdays, 1:00-3:45; web-based

Instructor	Shaobo Xie
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Web Page:	D2L (access via MyUofC portal)
Office Hours:	Mon. 11:00-noon and by appointment (Zoom)

Course description:
This course explores the idea of minoritarian writing as variously named and practiced in contemporary theory and literature. A minor literature, according to Deleuze and Guattari, is not literature written in a minor language; "it is rather that which a minority constructs within a major language." Its three defining characteristics are "the deterritorialization of language, the connection of the individual to a political immediacy, and the collective assemblage of enunciation." To borrow terms from Nietzsche, minoritarian writing is an "untimely" style of writing, which "act[s] counter to our time and thereby act[s] on our time . . . for the benefit of a time to come." The seminar discussions will center around the following questions: What are the central concerns shared among various forms of contemporary minoritarian writing? In what sense is minoritarian writing a revolutionary force? Why is it that a minor literature always opens up a new way of imagining or experiencing aesthetic, cultural, and epistemological otherness? To what extent might a minor literature deterritorialize dominant language and social imaginaries in a way that is really heterogeneous or external to the rule of neoliberal capitalism? What role can minoritarian writing play in transforming the English classroom into a vibrant space of production of creative energies and ideas?

Course Hours: 3 units (3S-0)

Course Learning Outcomes:
Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to
1. Acquire an enlightened and enriched understanding of what is called minor literature and the central concerns and features shared among various forms of contemporary minority writing.
2. Add to their conceptual toolbox a number of useful critical concepts such as assemblage, deterritorialization, lines of flight/escape, minoritarian, rhizome, and parrhēsia.

3. Achieve increased familiarity with different articulations of aesthetic, cultural, and epistemological otherness.
4. Become more insightful, rigorous, creative readers of literary and theoretical texts, making new, unexpected connections.
5. Construct engaging, thought-provoking arguments based on productive research and original interpretations of texts framed with innovative methodological and critical concepts.
6. Initiate and participate in a productive seminar discussion of a literary or critical text.

Tests and Readings:
Gilles Deleuze and Felix Guattari, *Kafka: Toward a Minor Literature*
Deleuze and Guattari, *A Thousand Plateaus*
Michel Foucault, *The Courage of Truth*
Friedrich Nietzsche, *The Gay Science*
Maurice Blanchot, *The Writing of the Disaster*
Hélène Cixous, "The Laugh of the Medusa"
Jacques Derrida, *Acts of Literature*
Jacques Rancière, *Dissensus*
Franz Kafka, *The Trial*
Samuel Becket, *The Unnamable*
Toni Morrison, *Beloved*
Thomas King, *Green Grass, Running Water*
Arundhati Roy, *The God of Small Things*
Xiaolu Guo, *A Concise Chinese-English Dictionary for Lovers*

The books are available at the University of Calgary bookstore. Hélène Cixous's "The Laugh of the Medusa" and a few terms from *The Deleuze Dictionary* are available through D2L.

Learning Technology Requirements:
There is a D2L site for this course which contains some required readings and other relevant class resources and materials (see d2L.ucalgary.ca).

In order to successfully engage in their learning experiences at the University of Calgary, students taking online courses are required to have reliable access to the following technology:
• A computer with a supported operating system, as well as the latest security, antivirus, and malware blocking software;
• A current and updated web browser;
• Webcam (built-in or external);
• Microphone and speaker (built-in or external), or headset with microphone;
• Current antivirus and/or firewall software enabled;
• Broadband internet connection.
Most current laptops will have a built-in webcam, speaker and microphone.

Assessments and evaluation:
Review essay (1000 words)   25%

Seminar presentation	25%
(1500 words for written version)	
Critical essay (3500-4000 words)	40%
Participation	10%

There is no Registrar-scheduled final examination in the course.

Students must submit all assignments to qualify for a passing grade. Assignments submitted after the deadline will be penalized with the loss of a third of a grade (an A- to B+) per day. No assignments will be accepted one week past the assignment deadline without the prior consent of the instructor.

Students are required to submit written assignments electronically. There are D2L dropbox folders for various assignments.

All take-home essays, with 1" margins and double-spaced throughout, adhere to the format and documentation outlined in the *MLA Handbook* (9th Edition). To avoid plagiarism, please read the attached statement on plagiarism.

Class participation is expected from every student. I will take attendance on a regular basis. To be awarded an A, the student must always make insightful, constructive contributions to seminar discussion, considerably advancing the level and depth of the conversation. To be awarded an A-, the student needs to play an active role in seminar discussion, often advancing the level and depth of the conversation. To be awarded a B, the student needs to be well prepared for seminar discussion and makes relevant and constructive responses to questions and issues under discussion. Receiving a C means that the student participates in seminar discussion, and when responding to questions and issues under discussion only makes general and vague remarks.

I will try my best to respond to your emails in a timely manner, but I will only reply to brief inquires and won't be able to discuss any matter in detail by email. If you wish to discuss course material or essay assignments, you need to make a Zoom meeting appointment during my office hour.

Guidelines for Zoom Sessions:
This course will take place online via Desire2Learn (D2L) and Zoom. To best succeed in the course, students are encouraged to participate in the asynchronous learning tasks using the D2L learning environment and synchronous Zoom sessions. When unable to participate live due to the time difference or unforeseen circumstances, inform the instructor in advance and propose and implement propose an alternative participation activity (e.g., watch the recordings, submit a brief reflection, and actively contribute to the follow-up online discussion).

There will be 13 synchronous Zoom sessions throughout the term.

Zoom is a video conferencing program that will allow us to meet at specific times for a "live" video conference, so that we can have the opportunity to meet each other virtually and discuss relevant course topics as a learning community.

To help ensure Zoom sessions are private, do not share the Zoom link or password with others, or on any social media platforms. Zoom links and passwords are only intended for students registered in the course. Zoom recordings and materials presented in Zoom, including any teaching materials, must not be shared, distributed or published without the instructor's permission.

The use of video conferencing programs relies on participants to act ethically, honestly and with integrity; and in accordance with the principles of fairness, good faith, and respect (as per the Code of Conduct). When entering Zoom or other video conferencing sessions (such as MS Teams), you play a role in helping create an effective, safe and respectful learning environment. Please be mindful of how your behaviour in these sessions may affect others. Participants are required to use names officially associated with their UCID (legal or preferred names listed in the Student Centre) when engaging in these activities. Instructors/moderators can remove those whose names do not appear on class rosters. Non-compliance may be investigated under relevant University of Calgary conduct policies (e.g Student Non-Academic Misconduct Policy). If participants have difficulties complying with this requirement, they should email the instructor of the class explaining why, so the instructor may consider whether to grant an exception, and on what terms. For more information on how to get the most out of your zoom sessions visit: https://elearn.ucalgary.ca/guidelines-for-zoom/ .

If you are unable to attend a Zoom session, please contact your instructor to arrange an alternative activity for the missed session. Please be prepared, as best as you are able, to join class in a quiet space that will allow you to be fully present and engaged in Zoom sessions. Students will be advised by their instructor when they are expected to turn on their webcam (for group work, presentations, etc.)

The instructor may record online Zoom class sessions for the purposes of supporting student learning in this class – such as making the recording available for review of the session or for students who miss a session. Students will be advised before the instructor initiates a recording of a Zoom session. These recordings will be used to support student learning only and will not be shared or used for any other purpose.

Learning Resources:
Include any required textbooks and/or readings.   Specify if a link to any required textbooks and/or readings will be provided in the course D2L site.   Review copyright information for all resources included (see https://library.ucalgary.ca/copyright) and ensure all readings and other electronic resources have been reviewed for copyright compliance by contacting copyright@ucalgary.ca prior to the start of term.

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:

Letter Grade	Percentage	Grade Point Value
A+	90% or above	4.0
A	85-89%	4.0
A-	80-84%	3.7
B+	77-79%	3.3
B	74-76%	3.0
B-	70-73%	2.7
C+	67-69%	2.3
C	64-66%	2.0
C-	60-63%	1.7
D+	55-59%	1.3
D	50-54%	1.0
F	0-49%	0

In this course letter grades are used to indicate the quality of each assignment. In the calculation of the final course grade letter grades will be converted to numerical values using the above-mentioned scale.

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 far exceeds expectations in style, correctness, intellectual depth and breadth, sophistication, and originality.

The interpretation of the graduate university grading system can be found at http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/grad/current/gs-h-1.html . Anything below a B- is considered a fail at the graduate level.

There is no D- grade.

Students must reach the minimum percentage threshold for the grade range to receive that letter grade. For example, to receive an A- a student must have surpassed the minimum threshold of 80.00% in the course.

Academic Integrity:
This course, like all courses at the University of Calgary, holds students to high standards of honest and responsible scholarship. Please consult the Academic Integrity website for a detailed description of university policies, which will be enforced in this course. Cases of suspected academic misconduct will be referred to the Associate Dean of Arts for a ruling.

Plagiarism is a type of academic misconduct. Plagiarism occurs when a student presents the ideas, expression of ideas, or work of another person as their own. Another equally serious form of plagiarism occurs when a student submits something they have written themselves for credit in two or more courses without first securing written permission from all those course instructors. Consequences for plagiarism include failure on the assignment, failure in the course, and possible suspension or expulsion from the university. Using any source whatsoever without clearly documenting it is a serious academic offense.

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 must be completed. It is the student's responsibility to initiate this process with the instructor. The University also has regulations governing the deferral of final examinations.

Grade appeals:
To pursue a Reassessment of Graded Term Work or a Reappraisal of an Academic Assessment, Consult the University Calendar and request advice from the English Department at engl@ucalgary.ca. Please note that mere dissatisfaction with a grade is not sufficient grounds for an appeal.

English Department Website:
For more information about courses, programs, policies, events and contacts in the Department of English.

Scribe and Muse Club for English Students:
The Scribe and Muse Reading and Writing Club fosters and champions reading and writing through community service, leadership, and engagement. Our email address is smecuofc@gmail.com.

Writing support:
The Student Success Centre offers both online and workshop writing support for U of C students.

Academic regulations and schedules

Student Academic Accommodations:
The Student Accessibility Services website is available here. University accommodation policies can be found at the following links:
https://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/b-6-1.html
https://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/b-6.html
https://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/b-6-2.html

Program Advising and Student Information Resources is done through the Faculty of Arts Students' Centre. Office location: SS102; phone: 403-220-3580; email: ascarts@ucalgary.ca
Website: http://arts.ucalgary.ca/undergraduate

Instructor's Intellectual Property
Course materials created by instructors, including presentations, 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 usual classroom practice. Students' assignments will be accessible only by the authorized course faculty and teaching assistants. Private information related to the individual student is treated with the utmost regard by the faculty at the University of Calgary.

Research Ethics [delete section if not 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.
- If students are going to be used as research subjects or expected to conduct research (such as interviews), a statement about this expectation must be included. Please note that if you plan to have students conduct research for class, you must get ethics approval for the course.

Sexual violence policy:
https://www.ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/sexual-violence-policy.pdf

Other important information:
- 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):
Please participate in USRI Surveys toward the end of the course. The feedback they provide helps us evaluate teaching, enhance student learning, and guide students as they select courses.