

FACULTY OF ARTS
DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH
COURSE OUTLINE

ENGLISH 607.02

(WINTER 2019)

Literature and the Moral Life

Tuesdays 12:30 PM - 3:15 PM in SS 1015

Instructor: Dr. Clara A.B. Joseph
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Office hours: Tuesdays 3:15 PM to 4:15 PM or by appointment

Description

Aristotle's *Poetics* elaborates on the instructional value of delightful poetic images and the ethical-cum-aesthetic value of catharsis for spectators of a tragedy. Its study of what ought to be, rather than what is, foregrounds the moral element in poetry. Horace brings together pleasure and usefulness, or as the *Ars Poetica* puts it: *Dulce et utile*. Poetic representations should please; it should also appeal to reason and thereby instruct. Wordsworth explains how the feelings and thoughts of human beings can be improved through good poetry that has "a worthy purpose," which is "to illustrate the manner in which our feelings and ideas are associated in a state of excitement." Finally, bearing in mind Ruskin's "A Joy Forever," and Tolstoy's "What is Art?," Gandhi responds as follows to a student of the Nobel Laureate, Tagore: "I see and find Beauty in Truth or through Truth. . . . Whenever men begin to see Beauty in Truth, then true Art will arise."

The above citations point not only to the connection between literature and the moral life but also their dissonance. For instance, which should come first: Truth? Or, beauty? In typical poststructuralist fashion, postcolonialists and feminists go further to challenge notions of the moral and the literary through what Paul Ricoeur calls "the hermeneutics of suspicion" and Rita Felski explains as "a distinctively modern style of interpretation that circumvents obvious or self-evident meanings in order to draw out less visible and less flattering truths." The predominance of not Truth, but truths, and its literary representations call for serious study.

The course charts the link between literature and the moral life. It examines key ethical problems: evil, relativism, agency, freedom, utilitarianism, the virtues, meaning, and justice, and their literary representations. Louis P. Pojman and Lewis Vaughn's book, *The Moral Life: An Introductory Reader in Ethics and Literature*, currently running in its sixth edition, is an appropriate source for such a study. For instance, we could read together Nietzsche "Beyond Good and Evil," Taylor "On the Origin of Good and Evil," Benedict "The Case for Moral Relativism," Rachels "Why Morality is Not Relative," Bentham "Classical Utilitarianism," Williams "Against Utilitarianism," Aristotle "Virtue Ethics," MacIntyre "The Virtues," Baier "The Need for More than Justice," Russell "Reflections on Suffering," etc.

A literary anthology will complement the theoretical focus. Ultimately, this course studies how ethics shapes literary forms and standards. It is concerned with both the morality of literature and the literary nature of morality itself.

Readings

Pojman, Louis P. and Lewis Vaughn. *The Moral Life: An Introductory Reader in Ethics and Literature*. 6th ed. Oxford University Press, 2017.

Gardner, Janet E. et. al. *Literature: A Portable Anthology*. Fourth Edition. Bedford/St. Martin's, 2017.

Modern Language Association of America. *MLA Handbook*. Eighth ed., Modern Language Association of America, 2016.

Additional readings will be available via D2L or the TFDL website in open access editions.

Assignments:

Annotated Bibliography 15%

This consists of your selection of primary and secondary sources (a minimum of 5 in total) explained and arranged in a manner that rationalizes a theme.

Presentation One 10%

A three-page analysis of your methodology highlighting how the methodology is relevant for the course.

Essay One (1500 words) 20%

An essay with title, topic, context, rationale for methodology, thesis, an overview of the major arguments, and the specific contribution of your thesis and project for knowledge/discipline.

Presentation Two 15%

A preview of your final essay presented in an engaging and creative manner. The presentation should be accompanied by a minimum of seven items in the works cited list, each of which the presenter should be able to defend.

Final Essay (4500 words) 40%

Class Participation 10% -- Marks will be awarded for the following:

1. Quality facilitation of discussions when assigned.
2. Active participation in discussions and group activities.
3. Initiative in bringing to the attention of the class relevant popular and academic information.
4. Ability to interact with the class in a professional and enthusiastic manner.

Late assignment policy: Assignments submitted after the deadline will be penalized with the loss of a third of a grade (an A- to B+) for each day [not class] that the assignment is overdue.

Assignments must be emailed as a Word document to the instructor at cjoseph@ucalgary.ca before 11 PM of the due date. The file name must be according to the following format: for example, LastnameFirstname_ENGL607Essay1_Mar1-2019. Students must always copy themselves on any assignment emailed to the instructor, and save the item until final results are received from the registrar's office. If in doubt of the procedure, it is the responsibility of the student to check with the instructor well in advance.

All assignments must be completed in order to receive a passing grade on the course.

Grading system:

Grades are calculated according to the 4 point scale used in the *Graduate Calendar*:

<https://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/grad/current/gs-g-1.html>

Grade	Grade Point Value	Graduate Description
A+	4.00	Outstanding
A	4.00	Excellent-superior performance showing comprehensive understanding of the subject matter
A-	3.70	Very good performance
B+	3.30	Good performance
B	3.00	Satisfactory performance
B-	2.70	Minimum pass for students in Faculty of Graduate Studies
C+	2.30	All grades below B- are indicative of failure at the graduate level and cannot be counted towards Faculty of Graduate Studies course requirements.
C	2.00	
C-	1.70	
D+	1.30	
D	1.00	
F	0.00	

Please note: A B- is considered a minimum pass for students in the Faculty of Graduate Studies.

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.

In the case of Instructors using numerical marks in the grading of term work, the departmental conversion chart applies.

90 + %	A+	4.0
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-5.html>

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/graduate>. 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: maboymd@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 Department of English's graduate website for courses, departmental deadlines, and other related program information at <http://english.ucalgary.ca/node/245>. Consult the Faculty of Graduate Studies Calendar for university and faculty regulations, dates, deadline, fees, and schedules, student, faculty and university rights and responsibilities. The homepage for the Faculty of Graduate Studies Calendar is <http://grad.ucalgary.ca>.

For registration (add/drop/swap), paying fees and assistance with your Student Centre, contact the Graduate Office at 403 220 5484 or visit us in Social Sciences Tower 1148 in the first instance.

For program planning and advice, contact the Graduate Program Administrator at enggrad@ucalgary.ca to make an appointment with Dr. Suzette Mayr, Graduate Program Director.

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.

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 <http://www.ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/student-accommodation-policy.pdf>.

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_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/>

Contact for the Graduate Student Association: <http://gsa.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."

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/n-1.html>.

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/>

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/n-1.html>.

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.