

Winter 2013

English 108F (002): The Rebel

HH139: Tuesday & Thursday, 4:00 – 5:20pm

Instructor: Jesse Hutchison

Office: PAS 1061: Tuesday & Thursday, 2:30-3:30pm

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About this course:

From a Native family refusing to identify as either American or Canadian at the border to a pair of hippies biking across the United States to the Prince of Darkness himself, we will be looking at various kinds of rebels and acts of rebellion in this course. The class will provide an introductory survey of English literature from the British Early Modern period to the contemporary era by examining the common literary theme of the rebel. We will examine how the rebel is defined in both a variety of genres (novels, short stories, autobiography, poetry, and film) and cultural contexts and consider the different ways that authors and cultural groups construct acts of rebellion. These texts will provide insight into issues of authority, challenges to authority, social expectations regarding what constitutes appropriate behaviour, and whether or not rebellion is justified. We will consider the role that politics, culture, nation, race, religion, and gender play in the textual construction of rebels. The course also focuses on how to develop, research, and write the English essay.

Expectations:

We will be discussing these texts in significant detail. My central expectation is that you come to class fully prepared. Being fully prepared means that you have read the required texts, you have given them some thought, and you have arrived in class with something relevant to say about them, or with a question in mind. To participate fully, you must bring your books to class with you. Please be on time, and plan to attend every class.

Course Texts:

Course Kit, *The Rebel*

Frey, James. *A Million Little Pieces*. Anchor, 2003.

Kesey, Ken. *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest*. Signet, 1962.

Orwell, George. *Nineteen Eighty-Four*. Penguin UK, 1949.

Palahniuk, Chuck. *Fight Club*. WW Norton, 1996.

Assignments and Evaluation:

Participation & Attendance: 10%

Essay (3-4 pages): 15% **due February 14**

Essay Proposal: 10% **due March 19**

Final Essay (5-6 pages): 30% **due April 4**

Final Exam: 35%

Participation:

Participation means that you come to class with the text, ready to express your own ideas and exchange them with your other classmates and myself. Attendance is crucial but attendance alone does not count for full participation.

Essays:

Papers should be typed and double-spaced using 12 pt Times Roman font. You are to write argumentative, thesis-driven essays. Use proper MLA citation methods. Please consult the most recent edition of the MLA handbook for details.

Final Exam:

The final exam will be 2.5 hours and it will be scheduled during the formal exam period (April 11 to April 25). A full description of the exam format will be discussed later in the term. It will be cumulative; this means that it will cover all material from the course. Please keep in mind that travel plans are not acceptable grounds for an alternative final examination time.

Course policies:

Missed classes, assignments, and exams:

The penalty for a late assignment is 2% per working day. This will be incurred in all cases except certified emergencies. Papers more than ten days late will not be accepted, and a mark of zero will be given for the assignments.

Late assignments should be submitted to the Department of English Undergraduate Office to be date-stamped, and then placed in the department's drop-box. If your assignment is lost because you did not follow this procedure, you will be responsible for that loss, including the resulting grade. Electronic or emailed submissions will not be accepted. Please keep a copy of your assignments and submissions; in the case of a lost submission, I will ask you to provide another copy.

A doctor's note is required to avoid a late penalty, and it should document serious illness on and for the period directly preceding the due date for assignments, or on the scheduled dates of exams.

If you miss a class for unavoidable circumstances, please connect with a classmate to discuss the material that was covered during your absence.

Appointments and email:

I am always happy to meet with students to discuss course matters, including difficulties with the material or upcoming assignments. Please feel free to come and see me during my office hours, make an appointment to meet with me, or send me an email.

If you send me an email, please wait 24 hours before sending me a reminder. I may not be able to respond right away, or I may be looking into the matter on your behalf, but I will get back to you as soon as possible. If you have not received a response after 24 hours, or 48 hours on a weekend, please email me again. Please note that mail from some external email servers, such as Hotmail or Yahoo, may be bounced by the university server.

Email should be reserved for relatively simple communication matters, such as brief questions or to make an appointment. If your query will require a longer conversation as in, for example, the discussion of a grade or an assignment, please make an appointment to meet with me in person. In general, I will not give out marks over email.

Academic Integrity:

Academic Integrity: In order to maintain a culture of academic integrity, members of the University of Waterloo are expected to promote honesty, trust, fairness, respect and responsibility.

Discipline: A student is expected to know what constitutes academic integrity, to avoid committing academic offences, and to take responsibility for his/her actions. A student who is unsure whether an action constitutes an offence, or who needs help in learning how to avoid offences (e.g., plagiarism, cheating) or about “rules” for group work/collaboration should seek guidance from the course professor, academic advisor, or the Undergraduate Associate Dean. When misconduct has been found to have occurred, disciplinary penalties will be imposed under Policy 71 – Student Discipline. For information on categories of offenses and types of penalties, students should refer to Policy 71 - Student Discipline, <http://uwaterloo.ca/secretariat/policies-procedures-guidelines/policy-71>.

Grievance: A student who believes that a decision affecting some aspect of his/her university life has been unfair or unreasonable may have grounds for initiating a grievance. Read Policy 70 - Student Petitions and Grievances, Section 4, <http://uwaterloo.ca/secretariat/policies-procedures-guidelines/policy-70>. In addition, consult <http://arts.uwaterloo.ca/student-grievances-faculty-arts-processes> for the Faculty of Arts’ grievance processes.

Appeals: A student may appeal the finding and/or penalty in a decision made under Policy 70 - Student Petitions and Grievances (other than regarding a petition) or Policy 71 - Student Discipline if a ground for an appeal can be established. Read Policy 72 - Student Appeals, <http://uwaterloo.ca/secretariat/policies-procedures-guidelines/policy-72>.

Academic Integrity website (Arts):

http://arts.uwaterloo.ca/arts/ugrad/academic_responsibility.html

Academic Integrity Office (uWaterloo): <http://uwaterloo.ca/academic-integrity/>

Accommodation for Students with Disabilities:

Note for students with disabilities: The AccessAbility Services (AS) Office, located in Needles Hall, Room 1132, collaborates with all academic departments to arrange appropriate accommodations for students with disabilities without compromising the academic integrity of the curriculum. If you require academic accommodations to lessen the impact of your disability, please register with the AS Office at the beginning of each academic term.

Schedule:

January 8: Introduction

January 10: Milton, *Paradise Lost* (Book 1, lines 1-338)

January 15: Milton, *Paradise Lost* (Book 1, lines 339-798)

January 17: Wilmot, "A Satire on Charles II," "A Satire against Reason and Mankind"

January 22: Coleridge, "The Rime of the Ancient Mariner"

January 24: Orwell, *Nineteen Eighty-Four*

January 29: Orwell, *Nineteen Eighty-Four*

January 31: Orwell, *Nineteen Eighty-Four*

February 5: Gilman, "The Yellow Wall-paper"
Rich, "Diving Into the Wreck"

February 7: Brown, "Slim in Atlanta," "Bitter Fruit of the Tree"
Hughes, "The Weary Blues," "The Negro Speaks of Rivers," "Cross," "Theme for English B," "Dinner: Guest Me"

February 12: Palahniuk, *Fight Club*

February 14: Palahniuk, *Fight Club*

Essay 1 Due

February 18-22: Reading Week

February 26: Kesey, *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest*

February 28: Kesey, *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest*

March 5: Kesey, *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest*

March 7: Dumont, "Letter to Sir John A. Macdonald"
King, "Borders"

March 12: Hopper, *Easy Rider*

March 14: Hopper, *Easy Rider*

March 19: Hopper, *Easy Rider*

Essay Proposal Due

March 21: Frey, *A Million Little Pieces*

March 26: Frey, *A Million Little Pieces*

March 28: Frey, *A Million Little Pieces*

April 2: Catch-up and Summary

April 4: Exam Review

Essay 2 Due