

Winter 2014

**English 108F (002): The Rebel**

HH227: Wednesday & Friday, 4:30 – 5:50 pm

Instructor: Morteza Dehghani

Office: PAS 1286: Tuesday & Thursday, 11:00-12:00

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**About this course:**

We will be looking at various kinds of rebels and acts of rebellion by examining different works of literature in which the protagonist rebels against existing norms. The course will look at how the rebel is defined, providing insight into issues of authority, challenges to authority, social expectations regarding what constitutes appropriate behaviour, and whether or not rebellion is justified. We will also look at the role that politics, culture, nation, race, religion, and gender play in the textual construction of rebels. To this end, the course will be looking at a variety of literary and artistic genres including poetry, fiction, prose, photography, film and activism.

**Expectations:**

We will be discussing these texts in detail. I expect that you come to class 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.

**Required Texts:**

Course Kit, *The Rebel*

Aidoo, Ama Ata. *Our Sister Killjoy*

El Saadawi, Nawal. *Woman at Point Zero*

Khadra, Yasmina. *Sirens of Baghdad*

Orwell, George. *Animal Farm*

**Assignments and Evaluation**

Class participation and Attendance: 15%

Midterm Essay (4-5 pages): 20% **due February 26**

Group Presentation: 15%

Final project: 25% **due April 4**

Final Exam: 25%

**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.

**Essay:**

Papers should be typed and double-spaced, using 12 pt Times New 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. The penalty for a late assignment is 3% per day. 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.

### **Final Exam:**

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.

### **Group presentation:**

You should prepare for these presentations right from the beginning of the term. You decide on one of the themes of the course and in groups of 3-4 work collaboratively towards a class presentation. Presentations start from Jan. 29 and continue until March 26. You can use aids (hand-outs and notes but not PowerPoint). Remember your presentations should be clear and contribute to the discussion of the theme of the day you are presenting on. Group presentations should not exceed 25 minutes. The deadline for signing up for presentations is Jan. 22.

### **Final Project:**

Drawing on your strengths and the theories and works discussed in class, the projects can be anything ranging from creation of literary works (e.g. poems, short stories) and art forms (photography, short films), new media design and activism, formal argumentative essays or anything you are strong at or want to have experience in. Remember that the theme of the course is rebellion, so what you create or write should be on this very theme. You should also submit a 500-700 word note, showing how your project counts as some kind of rebel art/literature, thereby deconstructing the conventions, and indicating the aims of your work. You may want to tell a story through photography, or make a short film, or even write a computer code directed at hacktivism. The complementary note does not apply to essays. You should discuss your final projects with me during my office hours.

### **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](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 to the course

January 10: Camus, "The Rebel" (from *The Rebel*)

January 15: "Metaphysical Rebellion" (from *The Rebel*)  
Havelock, The Forethinker (from *Prometheus*)

January 17: Milton, *Paradise Lost* (Book 1, Lines 84-126, 283-330, 522-567, 587-662)

January 22: Shelly, the Masque of Anarchy

January 24: Orwell, *Animal Farm*

January 29: Orwell, *Animal Farm*

### **Black North American Lit.**

January 31: Malcolm X, *The Ballet or the Bullet*

February 5: King, *I have a Dream*

Hughes, "Dinner Guest: Me", "Theme for English B", "Negro Speaks of Rivers"

### **Feminism**

February 7: El Saadawi, *Woman at Point Zero*

Rich, "Driving into the Wreck"

February 12: El Saadawi, *Woman at Point Zero*

Plath, "Daddy"

February 14: "Women's Stories / Women's Photographies" (From *New American Feminist Photographies*)

February 17-21: Reading Week (No class this week)

### **Race and Gender**

February 26: Aidoo, *Our Sister Killjoy*

(Midterm Essay Due Feb 26. Hard copies of the essays should be submitted in class)

February 28: Aidoo, *Our Sister Killjoy*

### **First Nations**

March 5: "As in Her Vision: Native American Women Photographers" (From *New American Feminist Photographies*)

March 7: Dumont, "A letter to Sir John A. Macdonald", "Helen Betty Osborne"

Rita Joe, "I Lost My Talk"

Jeannette Armstrong "Indian Woman", "The History Lesson"

### **War**

March 12: (World Wars) Sassoon, "Open Letter to the Times"

Owen, "Dulce et Decorum Est"

(Vietnam War) Bly, "The Teeth Mother Naked at Last"

(Iraq War) Motion, "Causa Belli" and Turner, "Hurt Locker"

Poems from Guantanamo

March 14: Khadra, Sirens of Baghdad

March 19: Khadra, Sirens of Baghdad

**(H)activism, Civil Disobedience and related themes**

March 21: Thoreau, Civil Disobedience

March 26: Jordan, Hactivism; All Together in the Virtual

March 28: Occupy Movement and Hip Hop (song TBA)

April 2: Forman, One Flew over the Cuckoo's Nest (Movie)

April 4: Final Project due, Exam Review  
(Exams to be handed in Apr. 8)