Isolation and Alienation
English 108h

TIME AND LOCATION
MW 4:00-6:00

INSTRUCTOR
Maria Keller
Office PAS 2218
519-888-4567 x32705
m5obrien@uwaterloo.ca
Hours: Mondays 11-12:30
(or by appointment)

CALENDAR DESCRIPTION
The study of a variety of works centering on the theme of individuals in crisis, the stress being
on people at variance with their inner selves, other persons, or their world. The course will
discuss the process in which wisdom and maturity are gained as the ultimate products of
suffering.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION
We will examine how these literary accounts of isolation and alienation are constructed and what
purposes they serve. In the texts that we study in ENGL 108H, the construction of identity is
contested, challenged, and re-written against a pervasive framework of suffering. This course
will challenge you to examine the many ways that these stresses collide and intersect with
conceptions of gender, sexuality, power, race, and sub-themes of childhood, madness, war,
disability, and love to name a few. Throughout the term, we will discuss the process through
which wisdom, maturity, and healing are gained, but only, perhaps, as the consequence of
personal trauma and crisis.
REQUIRED TEXTS
The Bell Jar, Sylvia Plath
Push, Sapphire
Frankenstein, Mary Shelley
The Scarlet Letter, Nathaniel Hawthorne
King Dork, Frank Portman

And various poems and short stories, available on UW ACE

REQUIRED FILM (Screened in class)
Persepolis

SUPPLEMENTARY TEXTS
Catcher in the Rye
Persepolis (graphic novel)

GRADING
The final breakdown of marks will be as follows:

Film Précis 5%
Essay Proposal and Meeting (for completion) 5%
First Paragraph and Outline 5%
Essay Draft 5%
Essay (final) 20%
Tests 30%
In class Assignments (for completion) 5%
CRITs 20%
Group ( )*
Individual ( )*

Peer Evaluation 5%

*breakdown will be determined by groups on first day of class.
COURSE OUTLINE

(Please note that the following is a guide only. Expect changes in assignments and dates according to the pace and to the needs of the class)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Readings</th>
<th>Tasks</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Week 1 – introduction</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>W Jan 5</td>
<td>George Tooker – Subway</td>
<td>Team making; syllabus review; team marks decision;</td>
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<td>Week 2 – Odd alienations</td>
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<td>M Jan 10</td>
<td>“The Metamorphosis” – Kafka; “The Swimmer” - Cheever</td>
<td>Sample Crit</td>
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<td>W Jan 12</td>
<td>“The Metamorphosis” – Kafka; “The Swimmer” – Cheever</td>
<td>Team activity/assignment</td>
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<td>Week 3 – Persepolis</td>
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<td>M Jan 17</td>
<td>Persepolis – film screening</td>
<td>Essay Proposal - completion (2.5%)</td>
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<td>W Jan 19</td>
<td>Persepolis – film screening</td>
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<td>Week 4 – Scarlet Letter</td>
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<td>M Jan 24</td>
<td>Scarlet Letter</td>
<td>Crit #1 Film Precis Due (5%)</td>
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<tr>
<td>W Jan 26</td>
<td>Scarlet Letter</td>
<td>Team activity/assignment</td>
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<td>Week 5 – Choice</td>
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<td>M Jan 31</td>
<td>“The Lottery”</td>
<td>Team activity/Assignment</td>
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<td>W Feb 2</td>
<td>“The Story of an Hour”</td>
<td>First Paragraph, Outline, Bibliography – 2 sources (5%)</td>
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<td>Week 6 - Essay Meeting Week</td>
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<tr>
<td>M Feb 7</td>
<td>Required meeting with me, but no class – completion (2.5%)</td>
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<td>W Feb 9</td>
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<td>Week 7 – Frankenstein</td>
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<td>M Feb 14</td>
<td>Frankenstein</td>
<td>Crit #2</td>
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<td>W Feb 16</td>
<td>Frankenstein</td>
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<td>Week 8 – Reading Week</td>
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<td>M Feb 21</td>
<td>No classes</td>
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<tr>
<td>W Feb 23</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 9</td>
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FILM PRECIS (5%) – January 24, 2011
You will be asked to write a précis of a film we screen in class. The précis should be about 3-4 paragraphs and be focused on course themes and discussions, and develop an argument rather than simply summarize the film.

ESSAY (Total 35%)
The essay for this class is broken down into several components. Essay topics will be handed out in class in mid-January. The final essay is 2000 words (+/- 200 words without penalty). This is not a research paper, so your bibliography will only be 2 primary sources (texts we have studied in class one of which may be on the supplementary list). You must engage with the texts critically and considering the length of the paper, you must ensure the topic’s scope is adequate.

Essay Proposal Memo (2.5%) – January 19, 2011
The proposal for your essay will get the writing process started early. Many students begin essay writing much too late in the semester and find they haven’t enough time to revise and write appropriate papers.

For this assignment, you must provide me with a Memo proposing a working thesis statement for your essay which clearly indicates your text choices and proposed argument structure. You must also provide me with your email information in case I have questions. Considering that the proposal is due so early in the term, it may change as you continue to read and reread your texts. Therefore, the proposal is marked for completion, meaning if you have included all of the components required, you will get the mark. Missing components will cause deductions.

First Paragraph and Outline (5%) – February 2, 2011
Once I have approved your topic, you may proceed with writing the essay. On February 2, 2011 I will be collecting the introductory paragraph and giving more feedback for your essay to help with the writing process. You must include an introductory paragraph with a strong thesis statement. I am also looking for a paragraph outline with topic sentences at this stage. Again, this might change as you continue to attend lectures and reread your texts. But the argument structure should be coming together.

Essay Meeting (2.5%) – week of February 7, 2011.
During the week of February 7, 2011, I will be meeting with each of you to discuss your essay. Please come prepared with questions or concerns about your paper. I will be ready to discuss the strengths and weaknesses of what you have handed in so far, and to give some direction in the drafting process. This meeting is also given marks for completion since it will take the place of classes that week.
Essay Draft (5%) – March 2, 2011.
Your essay draft (2000 words, +/-200 words) is due one month after the deadline for your first paragraph and outline. These will receive significant edits and comments and will be marked heavily; therefore you should treat it as a final essay deadline. Pay special attention to spelling, grammar, MLA formatting, paragraph structure, style, and diction. Detailed rubrics are available on UW-ACE so that you will be able to see what will be marked.

Along with this you must staple a Format Checklist to the front of your essay, which is also available online. Not including this checklist and/or not adhering to format requirements (such as double spacing) will result in a lower mark. Poor formatting or citation indicates poor effort and will be marked accordingly.

Most important, however, is the content of your essay and the depth of analysis provided. Since this is a comparative essay, I will be looking for evidence of close-reading, analytical thought, and equal treatment of both texts.

Essay Workshop (part of essay draft mark) – March 2, 2011
Writing can sometimes be an isolating task. We will workshop essay drafts on March 2, 2011 so that your paper can have another set of editing eyes and pens. Your draft will be due at the beginning of class and you will trade papers with another student and provide constructive comments and suggestions for his or her work. Again, if you are not in class to participate this day, you will miss out on these marks. You will be marked on your comments as well as your own draft, so be diligent with this assignment.

Final Essay (20%) - March 23, 2011
With completion of basic qualities and requirements of a comparative essay being the focus of the draft, this will be the space where you will polish and focus your ideas and writing style. This is a significant part of your final grade for your class, and will be treated as such. You will be marked on composition, style, originality and accuracy. As with the draft, you are required to provide and adhere to the Format Checklist provided on ACE.

TESTS
There will be two term tests each worth 10% of your final grade. You will write them in class, and if you are absent on these days you will require a doctor’s note to make up the test. Tests are generally a mix of short and essay answer questions.

FINAL EXAMINATION
There is no final exam for this course.
POLICIES

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY
The work you do in this course must be your own. This means that you must be aware when you are building on someone else's ideas—including the ideas of your classmates, your professor, and the authors you read—and explicitly acknowledge that you are doing so. Feel free to build on, react to, criticize, and analyze the ideas of others but, when you do, make it known whose ideas you are working with. If you ever have questions about drawing the line between others' work and your own, ask me and I will give you clear guidance.

In order to maintain a culture of academic integrity, members of the University of Waterloo community are expected to promote honesty, trust, fairness, respect and responsibility. Check www.uwaterloo.ca/academicintegrity/ for more information.

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://wwwadm.uwaterlooca/infosec/Policies/policy70.htm. When in doubt please be certain to contact the department's administrative assistant who will provide further assistance.

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. For information on categories of offences and types of penalties, students should refer to Policy 71, Student Discipline, http://wwwadm.uwaterlooca/infosec/Policies/policy71.htm.


APPEALS
A decision made or penalty imposed under Policy 70, Student Petitions and Grievances (other than a petition) or Policy 71, Student Discipline may be appealed if there is a ground. A student who believes he/she has a ground for an appeal should refer to Policy 72, Student Appeals, http://wwwadm.uwaterlooca/infosec/Policies/policy72.htm.
NOTE FOR STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES
The Office for Persons with Disabilities (OPD), 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 OPD at the beginning of each academic term."

ATTENDANCE
Attendance is compulsory. While you won't be getting a participation mark from me, you will receive one from your team. At the end of the semester you will be graded by your teammates on your participation and contribution to the team assignments and activities. If you are not there to participate, your teammates will notice. You will also be taking CRITs every couple of weeks and if you miss the CRIT you will not have a chance to rewrite since they are then taken by the team in-class and graded immediately. The discussion after these in-class activities and tests are part of what you will be responsible for on your tests and paper and exam. If you are unable to make it to class, I will not provide you with notes so you should make arrangements with a classmate.

LATE PAPERS
Any late papers or assignments require a doctor’s note. Any late paper submitted without a doctor’s note will receive a deduction of 10% per day, weekends counting as 2 days. If you require an extension, please contact me in writing proposing a new date no later than 3 days before the deadline. Late and extended papers will be marked after papers submitted on time. No paper without a doctor’s note will be accepted after the deadline has been passed by more than one week.

OTHER MATTERS OF CLASSROOM ETIQUETTE
Academic learning requires focus and concentration. Being considerate about the following matters will help to optimize the learning in our classroom.

- Cell phones, electronic devices, and non-academic use of laptops are all distractions for your professor and for the other students in the class. Please shut them off when coming to class. If Facebook and email become a problem in the class, I will ask that no one bring laptops to class without an express need allotted by the Office for Persons with Disabilities.

- Entering the class late is a distraction to everyone. However, if for unusual reasons, you are late, it is preferable to enter the room quietly than to miss the class entirely.