ENGL 301H: Honours Literary Studies

Class 3679, Section 001
2:30-4:00 MW
SJU Room 3027
Office Hours: 10:30 MWF and 4:00-5:00 MW (or by appointment)

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Email: through UW-ACE

Calendar Description

Through lectures, discussions, and presentations by visiting faculty, this course provides Honours students with an enhanced survey of the discipline of literary studies. Topics of discussion will be drawn from bibliography and research methods, critical approaches to literature, literary history, genre studies, rhetoric, media perspectives, and other areas of scholarly interest. Prereq: Level at least 3A Honours English Literature or Honours English and Rhetoric students

Learning Objectives

This course has been designed to develop students' abilities . . .

- to explain how the production of books as physical objects affects (for better or worse) the texts they include
- to explain and apply various bibliographical and critical terms and concepts
- to appreciate the value of what one does not know as an impetus and guide to research discoveries
- to use efficiently and critically some of the research resources and instruments available at the University of Waterloo
- to identify, analyze, and interpret noteworthy aspects of the artistic design and texture of literary works in their social contexts
- to write cleanly, clearly, and persuasively for an academic audience

Pedagogical Approach

The teaching/learning process in this course relies upon an interplay between lecture and discussion, but the emphasis will be on discussion and other forms of participation. For that reason, students should have with them at every class a copy of the text under consideration and should not make use of laptop computers during the meetings of the class. Summary lecture notes will be posted on UW-ACE. All the forms of testing require original thinking, not the re-presentation of information.
Required Readings

This course provides students with an opportunity to study a small number of works in depth. We shall take up the following works in the order listed; copies of all of them have been ordered by the University of Waterloo Bookstore.


Evaluation & Grade Distribution

(1) *Participation* (20%): this part of the final grade will be based (1) on the quantity and quality of several short pieces of writing—exercises, reflections, quizzes, responses, reports, and position papers, and (2) on one’s contributions to the consideration of ideas, the formulation of questions, and the discussion in class of issues pertinent to advanced literary studies. These two grounds of evaluation will often be related, the short pieces of writing serving as a foundation for the consideration of that material and related issues in class. The grade for participation will be decided at the end of the term on the basis of a student’s contributions over the course of the entire term.

(2) *Mid-term Test* (20%): short essay answers, written in class on **Wednesday 10 February**, dealing with two of six topics arising from the class discussion of *Othello* and *The Quiet American*. Students will be asked to answer one question on *Othello*, one on *The Quiet American*.

(3) *Major Project* (30%): an "essay" of approximately 12 pages (typed, double-spaced); flawlessly written in basics and coherently organized overall;
due: **Wednesday 31 March** (after which a late penalty of 2% per school day applies).

This essay should take the form of a scholarly edition of a short poem, an edition to be used by a first-year university English class. The essay requires that you transcribe and annotate the poem and that you establish clearly and persuasively your evaluation of what is crucial for students in this fictive first-year English class to know about the textual history, artistic textures, and social contexts of the work you choose. Depending upon your understanding of your audience, you may find it best to illustrate your edition in various ways. You should also append to this introductory essay an annotated list of “Suggestions for Further Reading.”

“Green” submission is welcome—i.e. submission of your project electronically, or printed on both sides of each leaf, or on the back of paper used for something else on the other side. Projects submitted electronically will be returned in the same form. Projects submitted in hard copy will be available for pick-up from the instructor on Monday 19 April.

(4) **Final Examination** (30%): a take-home examination requiring a reflection on the nature and function of literary studies, especially as exemplified in the guest lectures of the course. **Due: Monday 19 April.** For this too, “green” submission is welcome.

**Significant Dates**

Reading Week: 15 – 19 February.

**UW POLICY REGARDING ILLNESS AND MISSED TESTS**

The University of Waterloo Examination Regulations ([www.registrar.uwaterloo.ca/exams/ExamRegs.pdf](http://www.registrar.uwaterloo.ca/exams/ExamRegs.pdf)) state that:

- A medical certificate presented in support of an official petition for relief from normal academic requirements must provide all of the information requested on the “University of Waterloo Verification of Illness” form or it will not be accepted. This form can be obtained from Health Services or at [www.healthservices.uwaterloo.ca/Health_Services/verification.html](http://www.healthservices.uwaterloo.ca/Health_Services/verification.html).
- If a student has a test/examination deferred due to acceptable medical evidence, he/she normally will write the test/examination at a mutually convenient time, to be determined by the course instructor.
- The University acknowledges that, due to the pluralistic nature of the University community, some students may on religious grounds require alternative times to write tests and examinations.
Elective arrangements (such as travel plans) are not considered acceptable grounds for granting an alternative examination time.

PROFESSOR’S POLICY ON LATE ASSIGNMENTS/ESSAYS AND MAKE-UP TESTS

If a student has a test/examination deferred due to acceptable medical evidence, he/she normally will write the test/examination at a mutually convenient time, to be determined in consultation with the course instructor, during the examination period of the Winter term 2010.

OTHER INFORMATION

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

**Discipline:** All students registered in courses at St. Jerome’s University are expected to know what constitutes academic integrity, to avoid committing academic offences, and to take responsibility for their 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 Associate Dean. When misconduct has been found to have occurred, disciplinary penalties will be imposed under St. Jerome’s University Academic Discipline Policy and UW Policy 71 – Student Discipline. For information on categories of offenses and types of penalties, students should refer to Policy 71 - Student Discipline, [www.adm.uwaterloo.ca/infosec/Policies/policy71.htm](http://www.adm.uwaterloo.ca/infosec/Policies/policy71.htm).

**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. In such a case, contact the St. Jerome’s University Grievance Officer. Read St. Jerome’s University Handbook, Section 4, item 8, [www.sju.ca/faculty/SJU_handbook/grievance_policy.html](http://www.sju.ca/faculty/SJU_handbook/grievance_policy.html).

**Appeals:** A student may appeal the finding and/or penalty in a decision made under St. Jerome’s University Academic Discipline Policy or Grievance Policy if a ground for an appeal can be established. In such a case, contact the St. Jerome’s University Appeals Officer. Read St. Jerome’s University Handbook, Section 6.4, [www.sju.ca/faculty/SJU_handbook/examinations_grades_standings_and_appeals.html](http://www.sju.ca/faculty/SJU_handbook/examinations_grades_standings_and_appeals.html).

**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 (UW):** [http://uwaterloo.ca/academicintegrity/](http://uwaterloo.ca/academicintegrity/)

**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.