

## Brief Course Outline

**Course Title:** **The Storyteller's Art I: Love and Romance**

**Course Number and Section:**

ENGLISH

1027F 551

**Instructor Name(s):** Dr. Blanchette

**Instructor Email(s):** sarah.blanchette@uwo.ca

Disclaimer: Information in the brief course outline is subject to change. The syllabus posted on OWL is the official and authoritative source of information for the course.

### Course Description:

Storytelling defines who we are and our relation to the community, the nation, and the world. This course will delve into the romance genre to explore its key tropes—including the "meet cute," love triangles, enemies-to-lovers, and happily-ever-after. From iconic love stories, like Jane Austen's *Pride and Prejudice*, to contemporary bestsellers, such as Jenny Han's *To All the Boys I've Loved Before*, students will be introduced to a wide variety of texts, including poetry, short stories, novels, drama, and film. It will consider how storytellers use the romance genre and love plots to explore tensions around gender, sexuality, race, colonialism, and class. This class will attend a live performance of Daryl Cloran's *As You Like It*—a modern adaptation of William Shakespeare's original play infused with classic hits by The Beatles and set in 1960s Ontario—staged at the Grand Theatre in London, Ontario. This course will focus on allowing students to develop their writing, research, and argumentation skills, which are transferable skills for any discipline.

### Learning Outcomes:

- survey the romance genre and its major tropes, themes, and concerns
- improve your critical reading and writing in ways that will enable success in a wide variety of University courses
- explore a wide range of forms of creative expression and further your appreciation of diverse cultural productions and practices
- develop an interdisciplinary perspective on a variety of narrative media: for example, the poem, the novel, and the film
- become capable of identifying, analyzing, and interpreting basic narrative elements, such as plot, character, point of view, theme, setting, imagery, diction, tone, figures of speech, and tropes
- write logically and persuasively in fluent, standard English using the appropriate conventions for scholarly-critical writing
- design strong thesis statements and structured arguments in persuasive (original) essays using MLA format and secondary research material integration (i.e. using quotations and paraphrases)

- evaluate the relevance, reliability, and usefulness of research sources, including those obtained through the Internet

### **Textbooks and Course Materials:**

Jane Austen's *Pride and Prejudice* (1813)

Jenny Han's *To All The Boys I've Loved Before* (2014)

Casey McQuinston's *One Last Stop* (2021)

Alice Oseman's *Heartstopper Vol. 2* (2019)

\*Students will also be required to purchase a discounted ticket (\$29.95) to the Grand Theatre's production of *As You Like It*.

### **Methods Of Evaluation:**

Assignment	Due Date mm/dd/yy	Weight - %
Participation	ongoing	10
In-Class Writing Tutorial	09/25/2024	2.5
In-Class Writing Tutorial	10/21/2024	2.5
Essay One	10/02/2024	10
Essay Two	10/30/2024	15
Peer Review Exercise	11/25/2024	10
Research Essay	12/04/2024	20
Final Exam	TBA	30

In solidarity with the Anishinaabe, Haudenosaunee, Lūnaapéewak, and Chonnonton peoples on whose traditional treaty and unceded territories this course is shared.

Friday, August 9, 2024