

Huron University College
Department of English
English 1042E (551): Literary and Cultural Representations
Dr. John Vanderheide

Classes: Mondays 12:30-2:30 p.m., Wednesdays 1:30-2:30 p.m. HUC W6

Office: A203

Office Hours: Wednesdays 11:30-1:00 p.m. or by appointment

Email: jvande29@uwo.ca

Requisites: Prerequisite(s): Grade 12U English or permission of the Department.

Course Description (from Calendar):

Combining the study of classic literature with works of current cultural importance, such as graphic novels and film, this course explores how our world and our lives are formed and informed by the stories we tell.

Course Learning Objectives

- Improve critical reading and writing in ways that will enable success in a wide variety of University courses
- Further 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
- Explore a wide range of forms of creative expression
- 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 essays
- Learn to document essays using MLA format
- Evaluate the relevance, reliability, and usefulness of research sources, including those obtained through the Internet
- Integrate outside research materials and references to the original text into an essay through use of quotations and paraphrases

Description of Class Methods

- Classes will consist of lectures and discussions based on weekly readings. Thus, students should come to class with their textbook, having read the work scheduled for that day, and prepared to participate.
- Students are expected to turn off their cell phones and other electronic devices during class. Any student who distracts the instructor or other students in class by cell-phone usage, reading or sending text-messages, etc. will be asked to leave the classroom; repeated disruption of the class may result in expulsion from the course.
- Students are encouraged to come to office hours or if that is not possible to make other arrangements to discuss course material, ideas, assignments and exercises.

Course Texts

Alexis, André. *Fifteen Dogs* (Coach House, 2015)
Bechdel, Alison. *Fun Home* (Mariner, 2007)
Carter, Angela. *The Bloody Chamber: And Other Stories* (Penguin, 2011)
Highway, Tomson. *The Rez Sisters* (Fifth House, 2008)
---. *Dry Lips Ought to Move to Kapuskasing* (Fifth House, 2010)
Hopkinson, Nalo. *Brown Girl In The Ring* (Warner, 1998)
Hughes, Ted. *Tales From Ovid* (Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 1999)
Hurston, Zora Neale. *Their Eyes Were Watching God* (Harper Perennial, 2006)
Shelley, Mary. *Frankenstein* (Broadview, 2012)
Yang, Gene Luen. *American Born Chinese* (Square Fish, 2008)

Method of Evaluation and Assessment

FALL TERM

Assignment	Due	Weight
Writing Assignment #1 (600-750 words)	Oct 3, 2018	5%
Writing Assignment #2 (850-1000 words)	Oct 29, 2018	10%
Mid-Term Test	Nov 28 (submitted through OWL)	15%
Attendance & Participation	Ongoing	5%

WINTER TERM

Assignment	Due	Weight
Concept Map for Term Paper	Jan 21, 2019	5%
Annotated Concept Map for Term Paper	Feb 13, 2019	5%
Term Paper (1500 words)	March 20, 2019	15%
Final Exam	April Exam Period	35%
Attendance and Participation	Ongoing	5%

Writing Assignments

In the writing assignments, the student will respond to one of several given questions, based on the readings and lecture material. The purpose of the writing assignments is for students to develop their understanding of some key concepts in narrative analysis, such as **action, scene, character, agency, & purpose**, as well as close readings of figurative/poetic language (metaphor, symbol, etc.). Selected topics will be provided in advance.

Mid-Term Exam

The mid-term exam will test students' knowledge of course material to date. It may include factual short answer questions, and other short answer questions involving analysis of figurative language and narrative elements.

Winter Term Research Paper

A traditional research paper (1000-1500 words) on selected topics given at the beginning of the Winter Term. Leading up to the final draft of the paper, students will engage in research workshops and produce preliminary concept maps and annotations of their ideas and research guided by Huron Associate Librarian, Colleen Burgess.

Attendance and Participation

Attendance is required. If you miss more than six hours of class meetings (the equivalent of two weeks of class meetings), your attendance & participation grade will automatically be cut by 5%. If you miss more than nine hours of class meetings, you will forfeit the grade entirely. Participation means having completed the readings and being prepared to discuss them in class or on the OWL forum.

- Students must pass *both* term work and the final examination in order to pass the course. Students who fail the term work are not allowed to take the final examination. Students who fail the final examination (regardless of their term work) automatically fail the course.

Late Policy

All assignments are due by the end of class on the due date and should be handed to the instructor personally. It is the student's responsibility to ensure that the instructor receives the essay.

Late assignments will be penalized at the rate of 2 marks per calendar day until the instructor receives the essay. *Normally, late assignments will receive a grade but no detailed commentary.* **After 7 days, the assignment will not be accepted and a mark of 0/F will be awarded.**

FALL TERM Schedule of Readings and Lectures

Week 1 / Introduction,

Sept 10: Introduction to the Course

Sept 12: *Tales From Ovid* ("Creation; Four Ages; Lycaon; Flood") (Ted Hughes)

Week 2 /

Sept 17, 19: *Tales From Ovid* ("The Rape of Proserpina," "Echo and Narcissus," "Erysichthon," "Arachne") (Ted Hughes)

Week 3 /

Sept 24, 26: *The Bloody Chamber* ("The Courtship of Mr. Lyon," "The Tiger's Bride") (Angela Carter)

Week 4 /

Oct 1, 3: *The Bloody Chamber* (“The Company of Wolves,” “The Erl-King”) (Angela Carter)

Oct 8-12 FALL READING WEEK

Week 5 /

Oct 15: “On First Looking into Chapman’s Homer,” “Ode on a Grecian Urn” (John Keats)

Oct 17: “La Belle Dame Sans Merci” (John Keats)

Week 6 /

Oct. 22, 24: “Goblin Market” (Christina Rossetti)

Week 7 /

Oct 29, 31: *Their Eyes Were Watching God* (Zora Neale Hurston)

Week 8 /

Nov 5, 7: *Their Eyes Were Watching God* (Zora Neale Hurston)

Week 9 /

Nov 12, 14: *Dirty Computer: Emotion Picture* (perf. Janelle Monae)

Week 10 /

Nov. 19, 21: *The Rez Sisters* (Tomson Highway)

Week 11 /

Nov 26, 28: *Dry Lips Ought to Move to Kapuskasing* (Tomson Highway)

Week 12 /

Dec 3, 5: *Rhymes for Young Ghouls* (dir. Jeff Barnaby)

WINTER TERM Schedule of Readings and Lectures

Week 1 /

Jan 7, 9: *Frankenstein* (Mary Shelley)

Week 2 /

Jan 14, 16: *Frankenstein* (Mary Shelley)

Week 3 /

Jan 21, 23: *Princess Mononoke* (dir. Hayao Miyazaki)

Week 4 /

Jan 28, 30: *Princess Mononoke* (dir. Hayao Miyazaki)

Week 5 /

Feb 4, 6: *Fifteen Dogs* (André Alexis)

Week 6 /

Feb 11, 13: *Fifteen Dogs* (André Alexis)

READING WEEK FEB 18-22

Week 7 /

Feb 25, 27: *American Born Chinese* (Gene Luen Yang)

Week 8 /

March 4, 6: *Fun Home* (Alison Bechdel)

Week 9

March 11, 13: *Black Panther* (dir. Ryan Coogler)

Week 10 /

March 18, 20: *Black Panther* (dir. Ryan Coogler)

Week 11 /

March 25, 27: *Brown Girl in the Ring* (Nalo Hopkinson)

Week 12 /

April 1, 3: *Brown Girl in the Ring* (Nalo Hopkinson)

Week 13 / Review

April 8: Review



The Appendix to Course Outlines is available on the OWL course site.