

Huron University College
Department of English and Cultural Studies
English 1027F 550: The Storyteller's Art I
Summer/Intersession 2021

Class: Mon/Wed 1:30-4:30pm EDT*

Instructor: Dr. Sarah Blanchette (she/her)

Email: sarah.blanchette@uwo.ca

Office Hours: Zoom by appointment (Monday-Friday 9am-5pm EDT)

Please note that this is an ONLINE course and all key course components will be asynchronous. All synchronous virtual meetings will be optional.

Antirequisite(s): English 1024E, English 1036E

Prerequisite(s): Grade 12U English or permission of the Department. For part time students who have been admitted without the OSSD, this permission will be granted as a matter of course.

Land Acknowledgment

I acknowledge that Western University is located on the traditional lands of the Anishinaabek (Ah-nish-in-a-bek), Haudenosaunee (Ho-den-no-show-nee), Lūnaapéewak (Len-ahpay-wuk) and Attawandaron (Add-a-won-da-run) peoples, on lands connected with the London Township and Sombra Treaties of 1796 and the Dish with One Spoon Covenant Wampum. With this, I respect the longstanding relationships that Indigenous Nations have to this land, as they are the original caretakers. Western acknowledges the historical and ongoing injustices that Indigenous Peoples (e.g. First Nations, Métis and Inuit) endure in Canada, and we accept responsibility as a public institution to contribute toward revealing and correcting miseducation as well as renewing respectful relationships with Indigenous communities through our teaching, research and community service. (This statement is from Western's [More than Words Land Acknowledgement](#)).

General Course Description

Storytelling defines who we are and our relation to the community, the nation, and the world. This course explores the rich and diverse traditions of storytelling: such as, oral tales, short stories, classic fiction, and graphic novels. Instruction by lecture and tutorials; emphasis on developing strong analytical and writing skills.

This class of 1027F will strive to create a setting in which everyone feels that their dignity, identity, privacy, personal space, and autonomy are respected. Sensitive topics such as oppression, discrimination, and violence will come up in this class. We will not skirt difficult issues. This course contract details some of these topics. Talk to your instructor if you have any concerns about course material or about respectful language. Please keep in mind that pejorative language will not be tolerated. I encourage all my students to speak to me if they ever feel uncomfortable in the classroom and to challenge my own use of language when they find it problematic.

Learning Outcomes

- 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 and (team) projects 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
- survey major literary and cultural movements and their socio-political context
- engage in an experiential and collaborative project that highlights the real-world applications of studying narrative

Course Methods

Please note that this is an ONLINE course and all key course components will be asynchronous. All synchronous virtual meetings will be optional. I will make a Zoom link available on Mondays and Wednesdays at 3:30pm as an unstructured Q&A session to discuss the video lecture, texts, or assignments in greater detail. I am also available for private Zoom appointments Mon-Fri 9am-5pm EDT.

It is your responsibility to keep pace with the course, but if you begin to fall behind, please contact me ASAP to help get you back on track.

Required Texts

Toni Morrison, *The Bluest Eye* (ISBN: 0452273056) (**For purchase at the UWO Book Store**)

John Okada, *No-No Boy* (ISBN: 9780295994048) (Available online via UWO library)

Lorraine Hansberry, *A Raisin in the Sun* (ISBN: 0679755330) (Available online on OWL)

V for Vendetta, Director James McTeigue (2006) (Available on Netflix and YouTube)

Nîpawistamâsowin: We Will Stand Up, Director Tasha Hubbard (2019) (Available for free on CBC Gem within Canada)

Methods of Evaluation

Participation Quizzes: 10%

Entrance Interview: 5% - **Due May 10th – May 14th**

Short Essay (500 Words): 10% - **Due May 24th**

CityStudio Group Project: 25% - **Due June 4th**

Long Essay (1000 Words): 25% - **Due June 16th**

Final Exam: 25% - **June 21st-22nd (To be scheduled by the registrar)**

Assignments must be submitted by 11:55pm EDT on OWL to avoid late penalty

Brief Description of Assessments

Participation Quizzes:

There will be a brief multiple choice, true/false, and fill-in-the blank quiz on OWL to complete for each topic/lecture (May 12th, 17th, 19th, 26th, 31st, June 2nd, 9th, 14th, and 16th). There will be 9 quizzes total, making each worth a little more than 1% of your final grade.

Entrance Interview:

You will sign up for a brief 10-minute introduction interview with myself during the first week of class May 10th to May 14th. This is a pass/fail assignment (based on attendance) intended to allow me to get to know you and your specific learning needs to help better tailor the course.

Short Essay

A formal MLA-style 500-word essay written on a single primary text. This is not a research assignment. Your essay should focus on close reading and textual analysis.

CityStudio Group Project

CityStudio connects students with local government projects to provide experiential learning opportunities. In your assigned groups of 3-4 people, you will conduct research in order to create a 15-20 minute video that addresses a key question about Dundas Place. This project allows for creativity, especially in digital storytelling. There will be a digital showcase/viewing of all the projects conducted by CityStudio with our local government liaison on June 7th – because this is a synchronous event, attendance is optional, but completing the assignment is not.

Long Essay

A formal MLA-style 1000-word essay written on a single primary text and with the use of at least one peer-reviewed secondary source.

Final Exam

The final exam will consist of three sections: short answer questions, passage analysis, and a comparative essay. It will be scheduled by the registrar, but it will be a 24-hour open book take home exam (i.e. you will not be required to take the exam in person or be monitored/proctored while taking the exam online).

English and Cultural Studies Department Policies on Assignments:

Detailed assignment instructions will be provided and posted to our OWL site under Assignments. Students are required to consult and follow those requirements. Assignments must be submitted to our course website for plagiarism checking.

Plagiarism: that is, taking the ideas or words of another author from anywhere, including the internet—is a major academic offence. This course has a zero-tolerance plagiarism policy. If you use your own words and acknowledge where you have borrowed ideas and words from others—i.e. using quotations and proper MLA referencing for citations and paraphrasing—you should not have a problem with this. If you are in doubt, please ask your instructor. More information is provided in the Appendix (below).

Late penalties: Assignment due dates are specified in the reading schedule below. Late assignments will incur a penalty of 2 marks per day, up to a maximum of one week. **After seven (7) days, the assignment will not be accepted and receive a mark of zero.** Late assignments will not be appended with comments.

Please keep in mind that Student Reported Absences (SRA) grant a 48-hour extension only. For example, if your assignment is due May 24th at 11:59pm EDT, with an SRA, your assignment is now due May 26th at 11:59pm EDT. If you require more than a 48-hour extension, please email me to set up an appointment.

Accommodations: Students with disabilities are also entitled to formal accommodations to ensure all class materials and methods of evaluation are accessible. I aim to create all my courses around universal design principles to reduce the need for accommodations, but I am always eager to know how I can do better, so please let me know if there is an aspect of the course design that could be made more accessible.

Please contact your Huron academic advisor and the Student Development Center (SDC) for assistance with formal accommodations and there is more information is provided in the Appendix (below).

Summer/Intersession Class Schedule

Class #	Class Dates	Topic	Texts/Assignments
1	May 10 th	Introduction	Entrance Interviews (May 10th-May 14th)
2	May 12 th	Love; Sonnets	William Shakespeare, “Sonnet 130” Edna St. Vincent Millay, “What lips my lips have kissed”
3	May 17 th	Antebellum America; Short Story	Nathaniel Hawthorne, “My Kinsman, Major Molineux”
4	May 19 th	WWI; Poetry	Wilfred Owen, “Anthem for Doomed Youth” Rupert Brooke, “The Soldier” Jessie Pope, “Who’s for the Game?”
5	May 24 th	N/A	Victoria Day – Class Cancelled Short Essay Due
6	May 26 th	WWII; The Novel	John Okada, <i>No-No Boy</i>
7	May 31 st	Colonialism; Documentary	Tasha Hubbard, <i>Nîpawistamâsowin: We Will Stand Up</i>
8	June 2 nd	African American Civil Rights; Drama	Lorraine Hansberry, <i>A Raisin in the Sun</i>
9	June 7 th	Narrative and Dundas Place	CityStudio Project Showcase (due June 4th)
10	June 9 th	Irish Identity; Poetry	Seamus Heaney, “Digging” “Punishment” Eavan Boland, “Fond Memory” “The Science of Cartography is Limited”
11	June 14 th	White Supremacy; The Novel	Toni Morrison, <i>The Bluest Eye</i>
12	June 16 th	Outbreak Narrative and Fascism; Film	James McTeigue, <i>V for Vendetta</i> Long Essay Due
13	June 21 st OR 22 nd		Final Exam (to be scheduled by the Registrar)

Appendix to Course Outlines: Academic Policies & Regulations 2021 - 2022

Prerequisite and Antirequisite Information

Students are responsible for ensuring that they have successfully completed all course prerequisites and that they have not completed any course antirequisites. Unless you have either the requisites for this course or written special permission from your Dean to enroll in it, you may be removed from this course and it will be deleted from your record. This decision may not be appealed. You will receive no adjustment to your fees in the event that you are dropped from a course for failing to have the necessary prerequisites.

Student Code of Conduct

Membership in the community of Huron University College and Western University implies acceptance by every student of the principle of respect for the rights, responsibilities, dignity and well-being of others and a readiness to support an environment conducive to the intellectual and personal growth of all who study, work and live within it. Upon registration, students assume the responsibilities that such registration entails. While in the physical or online classroom, students are expected to behave in a manner that supports the learning environment of others. Please review the Student Code of Conduct at: <https://huronatwestern.ca/sites/default/files/Res%20Life/Student%20Code%20of%20Conduct%20-%20Revised%20September%202019.pdf>.

Attendance Regulations for Examinations

A student is entitled to be examined in courses in which registration is maintained, subject to the following limitations:

- 1) A student may be debarred from writing the final examination for failure to maintain satisfactory academic standing throughout the year.
- 2) Any student who, in the opinion of the instructor, is absent too frequently from class or laboratory periods in any course will be reported to the Dean of the Faculty offering the course (after due warning has been given). On the recommendation of the Department concerned, and with the permission of the Dean of that Faculty, the student will be debarred from taking the regular examination in the course. The Dean of the Faculty offering the course will communicate that decision to the Dean of the Faculty of registration.

Review the policy on Attendance Regulations for Examinations here:

https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/exam/attendance.pdf.

Statement on Academic Offences

Scholastic offences are taken seriously and students are directed to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitutes a Scholastic Offence, at the following website: https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/scholastic_discipline_undergrad.pdf. The appeals process is also outlined in this policy as well as more generally at the following website: https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/appealsundergrad.pdf.

Turnitin.com

All required papers may be subject to submission for textual similarity review to the commercial plagiarism detection software under license to the University for the detection of plagiarism. All papers

submitted for such checking will be included as source documents in the reference database for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of papers subsequently submitted to the system. Use of the service is subject to the licensing agreement, currently between The University of Western Ontario and Turnitin.com (<http://www.turnitin.com>).

Statement on Use of Electronic Devices

It is not appropriate to use electronic devices (such as, but not limited to, laptops, cell phones) in the classroom for non-classroom activities. Such activity is disruptive and distracting to other students and to the instructor, and can inhibit learning. Students are expected to respect the classroom environment and to refrain from inappropriate use of technology and other electronic devices in class.

Statement on Use of Personal Response Systems (“Clickers”)

Personal Response Systems (“clickers”) may be used in some classes. If clickers are to be used in a class, it is the responsibility of the student to ensure that the device is activated and functional. Students must see their instructor if they have any concerns about whether the clicker is malfunctioning. Students must use only their own clicker. If clicker records are used to compute a portion of the course grade:

- the use of somebody else’s clicker in class constitutes a scholastic offence
- the possession of a clicker belonging to another student will be interpreted as an attempt to commit a scholastic offence.

Academic Consideration for Missed Work

Students who are seeking academic consideration for missed work during the semester may submit a self-reported absence form online provided that the absence is **48 hours or less** and the other conditions specified in the Senate policy at

https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/accommodation_illness.pdf are met.

Students whose absences are expected to last **longer than 48 hours**, or where the other conditions detailed in the policy are not met (e.g., work is worth more than 30% of the final grade, the student has already used 2 self-reported absences, the absence is during the final exam period), may receive academic consideration by submitting a Student Medical Certificate (for illness) or other appropriate documentation (for compassionate grounds). The Student Medical Certificate is available online at

https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/medicalform.pdf .

All students pursuing academic consideration, regardless of type, must contact their instructors no less than 24 hours following the end of the period of absence to clarify how they will be expected to fulfill the academic responsibilities missed during their absence. **Students are reminded that they should consider carefully the implications of postponing tests or midterm exams or delaying submission of work, and are encouraged to make appropriate decisions based on their specific circumstances.**

Students who have conditions for which academic accommodation is appropriate, such as disabilities or ongoing or chronic health conditions, should work with Accessible Education Services to determine appropriate forms of accommodation. Further details concerning policies and procedures may be found at: <http://academicsupport.uwo.ca/>.

Policy on Academic Consideration for a Medical/ Non-Medical Absence

(a) Consideration on Medical Grounds for assignments worth *less than 10%* of final grade: Consult Instructor Directly and Contact Academic Advising

When seeking consideration on **medical grounds** for assignments worth *less than 10%* of the final course grade, and if the student has exceeded the maximum number of permissible Self-Reported absences, the student should contact the instructor directly. The student need only share broad outlines of the medical situation. The instructor **may** require the student to submit documentation to the academic advisors, in

which case she or he will advise the student and inform the academic advisors to expect documentation. If documentation is requested, the student will need to complete and submit the [Student Medical Certificate](#). The instructor may not collect medical documentation. The advisors will contact the instructor when the medical documentation is received, and will outline the severity and duration of the medical challenge as expressed on the Student Medical Certificate and in any other supporting documentation. The student will be informed that the instructor has been notified of the presence of medical documentation, and will be instructed to work as quickly as possible with the instructor on an agreement for accommodation.

(b) Consideration on Non-Medical Grounds: Consult Huron Support Services/Academic Advising, or email huronsss@uwo.ca.

Students seeking academic consideration for a **non-medical** absence (e.g. varsity sports, religious, compassionate, or bereavement) will be required to provide appropriate documentation where the conditions for a Self-Reported Absence have not been met, including where the student has exceeded the maximum number of permissible Self-Reported. All consideration requests must include a completed [Consideration Request Form](#). Late penalties may apply at the discretion of the instructor.

Please review the full policy on Academic Consideration for medical and non-medical absence at: https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/accommodation_illness.pdf. Consult [Huron Academic Advising](#) at huronsss@uwo.ca for any further questions or information.

Support Services

For advice on course selections, degree requirements, and for assistance with requests for medical accommodation, students should email an Academic Advisor in Huron's Student Support Services at huronsss@uwo.ca. An outline of the range of services offered is found on the Huron website at: <https://huronatwestern.ca/student-life/student-services/>.

Department Chairs, Program Directors and Coordinators are also able to answer questions about individual programs. Contact information can be found on the Huron website at: <https://huronatwestern.ca/contact/faculty-staff-directory/>.

If you think that you are too far behind to catch up or that your workload is not manageable, you should consult your Academic Advisor. If you are considering reducing your workload by dropping one or more courses, this must be done by the appropriate deadlines. Please refer to the Advising website, <https://huronatwestern.ca/student-life/student-services/academic-advising/> or review the list of official Sessional Dates on the Academic Calendar, available here: <http://www.westerncalendar.uwo.ca/SessionalDates.cfm>.

You should consult with the course instructor and the Academic Advisor who can help you consider alternatives to dropping one or more courses. Note that dropping a course may affect OSAP and/or Scholarship/Bursary eligibility.

Huron Student Support Services: <https://huronatwestern.ca/student-life/student-services/>

Office of the Registrar: <https://registrar.uwo.ca/>

Student Quick Reference Guide: <https://huronatwestern.ca/student-life/student-services/#1>

Learning Development and Success: <https://www.uwo.ca/sdc/learning/>

Accessible Education: <http://academicssupport.uwo.ca/>

Western USC: <http://westernusc.ca/your-services/#studentservices>

Mental Health & Wellness Support at Huron and Western

University students may encounter setbacks from time to time that can impact academic performance. Huron offers a variety of services that are here to support your success and wellbeing. Please visit <https://huronatwestern.ca/student-life-campus/student-services/wellness-safety> for more information or contact staff directly:

Wellness Services: huronwellness@huron.uwo.ca

Community Safety Office: safety@huron.uwo.ca

Chaplaincy: gthorne@huron.uwo.ca

Additional supports for Health and Wellness may be found and accessed at Western through, <https://www.uwo.ca/health/>.