

Brief Course Outline

Course Title: **The Storyteller's Art II: Politics & Persuasion**

Course Number and Section:

ENGLISH

1028G 551

Instructor Name(s): Dr. Sarah Blanchette

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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:

"Artists use lies to tell the truth, while politicians use them to cover the truth up" (V for Vendetta). This course will focus on texts that engage with significant historical and political events, such as the American revolution, WWI, WWII, the U.S. Black civil rights movement, the Irish Troubles, South African apartheid, and the Indian Independence Act. It will consider the relationship between literature and politics and demonstrate how the close reading skills learned in an English class can be used to dissect political persuasion. Students will be introduced to a wide variety of texts, including poetry, short stories, novels, drama, graphic fiction, and film, and they will develop fundamental critical thinking and effective writing skills.

Learning Outcomes:

- Examine how literary texts engage in political discourse to attempt to persuade their audience towards a particular political end
- Survey major political events, including the American revolution, WWI, WWII, the Irish Troubles, South African apartheid, Indian Independence Act, and the U.S. Black civil rights movement in terms of their impact on literature and culture
- 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:

John Okada, No-No Boy [The textbook costs approx. \$23]

Anita Desai, Clear Light of Day [The textbook costs approx. \$10]

Methods Of Evaluation:

Assignment	Due Date mm/dd/yy	Weight - %
Participation		10%
In-Class Writing Tutorials (2)		5%
In-Class Annotation		5%
Close Reading Essay (750 Words)		15%
Peer Review		10%
Research Essay (1250 Words)		25%
Final Exam		30%

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

Wednesday, January 22, 2025