

English 1028G (001): The Storyteller's Art II: The Rise of the Machines

Department of English & Writing Studies
Western University
Winter 2021

Dr. Christopher Keep
Email: ckeep@uwo.ca
Office Hours: Tuesday and Thursday 2:30 (or by app't)

Tutorial Leaders

Élise Ottavino

Tutorial 003 (in person): Thursday 2:30, M05B

Email: eottavin@uwo.ca

Office Hours: Thursday 3:30-4:30, Fridays 11:00-12:00, UC 3413.

Jac Morgan

Tutorial 004 (in person): Thursday 11:30, SSC 2028

Email: jmorga66@uwo.ca

Office Hours: Tuesday and Thursday 2:30-3:00

Ryanne Kap
Tutorial 005 (online): Monday 1:30
Email: rkap@uwo.ca
Office Hours: Tuesday and Thursday 2:00-3:00

Adam Mohamed
Tutorial 006 (online): Thursday 10:30
Email: amoha228@uwo.ca
Office Hours: Friday 11:00-12:00

Course Description

Where do I end and my phone or laptop begin? From Frankenstein's Creature to the digital assistant of Spike Jonze's film Her, our technological prostheses have always been more than simply tools for carrying out the tasks that we have assigned them. They have been, too, the instruments by which we have sought to define what it means to be human in a world in which our microprocessor-driven devices seem to have acquired a mysterious agency, a *will of their own*. This course will study novels, short stories, and a feature film that have sought to explore the social, political, and psychological dimensions of our increasingly intimate relationship with the technological realm. What fears and desires do these new life forms elicit in us? How do they compel us to think differently about what it means to work, think, love? And where, in the future, will we draw the line between what we want from them and what they might want from us?

The weekly course schedule consists of two hours of lecture and a third hour of tutorial discussion facilitated by a teaching assistant. In addition to providing opportunities for the discussion of reading and lecture materials, tutorials will also provide substantial instruction in effective essay writing and research methods.

Learning Outcomes

Successful students who complete the course will be able to:

- o Identify and analyze basic elements of narrative literature, such as plot, character, point of view, theme, setting, imagery, diction, and tone.
- o Write an essay about a work of narrative literature, containing an effective thesis supported by adequate evidence from the original text;
- o Research critical commentary on literary works;
- o Evaluate the relevance, reliability, and usefulness of research sources, especially those obtained through the Internet;
- o Integrate outside research materials and references to the original text into an essay through use of quotations and paraphrases;
- o Organize and present ideas clearly and effectively;
- o Document essays using MLA format.

Course Delivery

English 1028G is a synchronous course: the lectures and tutorials will take place at the times listed in your timetable. The lectures and tutorials 005 and 006 will take place on Zoom; tutorials 003 and 004 will take place in the rooms listed in your timetable. Lectures and tutorials will not be recorded; you will be expected to attend them just as you would an ordinary class.

To attend a lecture, log on to the Owl site shortly before the day and time listed in your schedule, click on Zoom in the menu on the left hand of the screen, and then click the link for that day's lecture.

If your tutorial is online, log on to the Owl site shortly before the day and time listed in your schedule, click on Zoom in the menu on the left hand of the screen, and then click the link for your tutorial for that day and time.

If your tutorial is in person, the tutorial will take place at the place and time listed in your schedule. In person tutorials are not recorded.

Office Hours

Office hours for both the instructor and the tutorial leaders (unless noted otherwise above) will be on Zoom. To meet with your instructor or tutorial leader, log on to the Owl site shortly before the day and time indicated for the office hours on the syllabus, click on Zoom in the menu on the left hand of the screen, and then click the link for that day's office hours meeting. You will be admitted to a virtual waiting room. When the instructor or the tutorial leader is available, they will admit you to the regular Zoom meeting.

Zoom App

Please download the app and login using your Western id. Instructions can be found here: <https://wts.uwo.ca/zoom/index.html>

If you have problems with the app, it is fully supported by ITS: you can contact the help line here: <https://wts.uwo.ca/helpdesk/index.html>

Required Texts

Print copies available from the Campus Bookstore (includes option for delivery to home address)<https://bookstore.uwo.ca/>

Digital versions are available from these vendors:

I, Robot(Kindle) <https://www.amazon.ca/dp/B000FC1PW0?tag=prhca20&linkCode=osi&th=1&psc=1>

Do Androids Dream of Electric Sheep (Kindle) <https://www.amazon.ca/Android-Dream-Electric-Sheep-inspiration>

[ebook/dp/B000SEGT10/ref=sr_1_1?dchild=1&keywords=do+androids+dream+of+electric+sheep&qid=1604061853&s=digital-text&sr=1-1](https://www.amazon.ca/dp/B000SEGT10/ref=sr_1_1?dchild=1&keywords=do+androids+dream+of+electric+sheep&qid=1604061853&s=digital-text&sr=1-1)

Neuromancer(Kindle) https://www.amazon.ca/Neuromancer-Sprawl-Trilogy-William-Gibson-ebook/dp/B000O76ON6/ref=sr_1_1?dchild=1&keywords=neuromancer&qid=1604061939&s=digital-text&sr=1-1

Autonomous(Kindle) https://www.amazon.ca/Autonomous-Novel-Annalee-Newitz-ebook/dp/B01N4P14Cl/ref=sr_1_1?dchild=1&keywords=autonomous+newitz&qid=1604062208&sr=8-1

Assignments and Grade Distributions

Four Quizzes: Best Three (3.33% each): 10%

Passage Analysis (1000 words): 20%

Essay (2500 words): 30%

Tutorial Participation: 5%

Final Exam: 35%

Quizzes

Four short quizzes will be conducted online during our regular scheduled lectures using the Test and Quizzes tool in Owl. Each quiz will be made up of five questions testing your comprehension of the assigned texts and recent lecture materials. Of these four quizzes, we will choose the best three (each worth 3.33%) to count toward your final grade, for a total of 10%.

You will have five minutes to complete the quiz from the moment you click the link: enter your answers in the text boxes and the app will upload your answers at the end of the allotted period. You may, of course, consult your texts or lecture notes during the quiz (the quiz is not monitored), but you are likely to do better if you simply focus on composing your answers. The lecture will resume following the quiz.

Passage Analysis

A Passage Analysis is an assignment in which students get to develop their reading and interpretative skills in preparation for the longer essay assignment at the end of term.

Accommodation Policies

Students seeking academic accommodation for any missed tests, exams, participation components and/or assignments must apply to the Academic Counseling office of their home Faculty and provide documentation. Academic accommodation cannot be granted by the instructor or department. Documentation shall be submitted, as soon as possible, to the Office of the Dean of the student's Faculty of registration, together with a request for relief specifying the nature of the accommodation being requested. The Student Medical Certificate (SMC) can be found [here](#)

The full policy is set out [here](#)

Students with disabilities work with Accessible Education (formerly SSD) which provides recommendations for accommodation based on medical documentation or psychological and cognitive testing. The accommodation policy can be found [Academic Accommodation for Students with Disabilities](#)

Academic Consideration for Student Absence

Students will have up to two (2) opportunities during the regular academic year to use [online](#) portal to self-report an absence during the term, provided the following conditions are met: the absence is no more than 48 hours in duration, and the assessment for which consideration is being sought is worth 30% or less of the student's final grade. Students are expected to contact their instructors within 24 hours of the end of the period of the reported absence, unless noted on the syllabus. Students are not able to use the self-reporting option in the following circumstances:

Policy on Academic Consideration for Student Absences Undergraduate Students in First Entry Programs

and for the Student Medical Certificate (SMC), see:

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

Religious Accommodation

Students should consult the University's list of recognized religious holidays, and should give reasonable notice in writing, prior to the holiday, to the Instructor and an Academic Counsellor if their course requirements will be affected by a religious absence. Additional information is given in the Western Multicultural Calendar.

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

http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/scholastic_discipline_undergrad.pdf

Plagiarism

Students must write their essays and assignments in their own words. Whenever students take an idea or passage from another author, they must acknowledge their debt both by using quotation marks where appropriate and by proper referencing such as footnotes or citations. Plagiarism is a major academic offence.

Plagiarism Checking

All required papers will 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.

All instances of plagiarism will be reported to the Chair of Undergraduate Studies. Proven cases of plagiarism will result in a grade of zero for the assignment. Subsequent offences will result in failure for the course.

Support Services

Registrarial Services <http://www.registrar.uwo.ca>

Student Support Services <https://student.uwo.ca/psp/heprdweb/?cmd=login>

Services provided by the USOC <https://westernusc.ca/yos/services/>

Student Development Centre <http://www.sdc.uwo.ca/>

