

Department of English & Writing Studies

English 1020E (001)
Understanding Literature Today
Fall/Winter 2023-24

Antirequisites: [English 1022E](#), [English 1035E](#).

Prerequisites : 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.

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.

Course Description

In this course, we study a broad range of exciting and important literary works from the past and present and from diverse communities of the English-speaking world. We will learn about formal and thematic elements of texts, how they are constructed, how their historical context affects their creation and reception, and how they relate to political and social issues, such as gender, race, intersectionality, colonization, decolonization, and the environment. In class and tutorials, we will cover research skills, including how to research and write effective MLA undergraduate essays in English. Most importantly, students will learn how to construct persuasive arguments about the texts we will be reading together.

Objectives :

By the end of the course, successful students will be able to:

- Develop an appreciation of literature that unites historical observation and literary analysis;
- Build a critical reading of a text and write essays that have an effective thesis and a logical argument supported by evidence from the text(s);
- Engage in research and properly document their essays using the MLA guidelines;
- Converse in the language of the discipline, using literary terms and concepts, both in written and oral forms.

Course Materials (all required)

Austen, Jane. *Persuasion* (1818) Broadview

The Broadview Anthology of British Literature: One-Volume Compact Edition (2015) Broadview

Hardy, Thomas. *The Mayor of Casterbridge* (1886) Broadview

Heti, Sheila. *Pure Colour* (2022) Vintage Canada

Mutonji, Téa. *Shut Up You're Pretty* (2019) Arsenal Pulp

Shakespeare, William. *King Lear* (1608) Folger Shakespeare Library (online and free)

Methods of Evaluation

The grade for the course will be arrived at as follows:

Essay 1: 10%

Essay 2: 15%

Midterm Test (1 hour; in-class February 7): 15%

Essay 3: 20%

Attendance at tutorials: 5%

Sliding scale for attendance grade:

Essays must be on works studied in this section of the course.

Email Policy: Email is meant for brief inquiries only. Please allow a day or two for a response. Email received over the weekend will be answered the following week.

Accommodation Policies

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 here: [Academic Accommodation for Students with Disabilities](#).

Students seeking academic accommodation on medical grounds for any missed tests, exams, participation components and/or assignments worth (either alone or in combination) 10% or

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 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>.

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.

Statement on Gender-Based and Sexual Violence

Western is committed to reducing incidents of gender-based and sexual violence and providing compassionate support to anyone who has gone through these traumatic events. If you have experienced gender-based or sexual violence (either recently or in the past), you will find information about support services for survivors, including emergency contacts, [here](#). To connect with a case manager or set up an appointment, please contact support@uwo.ca.

Support Services

Registrarial Ser78.h1b 72 366.164.9 54.2 ()TJ EMC /Link <</MCID 17 >>BDC /CS1 cs 0.i5.56 Tm 0 11.04:

Timetable

Note that BA means the work is in the Broadview Anthology.

Fall Term 2023

Sept.11 Introduction

Sept.13 Sonnets (BA: see list at the end of the timetable)

Sept.18-20 Sonnets continued **4Fal 14 Sonnet(.2)]T 01ai11**
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~~S Oct.25-27 Sir Gawain and the Green Knight (late 14th century) (BA)~~

Oct.2-4 Sir Gawain continued

Oct.11 4ct -

- Feb.19-21 WINTER READING WEEK
- Feb.26-28 Christina Rossetti, "Goblin Market" (1868) (BA)
- Mar.4-6 Virginia Woolf, "Kew Gardens" (1918) (BA)
- Mar.11-13 Katherine Mansfield, "The Garden Party" (1921) (BA)
- Mar.18-20 T.S. Eliot, The Waste Land (1922) (BA)
- Mar.25-27 W.B. Yeats, "The Second Coming" (1920); "Sailing to Byzantium" (1927) (BA)