

Department of English & Writing Studies

English 3362F (001)

Endless Forms: Life Sciences and Nineteenth-Century Literature

Pat Rowlinson

Prerequisite : At least 60% in 1.0 of English 1020-1999 or permission of the De

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 of fees in the event that you are dropped from a course for failing to have the necessary prerequisites.

Course Description

This course will study the changing relation between human and non-human animals in the nineteenth century and the emergent concept of history as driven by competition between species. Our key texts will take up this topic in very different ways. We will study Charles Darwin's *The Origin of Species* (1859), one of the most important scientific works ever published. We will examine fantasy and nonsense literature by Lewis Carroll (*Alice in Wonderland*) and Edward Lear (*Nonsense Verse*) published after Darwin's book that enters the changed terrain of human-animal relations. And we will finish with a late-Victorian Gothic novel that imagines history as a contest for supremacy between biological populations, Bram Stoker's pathbreaking Gothic novel *Dracula* (1897). We will also study contextual material on the species debate and on Victorian theories of race and gender.

Course Objectives :

- x Each of the works to be covered in this course makes an argument; each of them makes it indirectly, by devices that include analogy, parable, and allegory. This course aims to train students in reading sustained arguments and in teasing out their historical and philosophical implications.
- x The course will include written assignments, and the training it provides in reading is intended to improve students' ability to present a coherent argument in the extended form of a critical essay.
- x The course will also introduce students to the intellectual milieu in which Darwin made his breakthrough in *The Origin of Species* and to the Victorian responses his work provoked.

MLA Handbook is available at Weldon Library; an excellent guide to MLA style (along with much other useful information for paper writers) can be found at the Purdue University OWL:
https://owl.purdue.edu/owl/research_and_citation/mla_style/mla_formatting_and_style_guide/mla_formatting_and_style_guide.html

Phones are not to be used during class meetings. In the event of a call or text that you must attend to, please step out of the room.

The use of laptops in class is strongly discouraged. I 659.04 W.9 0 0 9.96-6 (at)-6.7t (s)8.9 (m)-5.9 (8w)2.6

Students who are in emotional/mental distress should refer to MentalHealth@Western: <http://www.uwo.ca/uwocom/mentalhealth/> for a complete list of options about how to obtain help.

Accommodation for Students with Disabilities

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](#).

Gender-Based and Sexual Violence

Western is committed to reducing incidents of gender-based and sexual violence (GBSV) and providing compassionate support to anyone who is going through or has gone through these traumatic events. If you are experiencing or have experienced GBSV (either recently or in the past), you will find information about support services for survivors, including emergency contacts at the following website: https://www.uwo.ca/health/student_support/survivor_support/get-help.html. To connect with a case manager or set up an appointment, please contact support@uwo.ca.

Schedule of Classes and Assignments

Week 1. Sept 9: Introduction

Sept 11: From Broadview Origin, The First Book of Moses called GENESIS, pp. 562-65; William Paley, Natural Theology pp. 565-71

Week 2. Sept 16: From Broadview Origin, Thomas Malthus Essay on the Principle of Population, pp. 595-605

Sept 18: From Broadview Origin, Charles Lyell Principles of Geology 605-10.

Week 3. Sept 23: Darwin, Origin of Species, Introduction and Chapter 1, pp. 95-121.

Sept 25: Continued

Week 4. Sept 30: Chapter 2-4, pp. 122-77. In class writing session 1. You will need your copy of Darwin's **Origin**.

Oct 2: Continued

Week 5. Oct. 7: Chapters 5, 6, 7, end of 10, pp. 178-247 and 299-309. Paper 1 due Oct. 9

Week 6: End of Chapter 12, Chapters 13-14, pp. 347-98

Week 7: Reading Week

Week 8. Oct 21: Lewis Carroll Alice's Adventures in Wonderland. In class writing session 2

