

THE UNIVERSITY OF WINNIPEG

ENGL- 1003(3)-001

Introduction to English – Topics in Literature:
Creature Fictions

Term: Fall 2013
Time: TTh 2:30-3:45pm
Room: 1M28

Professor: Dr. Candida Rifkind
Office: 2A38
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Office Hours: Tues/Thurs 10:00-11:00am or by appointment

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course introduces students to the study of literature through the topic of Creature Fictions. We will study a variety of fiction (short stories, novels, comics, films) that represent a diversity of creatures (animal, semi-human, post-human, and artificial life forms) inhabiting the human world. These texts require us to think about the boundaries between the human and non-human, which in turn raises important ethical questions about self and other, reason and instinct, nature and nurture, and equality and discrimination. As well, since these are literary works the texts also raise aesthetic questions about tradition and re-writing, realism and fantasy, language and representation, genre and narrative.

In addition to the creative texts, students will read some literary and cultural theory and be introduced to a critical terminology for studying literature. Assignments will include a textual analysis, scholarly articles review, research essay, and final exam. This is a lecture and discussion based course and students are expected to participate actively.

NOTE: The prerequisite for upper-level English courses is 6 credit hours of First-Year English, including either ENGL-1001(6) or ENGL-1000(3). There are two ways to fulfill this requirement: by taking ENGL-1001(6), or by taking 1000(3) plus 3 other credit hours of English at the first-year level. So **students planning to continue in English should take English 1A (ENGL-1000) in addition to this course.**

REQUIRED TEXTS (ordered through the UW Bookstore)

In order of reading:

Shelley, Mary. *Frankenstein*. 1818. London: Penguin Classics, 2003. Print.
Atwood, Margaret. *Oryx and Crake*. New York: Seal, 2004. Print.
Spiegelman, Art. *The Complete Maus: A Survivor's Tale*. New York: Pantheon, 1996. Print.

Additional short readings will be available through the course Nexus site. These are required readings that students must print off and bring to class (see attached Reading Schedule).

RECOMMENDED TEXT(S)

MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers. 7th Ed. New York: Modern Language Association of America, 2009. Print.

There are many websites dedicated to writing and research skills but not all of them are appropriate for academic writing. The following provide excellent information and help:

1. The University of Toronto Advice on Academic Writing website (especially good for getting started, understanding essay requirements, planning and writing the first draft):
<http://www.writing.utoronto.ca/advice>

2. Purdue University has one of the largest websites dedicated to writing skills (good for specific information about grammar and style – use this to understand the comments you get back on your papers and to correct writing errors). <http://owl.english.purdue.edu/sitemap.html>

3. On using the MLA style to cite and document sources in a research paper:
<http://library.concordia.ca/help/howto/mla.php>

ASSIGNMENTS (more info will be provided in class well before each due date)

NB: If any of these due dates fall on a religious holiday not officially recognized by UW, please inform me well in advance.

Diagnostic writing assignment (1 hr. in-class essay on Sep. 17) 10%

Scholarly article review (750 wds. due on Oct. 3) 15%

Research essay

Proposal (250 wds.) and Annotated Bibliography (min. 3 scholarly sources) due on Oct. 31 10%

Research essay (2000 wds. due on Nov. 26) 25%

Final Exam (3 hrs on December 3rd, 2013 @ 1:30pm in 1M28) 25%

Reading Quizzes (5x1% throughout the term) 5%

Five times during the term, at the beginning of class, you will be required to complete a Reading Quiz (short answers) to test whether you completed the assigned reading for that day. The dates of the Reading Quizzes are a surprise, so the best strategy is to do all the assigned reading. Quizzes will be marked Pass/Fail, where a Pass = 1% and a Fail = 0%.

Participation 10%

The 10% Participation mark is based on active participation and productive contributions to class discussions, which starts with regular attendance and basic courteous behaviour (no side conversations, texting, etc).

Please note that speaking a lot is not the same as making productive contributions to the discussion: listening to each other, synthesizing and building on prior comments, and keeping the discussion on track by focusing on course material and topics are all productive ways to participate.

Tip: volunteering to read passages aloud and report back on small group discussions is a good strategy for more introverted students to bring their voices into the classroom.

GRADING SCALE

A+	90 - 100%	GPA 4.50	C+	65 - 69%	GPA 2.5
A	85 - 89%	GPA 4.25	C	60 - 64%	GPA 2.0
A-	80 - 84%	GPA 4.0	D	50 - 59%	GPA 1.0
B+	75 - 79%	GPA 3.5	F	Below 50%	GPA 0
B	70 - 74%	GPA 3.0			

NOTES

1. This course outline should be considered a guideline only. Time constraints and other unforeseen factors may require that some of the above topics be omitted or covered in less detail than indicated.
2. Work submitted for evaluation must be either typed or text processed.

3. Cellular phones and other electronic devices **MUST** be turned off during classes.
4. It is the student's responsibility to retain a photocopy or digitized copy of **ALL** assignments submitted for grading; in the event of loss or theft, a duplicate copy is required.
5. Students are advised to read the pertinent pages of the current course calendar for the rules regarding Registration, Voluntary Withdrawals, Academic Misconduct including plagiarism, and Appeals. **Concerning plagiarism, please note** that as a general rule, an F in the course will be the penalty recommended by the English Departmental Review Committee to the Senate Committee on Academic Misconduct, for plagiarism on major assignments in English Department courses.
6. Accessibility Services:
Students with documented disabilities, temporary or chronic medical conditions, requiring academic accommodations for tests/exams (e.g., private space) or during lectures/laboratories (e.g., access to volunteer note-takers) are encouraged to contact Accessibility Services (AS) at 786-9771 or email accessibilityservices@uwinnipeg.ca to discuss appropriate options. Specific information about AS is available on-line at <http://www.uwinnipeg.ca/accessibility>. All information about a student's disability or medical condition remains confidential.
7. The University of Winnipeg promotes a scent-free environment. Please be respectful of the needs of fellow classmates and the instructor by avoiding the use of scented products while attending lectures. Exposures to perfumes and other scented products (such as lotion) can trigger serious health reactions in persons with asthma, allergies, migraines or chemical sensitivities.
8. Please note that registering in this course commits you to the date and time of the course final examination. If you are aware of possible conflicts with that date, please see me immediately during the first week of the course, in case you need to register in another course to accommodate the conflict. For appeals for deferred exams, please see the Calendar.
9. **Thursday, October 24, 2013** is the final date to withdraw without academic penalty from courses that begin in September 2013 and end in November 2013 in the 2013 Fall term.
10. Late Assignment Penalties: I encourage you to speak with me (in person, not over email) in advance if you anticipate handing an assignment in late due to extenuating circumstances, such as illness or a personal/family emergency. **Note that having a lot of work to do for your other courses is not a reasonable excuse for a late assignment in this course.** Unless prior arrangements have been made or you present a medical/legal note explaining why your assignment has been handed in late, the penalty for a late assignment is: 10% off immediately when it is not submitted on the due date and 2% off each extra weekday it is late. No unexplained late assignments will be accepted after they are 7 weekdays late. Late assignments will not receive written comments.
11. The English Department wishes to ensure your right to privacy regarding handing in and getting back assignments is protected. Most assignments will be handed in and handed back in class or at the Instructor's office. If assignments are to be handled in another way and you are concerned about others having access to your work, you should attach to your assignment a self-addressed envelope that can be sealed. If this is not done, it is assumed that you have waived your concerns in this area.
12. Students may be asked for identification when writing a test or examination.
13. No unauthorized material or equipment may be brought with you to the final exam.
14. Students registered for this course are expected to demonstrate competency in English appropriate to the first-year level. Students needing additional assistance may contact the Writing Centre at http://rhetoric.uwinnipeg.ca/Tutoring_Centre/index.html for writing

resources and tutoring services, or contact the English Language Program at <http://www.uwinnipeg.ca/index/elp-information> for classes in English as an Additional Language and related services.

15. Students are advised that the UW Bookstore may run out of textbooks early in the term. Also, the bookstore always ships textbooks back to the publisher if they are not purchased within the first few weeks of term. Students are responsible for communicating directly with the bookstore if they need to order texts or ask for texts to be held for them.

For more information regarding the English Department, please refer to our website at <http://www.uwinnipeg.ca/index/english-index>

16. **IMPORTANT NOTE ON EMAIL:** I only respond to students' emails during regular work hours (M-F 9am-5pm) and I may take up to 24 hours to respond. Due to the high volume of junk mail I receive, I can only respond to emails sent from UW student accounts. **It is best to use the Nexus email function to contact me.** Do not email me from hotmail, yahoo, gmail, or other non-UW accounts. Please observe professional email etiquette and do not add me to any mailing lists.
17. **IMPORTANT NOTE ON MOBILE DEVICES AND LAPTOPS:** Absolutely no texting in class. Bag texting is still texting. All mobile devices must be turned off once class begins and remain off until it is over. **Laptop use requires the instructor's permission.** You may not record lectures without my prior permission.
18. Please do not eat during class.

Reading Schedule

(any changes will be announced well in advance)
N = available for download at the course Nexus site

Date	Reading (NB: All readings must be completed PRIOR to the class in which they will be discussed)	Other Information
Sep. 5	Introductions	Start reading <i>Frankenstein</i> !
Sep. 10	Annie Murphy Paul, "Reading Literature Makes Us Smarter and Nicer." Time Online 3 Jun. 2013. Web. (and N) http://ideas.time.com/2013/06/03/why-we-should-read-literature/	
Sep. 12	Excerpts from <i>Aesop's Fables</i> (N)	
Sep. 17	Diagnostic Essay (bring Excerpts from <i>Aesop's Fables</i> to use in your essay)	Sep. 17 = Diagnostic Essay (in-class) worth 10%
Sep. 19	Introduction to the novel (finish Vol. I, up to p. 90, of <i>Frankenstein</i>)	
Sep. 24	<i>Frankenstein</i> (all) and the gothic	Finish <i>Frankenstein</i> for Tuesday
Sep. 26	Critical approaches to <i>Frankenstein</i>	
Oct. 1	<i>Frankenstein</i> discussion	
Oct. 3	Screening: Alfred Hitchcock's <i>The Bird</i>	Oct. 3 = Scholarly Article Review (15%)
Oct. 8	Reading: Daphne du Maurier, "The Birds" (N)	Make sure you have finished the novel for class on Thursday!
Oct. 10	Discussion of <i>The Birds</i> and "The Birds"	
Oct. 15	Margaret Atwood, <i>Oryx and Crake</i> (all)	
Oct. 17	Margaret Atwood, <i>Oryx and Crake</i> (all)	
Oct. 22	Margaret Atwood, <i>Oryx and Crake</i> (all)	
Oct. 24	Research Skills Workshop	
Oct. 29	Art Spiegelman, <i>Maus</i> (up to end of Vol. 1, p.161)	Oct. 31 = Proposal and Annotated Bib. due (10%)
Oct. 31	Art Spiegelman, <i>Maus</i> (all)	
Nov. 5	Art Spiegelman, <i>Maus</i> (all)	
Nov. 7	Essay Writing Workshop	
Nov. 12	Short stories by Angela Carter: "The Werewolf," "The Company of Wolves;" and "Wolf-Alice" from <i>The Bloody Chamber and Other Stories</i> . (N)	
Nov. 14	Short story by Nalo Hopkinson: "Snake" from <i>Skin Folk</i> (N)	
Nov. 19	Screening: Wes Anderson's <i>The Fantastic Mr. Fox</i>	
Nov. 21	Discussion of <i>The Fantastic Mr. Fox</i>	
Nov. 26	Exam Review	Nov. 26 = Research Essay Due (25%)

The Final Exam (25%) is scheduled for 1:30pm on December 3rd, 2013 in 1M28.

This template revised May 2, 2012