

ENGLISH 1: READING COMMUNITY

Term: FW 2008-2009

Time and Time Slot: TR 11:30-12:45pm

Room: 3M64

Professor: Dr. Candida Rifkind

Office: 2A38

Phone: 786-9198

Email: c.rifkind@uwinnipeg.ca

Office Hours: TR 10:00-11:00am or by appointment

(see Note 13 on p.3)

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course is a general introduction to literary and cultural studies as well as the university-level essay. The underlying theme of the course is community. At the same time that the course explores how writers from different historical periods and cultural contexts have represented ideas of community, students develop the writing, research, and critical skills essential to participating in the academic community.

We will start with the idea that as much as storytelling binds a community together, it may also be a site of conflict between members of a community or between one community and another. What defines a community? What kinds of things happen in and to communities? How do you join or leave a community and why would you want to? How do issues of belonging and alienation, insiders and outsiders, history and memory shape a community's understanding of itself? What is the relationship between literature, interpretation, and communities? To answer these questions we will read non-fiction, short stories, novels, poetry and plays from different historical periods and regions. We will also study examples of non-literary texts, such as films and comic books, to introduce students to the wide net cast by English and cultural studies today. Evaluation will consist of in-class assignments, essays, and a final exam.

REQUIRED TEXTS (in order of reading)

Rifkind, Candida, ed. *Introduction to Literature: English 1: Reading Community*. Boston: Pearson Custom Library, 2008. (contains all short fiction, poetry, and drama for the course)
Barnet, Sylvan and William E. Cain. *A Short Guide to Writing About Literature*. 11th ed. New York: Pearson Longman, 2009.
Shelley, Mary. *Frankenstein*. 1831. Ed. Maurice Hindle. Toronto: Penguin Classics, 1992.
Larsen, Nella. *Passing*. 1929. Mineola, NY: Dover, 2004.
Hamid, Mohsin. *The Reluctant Fundamentalist*. Toronto: Anchor, 2008.
Spielgelman, Art. *Maus I and II: Paperback Boxed Set*. New York: Pantheon, 1991.

NOTES: Students need to have access to all required texts for the whole year. Check the schedule and make sure you have done the readings in advance of class.

RECOMMENDED TEXTS

Students should have access to a good English dictionary (not a pocket dictionary) and an MLA style writing guide. Some recommendations from which to choose:

Barber, Katherine. *The Canadian Oxford English Dictionary*. 2nd Ed. Toronto: Oxford University Press, 2004.
Landau, Sidney I. and Ronald J. Bogus, eds. *The New Webster's Concise Dictionary of the English Language*. New York: Trident, 1998.
Gibaldi, Joseph. *The MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers*. 6th Ed. New York: MLA, 2003.

RECOMMENDED ELECTRONIC RESOURCES

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.utoronto.ca/writing/advise.html>

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). Go to this address and scroll down to find the topic you want:

<http://owl.english.purdue.edu/sitemap.html>

3. On using the MLA style to cite and document sources in a research paper:

<http://www.bedfordstmartins.com/online/cite5.html>

ASSIGNMENTS (more information will be provided for each assignment in class)

In-Class Essay 1 (Sep. 30)	10%
Summary and Critique of a Journal Article (1000 words, due on Oct. 23)	10%
Argumentative Essay on a Novel (1200-1500 words, due on Dec. 1st)	15%
Research Essay	
Outline and Annotated Bibliography (400-600 words, due on Jan. 29)	5%
Research Essay (2200-2500 words, due on Feb. 12)	15%
In-Class Essay 2 (Mar. 19)	10%
Participation (Attendance and active participation in group exercises and workshops)	10%
Final Exam (3 hours on April 17, 2009 at 9:00am)	25%

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

For more information regarding the English Department, please refer to our website at

<http://www.uwinnipeg.ca/academic/as/english/index.shtml>.

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 **MUST** be turned off during classes.
4. It is the student's responsibility to retain a photocopy or computer disk copy of **ALL** assignments submitted for grading; in the event of loss or theft, a duplicate copy is required. **All assignments must be submitted in hard copy form. No assignments will be accepted over email or by fax.**

5. Students are advised to read the pertinent pages of the 2008/2009 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. **Services for Students with Disabilities:**
Students with documented disabilities 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 Andrea Johnston, Coordinator of Disability Services (DS) at 786-9771 or a.johnston@uwinnipeg.ca, to discuss appropriate options. Specific information about DS is available on-line at <http://www.uwinnipeg.ca/index/services-disability>. All information about disability is confidential.
7. 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.
8. January 23, 2009 is the final date to withdraw without academic penalty from courses that begin in September and end in April.
9. **Late Assignment Penalties:** I encourage you to speak with me 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 day it is late. No unexplained late assignments will be accepted after they are 7 days late.** All requests for extensions should be made in person or, if you are unable to attend class or office hours, by phone. Email requests for extensions will not be acknowledged. No late assignments will be accepted after April 6th. Late assignments will receive a grade only (no written comments).
10. The English Department wishes to ensure that 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.
11. Students will not be asked for identification when writing a test or examination.
12. No unauthorized material or equipment may be brought with you to the final exam.
13. **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 (iam.uwinnipeg). 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.

REMEMBER: You are responsible for your success in this course. If at any point in the year you have questions or concerns, it is up to you to consult the professor. You are always welcome to visit during office hours or to make an appointment to discuss any aspect of the course.

FALL TERM READING SCHEDULE
(any changes will be announced well in advance)

Class Dates	Topic and Reading (all readings must be completed before class unless otherwise indicated)	Assignments and Other Information
Sep. 4	Introductions and Preparing for English 1	
Sep. 9 & 11	Reading, Writing, Thinking Tuesday: Kate Chopin, "The Story of an Hour" Thursday: Chapters 1 & 3 of <i>A Short Guide to Writing About Literature</i>	All short fiction is in <i>Introduction to Literature</i>
Sep. 16 & 18	Short Fiction Tuesday: Arthur Conan Doyle, "The Adventure of the Beryl Coronet" Thursday: Chapter 10 of <i>A Short Guide to Writing About Literature</i>	
Sep. 23 & 25	Short Fiction Sherman Alexie, "On the Amtrak from Boston to New York City" and Rohinton Mistry, "Squatter"	
Sep. 30 & Oct. 2	In-Class Essay (Tues.) and Introduction to the Novel (Thurs.) Start reading <i>Frankenstein</i> so that you have finished it for next Tuesday.	<u>TUESDAY = IN-CLASS ESSAY 1</u>
Oct. 7 & 9	The Gothic Novel Mary Shelley, <i>Frankenstein</i> (5-225)	
Oct. 14 & 16	Critical Approaches to <i>Frankenstein</i> Tuesday: Chapter 9 of <i>A Short Guide to Writing About Literature</i> Thursday: Critical Approaches Workshop	
Oct. 21 & 23	Community on Film 1 In-class screening of <i>The Birds</i> (dir. Alfred Hitchcock)	<u>Thursday October 23 = Summary and Critique of a Journal Article Due</u>
Oct. 28 & 30	Modernism and the Novel Nella Larsen, <i>Passing</i>	Thursday = Argumentative Essay Writing Workshop
Nov. 4 & 6	Modernism and the Novel Nella Larsen, <i>Passing</i>	
Nov. 11 & 13	Community on Film 2 In-class screening of <i>Lars and the Real Girl</i> (dir. Craig Gillespie)	
Nov. 18 & 20	The Contemporary Novel <i>The Reluctant Fundamentalist</i>	
Nov. 25	Peer Editing Workshop Bring draft of essay to Peer Editing Workshop	<u>Argumentative Essay due before 5pm on Monday Dec. 1st</u>

NO MIDTERM EXAM

WINTER TERM READING SCHEDULE
(any changes will be announced well in advance)

Class Dates	Topic and Reading (all readings must be completed before the Tuesday class unless otherwise indicated)	Assignments and Other Information
Jan. 6&8	Auto/biography Art Spiegelman, <i>Maus I</i>	
Jan. 13&15	The Graphic Novel Art Spiegelman, <i>Maus II</i> Thursday: Chapter 15 of <i>A Short Guide to Writing About Literature</i>	<u>Thursday = Research Essay Workshop</u>
Jan. 20&22	Introduction to Poetry THE SCHEDULE OF POETRY READINGS FOR THE NEXT FOUR WEEKS WILL BE DISTRIBUTED IN CLASS. ALL POEMS ARE IN <i>INTRODUCTION TO LITERATURE</i> .	
Jan. 27&29	Poetry: Shape and Form Poems plus Chapter 12 of <i>A Short Guide to Writing About Literature</i>	<u>THURSDAY = RESEARCH ESSAY OUTLINE DUE</u>
Feb. 3&5	Poetry: Tradition and Metaphor	
Feb. 10 &12	Poetry: Tone and Voice	
Feb. 24&26	Introduction to Drama and Greek Tragedy "A Thumbnail Sketch of Western Theater History" (154) Aristotle, "On the Nature and Elements of Tragedy" (160) Chapter 11 of <i>A Short Guide to Writing About Literature</i>	<u>TUESDAY = RESEARCH ESSAY DUE</u> Page numbers refer to <i>Introduction to Literature</i>
Mar. 3&5	Greek Tragedy Sophocles, <i>Oedipus Rex</i> (174)	
Mar. 10&12	Elizabethan Theatre and Culture Shakespeare, <i>Othello, the Moor of Venice</i> (224)	
Mar. 17&19	In-Class Essay (Tues.) and Representing the Other (Thurs.) Shakespeare, <i>Othello, the Moor of Venice</i>	<u>THURSDAY = IN-CLASS ESSAY 2</u>
Mar. 24&26	Comedy Oscar Wilde, <i>The Importance of Being Earnest</i> (339)	
Mar. 31&Apr. 2	Film Adaptation (in-class screening) In-Class Screening of <i>The Importance of Being Earnest</i> (dir. Oliver Parker)	

FINAL EXAM IS ON FRIDAY, APRIL 17TH, FROM 9-12am IN 3M64