

**Department of English & Writing Studies**

The Storyteller's Art II | Introduction to Narrative: Strange Stories and Disturbing Narratives

**English 1028G (002)**

Winter 2023

**Instructor:** Dr. Alison Lee  
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**Course Day/Time:** Monday and  
Wednesday 2:30-3:30

**Course Location:** UCC 41

Office Hours: Wednesday, 11:30-1:30; other  
times by appointment.

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**Land Acknowledgement**

We acknowledge that Western University is located on the traditional lands of the Anishinaabek (Ah-nish-in-a-bek), Haudenosaunee (Ho-den-no-show-nee), Lūnaapéewak (Len-ahpay-wuk) and Chonnonton (Chun-ongk-ton) Nations, on lands connected with the London Township and Sombra Treaties of 1796 and the Dish with One Spoon Covenant Wampum.

With this, we respect the longstanding relationships that Indigenous Nations have to this land, as they are the original caretakers. We acknowledge historical and ongoing injustices that Indigenous Peoples (First Nations, Métis and Inuit) endure in Canada, and we accept responsibility as a public institution to contribute toward revealing and correcting miseducation as well as renewing respectful relationships with Indigenous communities through our teaching, research and community service.

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**Course Description**

This course examines texts that leave readers with questions about what happened or why it happened. Some are Gothic, or mysterious; others flirt with the strange or are simply weird in their content or method of narrating the story. All of them leave the reader with doubt. Literature always aims to engage the reader's curiosity and imagination; these texts amplify the reader's role in interpreting what seems inexplicable.

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 an opportunity to discuss reading and lecture materials, tutorials will also provide substantial instruction in effective essay writing and research methods.

English 1028G is a course in its own right. It need not be taken in combination with any other course. Students who have taken English 1027F (The Storyteller's Art) will have the equivalent of a 1.0 "essay" course for their breadth requirements and will have completed the 1.0 credits in first-year English necessary to take senior courses in English.

### Course Objectives:

Upon successful completion of the course, students will be able to:

- Identify and analyse basic elements of narrative literature such as plot, story, character, point of view, setting, imagery, diction, and tone;
- Develop 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.
- Demonstrate a basic ability to practice intersectional analysis

### Course Materials

#### Required Texts:

*Print* copies are available from the Campus Bookstore (includes an option for delivery)

<https://bookstore.uwo.ca/> *Digital* versions are available from the vendors whose URLs are listed below the titles.

Apart from the three novels listed below, we will also be looking at a number of short stories which are either online or will appear in the Resources tab in OWL by week.

Waubgeshig Rice, *Moon of the Crusted Snow*. (ECW Press)

<https://ecwpress.com/products/moon-of-the-crusted-snow>

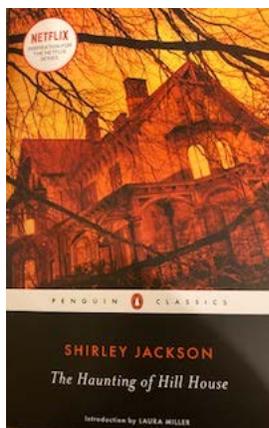
Angela Carter, *The Magic Toyshop*. (Penguin/Random House Canada)

<https://www.penguinrandomhouse.ca/books/351410/the-magic-toyshop-by-angela-carter/9780140256406>

Shirley Jackson, *The Haunting of Hill House*. (Penguin/Random House Canada)

[https://www.chapters.indigo.ca/en-ca/books/product/9780143039983-item.html?s\\_campaign=goo-Shopping\\_Smart\\_Books&qclid=EAlaIqobChMlwb\\_zyJnd7QIVyMfICh0nwAN9EAYYAIBEqKMZPD\\_BwE&qclsrc=aw.ds](https://www.chapters.indigo.ca/en-ca/books/product/9780143039983-item.html?s_campaign=goo-Shopping_Smart_Books&qclid=EAlaIqobChMlwb_zyJnd7QIVyMfICh0nwAN9EAYYAIBEqKMZPD_BwE&qclsrc=aw.ds)

**PLEASE NOTE:** there are several editions of this novel, but the one referred to above (the Chapters site) is the one I'm using.



**Searchable Style Guide:** [https://owl.purdue.edu/owl/purdue\\_owl.html](https://owl.purdue.edu/owl/purdue_owl.html)

**PLEASE NOTE:** if a story has (OWL) next to it, you can find the text on OWL, in Resources, by week. For example: Rushdie's "At the Auction of the Ruby Slippers" in on OWL in Resources, Week 1.

I will post PowerPoints in Resources by week.

### Methods of Evaluation

**Final Exam:** 35%

**Tutorial:** 15%

**TWO Passage Analyses:** (approximately 750 words each) 2x15% Due **February 1; March 1**.

**Final Paper:** (2000-2500 words) 20% Due **March 29**.

All written work will be submitted online through OWL. **Please upload as a WORD document, not a PDF.**

### **Passage Analyses:**

Students will be assigned an excerpt from a longer work. Read this passage carefully several times and provide a well-documented analysis of its structural features (its use of character, plot, setting, point of view, etc.) and its narrative style, including attention to word choice, figurative language, and use of symbolism. How does this passage contribute to the work's overarching themes and patterns of imagery? What makes this passage important to our understanding of the work as a whole? Further information will be posted with the assignment.

### **Essay:**

The questions for this essay will be based on the longer texts on the course: *Moon of the Crusted Snow*, *The Magic Toyshop*, *The Haunting of Hill House*. You may choose to use secondary sources, or not, although you may find it easier to write a long paper by having some other ideas and opinions to respond to. If you do use secondary sources, they must be scholarly, peer-reviewed sources as opposed to Wikipedia or SparkNotes. They should support your argument, or show places in which your analysis differs from that of the critics upon whom you are drawing. Any secondary sources must be cited at the end of the paper. More information about how to access secondary texts from the library will be forthcoming in tutorials.

### **Tutorials and Participation:**

In addition to lectures, all students will be assigned to a tutorial group of approximately twenty students, facilitated by a Teaching Assistant. These tutorial groups are, in many ways, the heart and soul of a large lecture course such as English 1028G, affording students opportunities to raise questions and pursue issues introduced in the weekly lectures, and to share their insights with their fellow students. The tutorial groups will also provide a venue for instruction regarding researching, organizing, and writing an effective, university-level research essay, complete with secondary criticism and a list of works cited.

Participation means arriving for your tutorial on time, having read the assigned materials, and regularly volunteering informed, thoughtful, and helpful replies to questions and/or leading group discussions, as arranged by the Teaching Assistant.

In order for the tutorial groups to promote a free exchange of ideas and opinions, all students are expected to treat each other and their Teaching Assistants with dignity and respect. This means listening carefully to each other's contributions to the group discussion, and allowing each group member an opportunity to express his or her own point of view, with the objective of sharing and enriching our understanding of the literature we are studying.

**Course Assignments:**

Essay and Passage Analysis assignments will be written according to standard essay style: double-spaced, 12 point font, and all margins set at 1 inch. A title-page is not necessary, but the first page must include the title of the essay, your name, the course number, the professor's name, teaching assistant's name, and the date in the top left corner.

Originality of argument, the ability to support the argument with reference to the primary text, rhetorical persuasiveness, syntax, grammar, spelling, and accurate bibliographic citation will *all* be factors in the grading of the essay.

All bibliographic notation will employ the MLA method of parenthetical notation and a works cited page. Please consult Purdue OWL ([https://owl.purdue.edu/owl/purdue\\_owl.html](https://owl.purdue.edu/owl/purdue_owl.html)) for a good online guide to the MLA method.

**Assignments will be submitted electronically through the owl site, and are due by 11:55 pm on the due date.**

**\*\*\*PLEASE NOTE:** there will be no extensions without academic accommodation. Late papers without academic accommodation will have 15% deducted on day 1, and 2% per day on subsequent days, including weekends, to a maximum of 7 days, after which the paper will receive a 0.

**If you wish to request a re-read of any of your work, you must make the request no more than 7 days after receipt of the grade.**

**Email:**

Your @uwo address is the one to which all university communication will be delivered. That includes any announcements that come from me or your TA. Please check it from time to time. I will endeavour to answer emails within 24 hours from Monday to Friday, and 48 hours on weekends.

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](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 that may result in a 0 on the assignments as well as a formal letter in your permanent file. Repeat offences may result in a 0 in the course or expulsion.

### Academic Accommodation

All students pursuing academic consideration, regardless of type, must contact their instructors no less than 24 hours following the end of the period of absence to clarify how they will be expected to fulfill the academic responsibilities missed during their absence. Students who have conditions for which academic accommodation is appropriate, such as disabilities or ongoing or chronic health conditions, should work with Accessible Education Services to determine appropriate forms of accommodation.

### **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 <http://www.turnitin.com>.

### Support Services

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

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

Services provided by the USC <http://westernusc.ca/services/>

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

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.

### Timetable

#### **January 9: Introduction**

**January 11:** Salman Rushdie, "At the Auction of the Ruby Slippers" (OWL)

**January 16:** Julio Cortázar, "Continuity of Parks" (OWL)

**January 18, 23, 25:** Angela Carter. *The Magic Toyshop*

**January 30, February 1:** Herman Melville, "Bartleby the Scrivener: A Story of Wall Street." (OWL)

**February 6:** Elizabeth Bowen, "The Demon Lover."

<http://omero.humnet.unipi.it/matdid/201/DemonLover.pdf>

**February 8, 13, 15:** Waubgeshig Rice, *Moon of the Crusted Snow*.

#### **February 18-26: READING WEEK**

**February 27, March 1:** Franz Kafka, "The Metamorphosis"

<https://www.gutenberg.org/files/5200/5200-h/5200-h.htm>

**March 6:** John William Polidori, "The Vampyre; A Tale." (OWL)

**March 8, 13, 15, 20:** Shirley Jackson, *Hill House*.

**March 22:** Edgar Allan Poe, "Berenice—A Story"

<https://www.eapoe.org/works/tales/bernicea.htm>

**March 27:** Robert Louis Stevenson, "The Body Snatcher" (OWL)

**March 29:** Eric Wright, "Twins." (OWL)

**April 3: REVIEW**