

## Department of English &amp; 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, T ea. *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:

Days missed Grade.

0-2                5/5

3-5                4/5

6-7                3/5

8-9                2/5

10                 1/5

>10                0/5

Final Exam: 35%

Students are fully responsible for looking at and being familiar with the information posted on the department website at <http://www.uwo.ca/english/undergraduate/Student%20Information.html>.

### Attendance

Attendance is mandatory in all classes and tutorials. In cases of excessive absenteeism (e.g. more than 9 unexcused hours for a half course, 18 for a full course), which are not accounted for by either academic consideration or accommodation, students may be debarred from taking the final examination, and will receive an official warning to this effect by or before the course drop date (see Senate policy). In classes with or without final exams, students who do not attend class will receive 0% for course participation grades. Unless other policies dictate a different set of penalties in specific English and Writing Studies programs, this will apply to all department programs.

### Intellectual Property/Copyright

All instructor-written materials (e.g. PowerPoints, lecture notes, oral lectures) for this course are created solely for students' personal use within the course, and remain the instructor's intellectual property. Further reproduction, fixation, distribution, transmission, dissemination, communication, or any other uses, without securing the consent of the copyright owner (the course instructor) may be an infringement of copyright. You may not distribute, email, or otherwise communicate these materials to any other person. These limitations extend to recording, photographing, or sharing lectures (online or in-person) and lecture material without permission. Posting the instructor's content from this course to online course sharing sites like OneClass or Course Hero without permission is both an infringement of intellectual property law and a violation of academic integrity guidelines. The instructor will pass these cases on to the Western University Ombudsperson or their Department Chair as appropriate.

### Additional Information

All overdue essays will receive a penalty of 1% per day late.

Essays must follow current MLA format and must include a list of Works Cited at the end (see *MLA Handbook* for details).

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 more of their final grade must apply to the Academic Counselling office of their home Faculty and provide documentation. Academic accommodation cannot be granted by the instructor or department.

Documentation shall be submitted, as soon as possible, to the Office of the Dean of the student's Faculty of registration, together with a request for relief specifying the nature of the accommodation being requested. The Student Medical Certificate (SMC) can be found at [https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic\\_policies/appeals/medicalform.pdf](https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/medicalform.pdf).

The full policy is set out here:

[https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic\\_policies/appeals/accommodation\\_medical.pdf](https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/accommodation_medical.pdf).

#### **Religious Accommodation:**

Students should consult the University's list of recognized religious holidays, and should give reasonable notice in writing, prior to the holiday, to the Instructor and an Academic Counsellor if their course requirements will be affected by a religious observance. Additional information is given in the [Western Multicultural Calendar](#).

#### Academic Integrity Tutorial

All students are required to enroll in and complete the Centre for Teaching and Learning's Academic Integrity Tutorial. To access the tutorial, please use the link provided in the Resource tab in the course OWL site. Once the tutorial has been completed, you will receive a downloadable certificate. You must upload the certificate and submit it through the course Assignments tab in order to complete this assignment. The tutorial must be completed by Friday in the second week of term. This tutorial is mandatory in order for you to complete and pass the course. If you have completed the tutorial already for another course, you may upload the same certificate for this course; you do not need to repeat the tutorial.

#### 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.

**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](mailto:support@uwo.ca).

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/>

Academic Support & Engagement <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

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
- Sept.25-27 *Sir Gawain and the Green Knight* (late 14<sup>th</sup> century) (BA)
- Oct.2-4 *Sir Gawain* continued
- Oct.11 Téa Mutoñji, *Shut Up You're Pretty* (2019)
- [Monday is Thanksgiving holiday]
- Oct.16-18 Mutoñji continued. **Essay 1 Due Oct. 18**
- Oct.23-25 William Shakespeare, *King Lear* (1608)
- Oct.30-Nov.1 **FALL READING WEEK**
- Nov.6-8 *Lear* continued
- Nov.13-15 John Donne, "The Flea," "A Valediction: Forbidding Mourning" (1633) (BA)
- Nov.20-22 Charlotte Smith, Elegiac Sonnets 44, 70, 74 (1784) (BA)
- Nov.27-29 Jane Austen, *Persuasion* (1818). **Essay 2 Due Nov.29**
- Dec.4-6 Austen continued

**NO CHRISTMAS EXAM**

**Winter Term 2024**

- Jan.8-10 Sheila Heti, *Pure Colour* (2022)
- Jan.15-17 Heti continued
- Jan.22-24 Keats, "Ode on a Grecian Urn," "To Autumn" (1819) (BA)
- Jan.29-31 Tennyson, "Mariana," "Lady of Shalott" (1830) (BA)
- Feb.5-7 Thomas Hardy, *The Mayor of Casterbridge* (1886). **Midterm Feb.7**
- Feb.12-14 Hardy continued

Feb.19-21	<b>WINTER READING WEEK</b>
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, <i>The Waste Land</i> (1922) (BA)
Mar.25-27	W.B. Yeats, "The Second Coming" (1920); "Sailing to Byzantium" (1927) (BA)
Apr.1-3	Gwendolyn Brooks, poems (1963) *see list below. <b>Essay 3 Due Apr.3</b>
Apr. 8	Practice Exam Question (Part C)
Apr. TBA	Final exam

List of sonnets we will study Sept. 13-20:

Gwendolyn Brooks, "The Rites for Cousin Vit"  
John Keats, "When I Have Fears" (BA)  
Claude McKay, "If We Must Die"  
John Milton, "When I consider" (BA)  
Wilfred Owen, "Anthem for Doomed Youth" (BA)  
Christina Rossetti, "In an Artist's Studio" (BA)  
William Shakespeare, Sonnets 18, 29, 30 (BA)  
William Wordsworth, "Surprised by Joy" (BA)  
PLUS: more sonnets to be covered in your tutorial

\*List of Gwendolyn Brooks poems we will study Apr.1-3:

"The Children of the Poor"  
"We Real Cool"  
"A Sunset of the City"  
"Boy Breaking Glass"  
"The Bean Eaters"  
"Jessie Mitchell's Mother"  
"kitchenette building"