Department of English & Writing Studies

English 2092F (001)
The Many Faces of Harry Potter
Fall 2024

Instructor: Dr. Gabrielle Ceraldi   **Office Hours**: M, W: 12:30-1:30 pm
UC 4431
gceraldi@uwo.ca

Course Description

The wildly successful *Harry Potter* series has been noted for its capacity to cross traditional boundaries. Conventional wisdom claims that young girls won't read a book with a male protagonist and young boys won't read a book by a female author, yet *Harry Potter* has found an enthusiastic readership among children of both sexes. Age boundaries have proven to be equally elastic; the popularity of the series among adults has even prompted the creation of an adult-friendly edition of the series with dark cover art suitable for reading on public transportation. The flexibility of the series may relate to its roots in a wide variety of genres including the gothic novel, detective fiction, fantasy, adventure, and even the dystopian novel. This course will examine the *Harry Potter* series in relation to all these genres. We will read all seven books alongside other novels and short stories that illustrate the generic conventions Rowling is using.

Learning Objectives:

By the end of the course, the successful student will be able to:

- Recognize how the *Harry Potter* series employs conventions from a variety of genres;
- Identify and analyze the basic elements of literature such as plot, character, point of view, theme, setting, imagery, and diction;
- Understand the political, religious, moral, and philosophical underpinnings of the texts on the course;
- Write an essay about a work of literature containing an effective thesis supported by adequate evidence from the original text;
- Offer independent insights, beyond those outlined in class;
- Organize and present ideas clearly and effectively.

Course Materials

Required Texts (available from the Bookstore at Western):

J.K. Rowling,   *Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone*, Bloomsbury
                     Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets, Bloomsbury
                     Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban, Bloomsbury
                     Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire, Bloomsbury
                     Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix, Bloomsbury
                     Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince, Bloomsbury
                     Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows, Bloomsbury
                     The Tales of Beedle the Bard, Bloomsbury
Markus Zusak, *The Book Thief*, Knopf
George Orwell, *Nineteen Eighty Four*, Penguin

<u>Methods of Evaluation</u>

Close Reading (750 words, due Oct. 1)	15%
Essay (1500 words, due Nov. 21)	35%
Film Discussion (300 words, due Nov. 28)	10%
Attendance and Participation	10%
Final Exam	30%

Please note: The department of English & Writing Studies does not release final grades. All undergraduate grade reports will be available online from the Office of the Registrar.

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

<u>Timetable</u>

Sept. 5:   Introduction
The Actively Detecting Reader
Sept. 10,12:   Edgar Allan Poe, "The Purloined Letter" (on OWL)
                Arthur Conan Doyle, "A Scandal in Bohemia" (on OWL)
                "The Wizard and the Hopping Pot" (from *The Tales of Beedle the Bard*)
                Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone
Uncovering the Past: The Gothic
Sept. 17,19:   Elizabeth Gaskell, "The Old Nurse's Story" (on OWL)
                Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets
Sept. 24,26:   *Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban*
                Close Reading Assignment Due (Oct. 1)
Nazis and Death Eaters
Oct. 1, 3:   Markus Zusak, *The Book Thief*
Oct. 8, 10:   *The Book Thief*; Writing Comparative Essays
Oct. 14-18:   FALL READING WEEK (no classes)
Oct. 22, 24:   *Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire*
Dystopia
Oct. 29, 31:   George Orwell, *Nineteen Eighty-Four*
Nov. 5, 7:   *Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix*
The Art of Interpretation: Stories, Fairy Tales, Allegories
Nov. 12, 14:   *Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince*
Nov. 19, 21:   film viewing
                Essay Due (Nov. 21)
Nov. 26, 28:   Geoffrey Chaucer, "The Pardoner's Tale" (on OWL)
                "The Tale of the Three Brothers" (from *The Tales of Beedle the Bard*)
                Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows
                Film Discussion Due (Nov. 28)
Dec. 3, 5:   Review

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.

Academic Integrity Tutorial
All students are required to enroll in and complete the Centre for Teaching and Learning's Academic Integrity Tutorial. 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.

General Information

1. All written assignments should be double-spaced and should use a standard font such as 12-pt Times Roman. Please follow MLA format (see attached guidelines). Essays must be uploaded as documents to the Assignments area of OWL. Email is not an accepted method of submission. To count as on time, an essay must be uploaded to the OWL by 11:59 pm on the due date. One percent per day (including weekends) will be deducted from late essays, beginning 48 hours after the due date (that is, essays submitted on the third day after the due date will receive a 3-mark deduction). No paper will be accepted beyond two weeks after the due date or after the last day of classes (Dec. 6).

2. The written assignments in this course have flexible deadlines; that is, late penalties will not be deducted for a period of 48 hours after the due date. These assignments are not eligible for additional academic consideration without supporting documentation. Students can obtain additional academic consideration by submitting appropriate documentation to the academic counsellor in their home faculty (see page 4 of this syllabus for more details). Please email me only after you have contacted academic counselling.

3. Regular attendance at lectures is essential (see department policy above). An emailed explanation is sufficient for a class missed due to emergency or illness; for longer legitimate absences (a week or more), students should see the academic counsellor in their dean's office to arrange accommodation in order to avoid penalty.

4. The Attendance and Participation grade will reflect not only your physical presence in class but also your active involvement, which can take the form of spoken contributions to class discussion

or posts added to the Discussion tool on OWL. The highest marks in this category will be achieved by those who participate every week, either in person or online (or a combination of the two).

5. All grades, once assigned and/or posted, are final. While formal appeal processes do exist in the Department of English and Writing Studies, grades will not be changed after the fact in response to emailed requests and/or GPA requirements, nor will the weighting of assignments be altered for individual students.

6. Students are responsible for checking the course OWL site on a regular basis for news and updates. This is the primary method by which information will be disseminated to all students in the class. If students need assistance with the course OWL site, they can seek support on the OWL Help page. Alternatively, they can contact the Western Technology Services Helpdesk. They can be contacted by phone at 519-661-3800 or ext. 83800.

Use of Generative Artificial Intelligence
The use of generative artificial intelligence (AI) tools/software/apps is unacceptable in this course.

Academic Consideration
Students may request academic consideration in cases of extenuating circumstances – that is, personal circumstances beyond the student's control that have a **substantial but temporary** impact on the student's ability to meet essential academic requirements.

1. Requests for academic consideration are made to the Academic Advising office of the student's Faculty of Registration.

2. Requests for academic consideration include the following components:
    a. Self-attestation signed by the student;
    b. Indication of the course(s) and assessment(s) relevant to the request;
    c. Supporting documentation as relevant.

Requests without supporting documentation are **limited to one per term per course**.

Instructors may designate one assignment or assessment as exempt from this allowance. In this course, all assignments have flexible deadlines, so I am not making use of this designation.

Assignments with flexible deadlines and any term work that does not count towards the course grade are **not** eligible for additional consideration.

Documentation for medical illness, when required, includes the completion of a Western Student Medical Certificate (SMC) or, where that is not possible, equivalent documentation, by a health care practitioner.

Requests linked to examinations scheduled by the Office of the Registrar during official examination periods as well as practice laboratory and performance tests typically scheduled in the last week of term **always** require formal supporting documentation.

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.

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 and Engagement http://www.sdc.uwo.ca/

Students who are in emotional/mental distress should refer to Health and Wellness http://www.uwo.ca/uwocom/mentalhealth/ for a complete list of options about how to obtain help.

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

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.

Grading Rubric

THESIS
- Is there a unifying idea in this paper?
- Is this idea specific, original, and argumentative?
- Is this idea explained clearly near the beginning of the paper?

ARGUMENT
- Does the material in this paper go beyond description to explore the implications and meaning of the text(s)?
- Have opposing ideas been acknowledged and given a convincing response?

ORGANIZATION
- Do paragraph breaks reflect a meaningful shift in topic?
- Does the opening sentence of each paragraph identify the central idea of that paragraph and its relationship to the thesis?

USE OF SOURCES
- Is there textual evidence to back up each claim in the paper?
- Is there an attention to detail (word choice, imagery, etc.) that adds intricacy to the argument?
- Are quotations integrated smoothly and cited correctly?

STYLE
- Is the writing style clear, concise, and readable, so that the focus falls on the ideas in the paper?
- Are sentenced punctuated correctly?

A+ (90-100) = Excellent ("Yes, absolutely!" in all categories)
A (80-89) = Very Good ("Yes" in almost all categories)
B (70-79) = Good ("Yes" or "Somewhat" in all categories)
C (60-69) = Satisfactory ("Somewhat" in most categories OR "No" in one category)
D (50-59) = Poor ("No" in several categories)
F (49 or below) = Unsatisfactory (does not meet the requirements for the assignment)

Sample MLA Format

Surname 1

Your Name

Name of T.A./House

English 2092G

11 February 2020

Wit and Wizardry

The Armchair Detective in Edgar Allan Poe's "The Purloined Letter" and

J.K. Rowling's *Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone*

If you have a snappy, attention-grabbing title, follow it with an informative sub-title that indicates your topic as well as the works you will be discussing. Titles of books should be *italicized*. Titles of articles and short stories should be put in "Quotation Marks." Introduce quotations in your own words, identifying the speaker and context: EXAMPLE: As Hermione points out, "A lot of the greatest wizards haven't got an ounce of logic" (207). Use ellipses to indicate where you have omitted words from the quotation, and put any changes in brackets: EXAMPLE: Draco opposes the admission of Muggle-borns to Hogwarts: "I really don't think they should let [Muggle-borns] in, do you? … I think they should keep it in the old wizarding families" (61).

If the quotation is longer than four lines, do not use quotations marks; instead, indent the passage five spaces (one tab) from the left and continue to double space. EXAMPLE: Harry sees his family for the first time in the Mirror of Erised:

> They just looked at him, smiling. And slowly, Harry looked into the faces of the other people in the mirror and saw other pairs of green eyes like his, other noses like his, even a little old man who looked as though he had Harry's knobbly knees – Harry was looking at his family, for the first time in his life. (153)

At the end of the essay, list all the works you have discussed or used in the preparation of your paper. Staple the top left hand corner.

Works Cited

Rowling, J.K. *Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone*. Bloomsbury, 1997.