

Carleton University
Fall/Winter 2014-2015
Department of English
ENGL 1000I: Literature, Genre, Context
Tuesdays/Thursdays 2:30-4:00
Location: 236 TB
May change; Please confirm location on Carleton Central

Instructor: Arnd Bohm, PhD
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Office Hours: 1:30-2:00 pm Tuesdays, Thursdays

- **READ THIS ENTIRE COURSE OUTLINE CAREFULLY**
- **ALSO READ THE *UNDERGRADUATE CALENDAR* CAREFULLY. IT HAS IMPORTANT INFORMATION ON REGULATIONS OF THE UNIVERSITY AND THE FACULTY THAT ALSO APPLY TO THIS COURSE.**

Instructor: Arnd Bohm
Office:Dunton Tower 1907
Office hours: 1:30- 2:00 pm Tuesdays, Thursdays
 Appointments cannot be made during office hours: just come by. Except when assignments are due, wait times are usually no more than 10 minutes. Appointments outside of regular office hours are possible; please plan for at least one week's advance notice. Missed appointments will not be rescheduled until the following week. When e-mailing me for an appointment, please provide a couple of possible times you might be available to meet.
 E-mail: arnd_bohm@carleton.ca

General Comments

In this course we will concentrate on fictional literature. Most of your courses at university deal with non-fictional texts (for example, history or sociology). Why should anyone want to deal with fiction? This is not an easy question, any more than why people want to study music or play football. Rather than facing it too directly, Departments of English focus on the skills that you can learn, especially how to read well and how to write well. The hope is that these skills will be of use to you in your life and in your careers. If in the process you also develop some personal answer to the question “What good is fiction?” that would be a fine thing.

This is a course about written texts. We will not be dealing with films. Carleton has a Department of Film that studies films.

Do not take this section of the course if you feel you know everything already, so that it would simply be a matter of my giving you a good grade. It doesn't work like that. Even if you think of yourself as already complete and perfect, the judgement of high school does not automatically carry over to university or to life. You have to earn your grades. There are lots of things to learn and to practise, whether you are taking part in a class discussion (sometimes people get annoyed with

me if I don't agree with them or if someone else doesn't agree; that's part of learning), struggling with a text, or proofreading your essay before handing it in. I don't give grades on stuff that is not part of the course. Everyone should be able to do well in the course by following instructions, doing the work, and trying to think.

This course outline is considered by the university to be a sort of contract, covering what is expected of you (and of us). An extension of this outline is the *Calendar Undergraduate 1914-1915*. Rules and regulations you need to know are there, so you should take the time to become familiar with them as well as with this outline. Ignorance of the law is never an excuse.

Course description and aims

1. To work on careful, close reading of literary texts. This means you have to read **all** the assigned texts; they are all fair game for examinations.

2. To expand your critical vocabulary (of terms and concepts like fiction, tragedy, and sonnet), as well as of general vocabulary.

3. To introduce you to some major genres (literary forms). Again, you will need to read and to pay attention in the lectures.

4. To help you to become confident writers of clear prose. This course has been designated "writing attentive" by the Department of English. Students are expected to:

- develop complex ideas in appropriate academic English (prose)
- develop literary reading skills through close analysis of passages
- use and cite evidence from primary sources appropriately
- develop a thesis statement for each essay
- develop skills in finding, using and citing secondary sources

A portion of class time will be devoted to developing and improving essay-writing skills.

In order to meet the requirements of that term you will write 3 shorter and 3 longer essays. Detailed information about the essays will be distributed later. I will also provide advice on how to go about writing the essays.

5. To deal with remaining or nagging grammar problems or questions.

Grading

3-page essay	5%
4-page essays (2 @5%)	10%
Quiz 1	10%
5-page essays (3@15%)	45%
Quiz 2	10%
Final Exam	20%

You can only hand in the next essay when you have received the previous one back and have looked it through so you can learn how to improve. All 6 essays must be done by the last day of class. Essays are to be handed in when they are due. Late essays are charged penalties if they are late.

The final exam is scheduled by the University. Do not make travel plans until you know when it is to be held. Missing a final exam is an automatic failure for the course at Carleton.

There is no separate grade for attendance. Missing class usually affects performance in essays and

on quizzes, so you only hurt yourself by not attending. I do not “go over” things we did in class if you miss one. A friend in class may be able to help, but given the competition for grades, I wouldn’t count on it.

Conversion to letter grades will be done as per the *Undergraduate Calendar*. The grades in this course will not be statistically normed (“curved”).

Supplemental and grade-raising examinations are no longer available in the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences. Final examinations must be written as scheduled by the University. Deferred final examinations are covered by the regulations in the *Undergraduate Calendar* and are only available through the Registrar’s Office.

Required books.

These will be ordered for the university bookstore. I have tried to order the cheapest possible; all are paperbacks. It is a good idea to have these same editions so you can follow in class. If you compare with textbook prices in the sciences, you will see that the cost is relatively modest in English.

Other short readings will be made available on-line or as handouts.

Julian Barnes, *A History of the World in 10 1/2 Chapters*. Vintage

Daniel Defoe, *Robinson Crusoe*. Dover

William Golding, *Lord of the Flies*. Faber & Faber

J.M. Coetzee, *Foe* Penguin

J.M. Coetzee, *Life and Times of Michael K* Random House

Herman Melville, *Billy Budd, Sailor* Simon & Schuster

W. Shakespeare, *King Lear* Dover

Franz Kafka, *The Trial* Dover

E-Mail

All students have been assigned an e-mail account. You **must** activate and check your account (every day is good) since I will be using it to mail handouts, announcements and information about the assignments. Because of privacy issues arising from Ontario’s FIPPA legislation, I will only answer e-mail sent by you through it. All other e-mail (such as hotmail) is deleted automatically.

Please note that e-mail is not the same as “texting.” First, replies are not instantaneous. E-mails will be answered in a timely fashion, usually **within 5 working days** from when they are received. You should not simply hit the “reply” button if you are mailing on a different subject than the one you received a message about; indicate the actual subject. And finally, if you are asking me to do something for you, a simple “please” somewhere in the message is always appreciated.

I archive all e-mail received.

E-mail is intended for short answers to specific questions. For inquiries that require more extensive discussion, please come see me.

General Academic Regulations

All students are required to be familiar with the rules and regulations as published in the *Undergraduate Calendar 2014-2015*. The rules and regulations there are not all reprinted in this course outline, but do apply. Note especially the rules about deadlines for assignments.

Academic Freedom

Attention is drawn to the University's statements on "Discrimination and Sexual Harassment" in the *Undergraduate Calendar*.

Students enrolling this course are warned that studying the literature, culture and ideas of societies other than their own will expose them to unfamiliar and sometimes provocative attitudes, images, language and values. **No one will be expected to subscribe to, or be required to accept for their personal lives, the values represented in the texts to be studied.** But all participants in the course must be willing to examine the relevant texts, must make a sincere effort to understand the presuppositions of others, and be willing to discuss, verbally and in writing, the objects of study. By enrolling in this course, students accept a commitment to academic freedom for all participants, themselves, and the instructor.

Trigger Warning

All works of literature are designed by their authors to arouse, stimulate, provoke and engage our feelings. I have not selected the texts in this course for any specific response. Nor can I know what individual reactions may or will be. I for one am deeply moved by the death of Dobby the elf in one of the last Harry Potter books, to the point where I cannot bear to re-read the passage. Why? I do not know or understand fully why I have this reaction. I would advise you to be prepared to be moved and to try to talk with a friend about your feelings. If you are very sensitized to imaginary objects perhaps literature is not something you should study. Something like geology or botany may be more suitable for you.

Special Accommodations

For Disability

If there is any student in this course who, because of a disability, may have a need for special accommodations, please come and discuss this with me. As well, students must contact the Paul Menton Centre for Persons with Disabilities to obtain a Letter of Accommodation for any special examination arrangements. After registering with the PMC, make an appointment to meet and discuss your needs with me at least two weeks prior to the first in-class test or assignment. Note that **November 7, 2014** is the last day to submit Formal Examination Accommodation Forms at the PMC for December examinations and **March 6, 2015** is the last day for requests for April examinations.

For Religious Obligation

Any student who, by reason of religious obligation, must miss an examination, test, assignment deadline, laboratory, or other compulsory event, must make a formal request in writing for alternative dates or means of satisfying requirements. Such requests should be made during the first two weeks of any given academic term, or as soon as possible after a need for accommodation

is known to exist, but in no case later than the penultimate week of classes in that term. I will make reasonable accommodation in a way which shall avoid academic disadvantage to the student.

For Pregnancy

Pregnant students requiring academic accommodations are encouraged to contact an Equity Advisor in Equity Services to complete a letter of accommodation. The student must then make an appointment to discuss her needs with the instructor at least two weeks prior to the first academic event in which it is anticipated the accommodation will be required.

For Work or Travel

No special accommodations will be made for conflicts with work schedules or for travelling.

Research Ethics and Infractions

Plagiarism

Plagiarism is a serious academic offence. **I am required by the University to report all cases of plagiarism to the appropriate Dean.** The penalties are severe, from an "F" in the course to expulsion from the University. It is not a pleasant experience for anyone.

More often than not, students commit plagiarism because they do not know what it is, but ignorance is no defence. Plagiarism is fraud. A good rule of thumb is that any sentence or passage with three or more words taken from another source must be carefully documented with a footnote. But be careful: even if you put quotation marks around everything and cite the sources, relying too much on someone else's work could still constitute plagiarism. If in doubt, come see me before handing in the final version of your work.

The best ways to avoid plagiarism are to think for yourself, do your own research, make careful notes, and leave enough time to do the job properly.

Note that **all** material stored electronically, whether as software, on diskette or CD-ROM, or on the "Internet" is governed by the same rules and regulations about plagiarism and copyright as printed matter. Downloading material and handing it in as your own work is forbidden.

Ideas you get from lectures and discussions in class should also be properly credited. They may be cited as "Lecture, [name of person], [course number], [date]" or "Class discussion, [course number], [date]. But papers that rely heavily on what I said in class about a text will not get a very good grade, since they do not demonstrate much independent thought or research effort on your part.

The use of the same (substantially unchanged) paper for different assignments in other courses is considered by Carleton University to constitute plagiarism.

A useful site on the topic of plagiarism:

MacOdrum Library: either click on “How Do I” on the Library page and then “Avoid Plagiarism” or click on <http://www.library.carleton.ca/howdoI/plagiarism/html/>

Fairness in Citing

Quotations must be reproduced exactly as in the original with quotation marks; evidence must be cited accurately. It is wrong to alter evidence to fit your arguments. You may **not** alter quotations with square brackets []. If the quotation does not fit grammatically in your paper at first, revise your text until it does make sense.

Respect for Others

In keeping with Carleton University's "Policy on Discrimination and Sexual Harassment," you should avoid sexist language and language that could be hurtful to others, both in class and in written assignments. Yes, I do take off points in essays for sexist language.

Respect for Common Property

Do not write in or deface library materials. New books are very expensive (\$100-\$200 at a minimum once they are catalogued and shelved) and there is no money to replace them.

Classroom Etiquette

We start and end on time.

Drinks in class are ok; food only if it does not crunch or make those around you queasy.

Cell-phones, pagers, lap-tops and all other electronic equipment are to be used solely for class purposes. These do not include gaming or checking your e-mail. Not only is it a waste of time, it is annoying to those around you (and to me)

Course Outline

Outline Semester One: **Intertextuality and Allusion**

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| Sep 4 | Introduction to course |
| Sep 9 | Essays and first essay assignment |
| Sep 11 | Marlowe, “The Passionate Shepherd to his Love”; Raleigh, “The Nymph’s Reply” |
| Sep 16 | Barnes, “The Stowaway.” in his <i>History</i> . 3-page essay due at start of class |
| Sep 18 | Barnes, “The Stowaway.” in his <i>History</i> ; Bible, story of Noah |
| Sep 23 | Barnes, “The Stowaway.” in his <i>History</i> |
| Sep 25 | Gass, “On Reading to Oneself” (essay; handout); Orwell, “Politics and the English Language” (essay; on-line) |
| Sep 30 | Barnes, “Shipwreck,” in his <i>History</i> |
| Oct 2 | Defoe, <i>Robinson Crusoe</i> ; Bible, story of Job |
| Oct 7 | Defoe, <i>Robinson Crusoe</i> |
| Oct 9 | Defoe, <i>Robinson Crusoe</i> ; Woolf, “Defoe” (essay; on-line) |

Oct 14	Golding <i>Lord of the Flies</i> . 4-page essay One due at start of class
Oct 16	Golding <i>Lord of the Flies</i>
Oct 21	Golding <i>Lord of the Flies</i>
Oct 23	Quiz 1
Oct 27-31	Fall break
Nov 4	Coetzee, <i>Foe</i>
Nov 6	Coetzee, <i>Foe</i>
Nov 11	Coetzee, <i>Foe</i>
Nov 13	Coetzee, <i>Foe</i>
Nov 18	Barnes, "Parenthesis," in his <i>History</i>
Nov 20	Barnes, "Parenthesis," in his <i>History</i>
Nov 25	sonnets
Nov 27	sonnets 4-page essay Two due at start of class
Dec 2	sonnets
Dec 4	rhyme and free verse

Semester Two: **Poetic Justice**

Jan 6	Poetic justice (readings; handouts)
Jan 8	Ballads (selection)
Jan 13	Barnes, "The Wars of Religion." in his <i>History</i>
Jan 15	Barnes, "The Wars of Religion." in his <i>History</i>
Jan 20	Melville, <i>Billy Budd, Sailor</i>
Jan 22	Melville, <i>Billy Budd, Sailor</i>
Jan 27	Melville, <i>Billy Budd, Sailor</i>
Jan 29	Melville, <i>Billy Budd, Sailor</i> 5-page essay One due at start of class
Feb 3	Shakespeare, <i>King Lear</i>
Feb 5	Shakespeare, <i>King Lear</i>
Feb 10	Shakespeare, <i>King Lear</i>
Feb 12	Quiz 2
Feb 16-20	Spring Break

- Feb 24 Coleridge, "Rime of the Ancient Mariner" (on-line)
 Feb 26 Coleridge, "Rime of the Ancient Mariner" (on-line) **5-page essay Two due at start of class**
- Mar 3 Kafka, *The Trial*
 Mar 5 Kafka, *The Trial*
- Mar 10 Kafka, *The Trial*
 Mar 12 Kafka, *The Trial*
- Mar 17 Coetzee, *Life and Times of Michael K*
 Mar 19 Coetzee, *Life and Times of Michael K*
- Mar 24 Coetzee, *Life and Times of Michael K*
 Mar 26 Coetzee, *Life and Times of Michael K* **5 page essay Three due at start of class**
- Mar 31 Barnes, "Upstream!" in his *History*
 Apr 2 Barnes, "Upstream!" in his *History*
- Apr 7 Summation and review
- April 11-23 **Final examination** held; exam schedule available on February 13. There will be a final examination in this course. Students must have submitted all written term work on time in order to be allowed to write the final examination.

Writing Comments

Fluff you throw together at the last minute will not be very successful. That is why you should have an outline of your argument done before you start writing. We will go over this in class.

I am a real stickler for details of spelling and formatting. Those things count heavily. A grading sheet will be distributed in plenty of time.

There should be no separate title page.

In matters of form, follow the *MLA Style Handbook*. Use 12-point serif font throughout, including first pages and headings. Select a font that most resembles "Times Roman" (for example the font in which this text is printed). Do not use fancy display fonts and be very sparing with **bolding**. Important: use *italics* instead of underlining for book and journal titles and for emphases. No underlining; use the correct rules.

Proofreading at least 24 hours before the deadline is essential.

No electronic submissions will be accepted for any reason.