

**Carleton University  
Fall 2013  
English Department**

**ENGL 2956A  
Literature of the Americas I  
Classes: Monday/Wednesday 10:05-11:25  
Loc: 240TB (please confirm on Carleton Central)**

**Instructor: Dr. P. Whiting  
Office: 1810 Dunton Tower  
Office Hours: Tuesday 10:30 – 11:30, or by appointment  
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**Course description:** The discovery of the “New World” represented vastly different things to different groups of people. For Europeans, it put an end to centuries of mystery and conjecture as to what lay beyond the sea, and in that sense, the Americas were indeed “new.” But from the beginning, the Golden Age of European exploration and discovery was also underpinned by the desire for wealth and empire as nations raced to gain the upper hand in global power and acquisition.

The “New World” was also new for millions of Africans who were kidnapped, enslaved, and sold as chattel to ensure the prosperity of European interests. For African slaves, the New World was not a world of promise and prosperity but one of foreclosure, displacement, pain, and degradation.

For indigenous peoples of the countries “discovered” and appropriated by the Europeans, the concept of the “New World” would have seemed preposterous had they known of it. Various objects of wonder, admiration, fear, and exploitation, the native peoples of the “New World” experienced a range of treatments from Europeans and exhibited a range of responses to these strangers with their unfamiliar God and their desire for gold, land, and sometimes conquest.

This introductory course will consider the “New World” from the perspectives of these three groups through their own words and through their representation by others in historical literature. We’ll be looking at travel narratives, castaway tales, autobiographies, poetry, and novelistic representations in order to gain a more rounded view of the “New World” between 1492 and 1865.

**REQUIRED TEXTS**

Behn, Aphra. *Oroonoko* (Oxford)  
Equiano, Olaudah. *The Interesting Narrative of the Life of Olaudah Equiano* (Dover)  
Earle, William. *Obi; or, The History of Three-Fingered Jack* (Broadview)  
Kimber, Edward. *The History of the Life and Adventures of Mr. Anderson* (Broadview)  
Prince, Mary. *The History of Mary Prince* (Dover)  
Sansay, Leonora. *Secret History; or, The Horrors of St. Domingo and Laura* (Broadview)  
Shakespeare, William. *The Tempest* (Signet Classics)  
Winkfield, Unca Eliza. *The Female American* (Broadview)  
E-texts – list distributed by e-mail

The Broadview books will be packaged together and sold at a discounted price. They are available at Benjamin Books, 133 Osgoode St. You will also need a good dictionary and a grammar reference.

**Evaluation:**

Essay #1 (3-4 pp)	10%
Essay #2 (5-6 pp)	15%
Quizzes (best 5 of 6)	10%
Attendance/Participation	10%
Midterm	20%
Final	35%

**Please read this carefully:**

- 1. Attendance Policy:** Class attendance is mandatory. Excused absences must be medically documented. Absences for work reasons will not be excused. Students who attend only part of a class will be counted as absent from that class. Everyone has two “free” unexcused absences. The third unexcused absence will result in 2 points being deducted from the attendance mark; the fourth unexcused absence will result in 3 additional points being deducted from the attendance mark; the fifth unexcused absence will result in 5 additional points being deducted from the attendance mark. Participation in class discussions will factor into the overall attendance/participation mark.
- 2. Early Feedback Assignment:** The Early Feedback Assignment is intended to provide you with an idea of the expectations for writing in this class. The short paper will be marked and graded as if it were a “real” assignment, although the grade will not count toward your final mark. **However, failure to hand in the Early Feedback Assignment will result in 4 points being deducted from your attendance mark.**
- 3. Papers:** Late papers must be accompanied by valid medical documentation in order not to be penalized. Late papers without documentation will receive a penalty of 2% per day. Papers more than a week late will receive a grade of 0. Essays must conform to the stated word count requirement, must answer the essay question, and must discuss only texts read in this course. Papers that are too short or long by more than 50 words may be penalized.

**PAPER TOPICS ARE DISTRIBUTED ONLY IN CLASS AND WILL NOT BE POSTED ON WEB CT OR SENT BY E-MAIL.**

- 4. Tests and examinations:** Tests, quizzes, and examinations must be written on the date indicated on the syllabus and may not be made up unless a student has a valid doctor's certificate. Failure to write a test or quiz will result in a 0 for that assignment.

**The Fall term exam period is December 11-22 (including Saturdays). Since the Registrar’s Office does not set exam dates until mid-October, you must plan to be available throughout the entire examination period. Exams will not be rescheduled for students who take on other commitments during the exam period.**

- 5. Extensions:** Extensions on papers may involve a penalty. All extensions must be arranged by e-mail at least 24 hours in advance of the due date. **No exceptions will be made to this arrangement.**
- 6. E-Mail Protocol:** You are encouraged to e-mail me your thesis statements up to 48 hours before a paper is due. Please identify the course in the subject line; otherwise, your e-mail may be deleted without being read. Please do not send attachments. Copy your thesis statement onto the e-mail.

**I DO NOT ACCEPT PAPERS BY E-MAIL. YOU MAY E-MAIL AN ESSAY TO ME ONLY UNDER ALL OF THE FOLLOWING CIRCUMSTANCES AND CONDITIONS:**

1. If you have printer problems at the last minute
2. If you e-mail me the finished essay by the beginning of the class on the day it is due.
3. If you come to that class and inform me of the problem.
4. If you bring a hard copy of the essay to my office within 24 hours of the due date.
  
7. **Collaboration:** Although you are encouraged to talk with each other about assignments and to review each other's work, all assignments written for evaluation are to be the original work of individual students.
  
8. **Plagiarism:** Plagiarism is a serious matter and can be grounds for expulsion from the University. Plagiarism often occurs because a student is not sure where to draw the line between common knowledge, paraphrase, and direct quotation -- and indeed, the distinctions are sometimes hard to make. The rule of thumb is this: All direct quotations have to be contained by quotation marks and their sources cited (see note on bibliographical form below); all paraphrases have to be clearly indicated as such, and their sources also cited. When in doubt about whether a point that you are making is common, shared knowledge in the public domain or the "intellectual property" of another author, either contact me for clarification or err in the direction of documentation.

Please read the statement on Instructional Offenses on the FASS website at

<http://calendar.carleton.ca/undergrad/regulations/academicregulationsoftheuniversity/acadregsuniv14/>

**Please note that I hand over ALL cases of suspected plagiarism to the Dean of the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences for investigation.**

### **Academic Accommodation**

You may need special arrangements to meet your academic obligations during the term because of disability, pregnancy or religious obligations. Please review the course outline promptly and write to me with any requests for academic accommodation during the first two weeks of class, or as soon as possible after the need for accommodation is known to exist.

Students with disabilities requiring academic accommodations in this course must register with the Paul Menton Centre for Students with Disabilities (PMC) for a formal evaluation of disability-related needs. Documented disabilities could include but are not limited to mobility/physical impairments, specific Learning Disabilities (LD), psychiatric/psychological disabilities, sensory disabilities, Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD), and chronic medical conditions. Registered PMC students are required to contact the PMC, 613-520-6608, every term to ensure that your Instructor receives your Letter of Accommodation, no later than two weeks before the first assignment is due or the first in-class test/midterm requiring accommodations. If you only require accommodations for your formally scheduled exam(s) in this course, please submit your request for accommodations to PMC by the deadlines listed in the [Academic Year](#) in the Undergraduate Calendar.

You can visit the Equity Services website to view the policies and to obtain more detailed information on academic accommodation at <http://carleton.ca/equity/accommodation>.

## SYLLABUS

Sept. 9 – Introduction

Sept. 11 – **Early Voyages:** Columbus, Vespucci

Sept. 16 – Columbus, Vespucci

Sept. 18 – **Renaissance Imaginings:** Raleigh

Sept. 23 – Shakespeare

Sept. 25 – Shakespeare; **QUIZ #1; Diagnostic early feedback assignment due**

Sept. 30 – Neville

Oct. 2 – **The New World:** Inkle and Yarico; **PAPER #1 DUE**

Oct. 7 – Winkfield; **QUIZ #2**

Oct. 9 – Winkfield

Oct. 14 – THANKSGIVING – NO CLASS

Oct. 16 - Winkfield

Oct. 21 –Kimber

Oct. 23 - Kimber; **QUIZ #3**

**Oct. 28 – Nov. 1 – FALL BREAK**

Nov. 4 – **MIDTERM**

**Nov. 6 – Slavery in the Americas:** Oroonoko

Nov. 11 - Oroonoko

Nov. 13 – Equiano; **QUIZ #4**

Nov. 18 – Equiano

Nov. 20 – Equiano; **PAPER #2 DUE**

Nov. 25 - Earle

Nov. 27 – Earle; **QUIZ #5**

Dec. 2 - Prince

Dec. 4– Sansay

Dec. 9 – Sansay; **QUIZ #6**

**FINAL EXAM TO BE ANNOUNCED**