

**Carleton University**  
**Fall/Winter 2014-15**  
**Department of English**  
**FYSM 1004A: Literature, Genre, Context**  
**Classes: Tuesdays and Thursdays, 2:35-3:55 pm**  
**Loc.: Fall term: 209 CO (*Please confirm on Carleton Central*)**  
*Please confirm Winter term location on Carleton Central*  
**Precludes additional credit for ENGL 1000**

**Instructor: Dr M. Susan Birkwood**  
**Office: 1928 Dunton Tower**  
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**Email: Susan.Birkwood@carleton.ca**

**Office Hours:** Fridays 10:15 am-12:15 pm—or by appointment

❖ **Please note: This is not a creative writing course. It is a writing attentive\* course.**

**Course Description:**

Literary works have so very much to offer: beauty, sorrow, excitement, revolution, horror, humour, tolerance, hope. They also have much to say about the literary and rhetorical arts, along with the circumstances of their cultural production. This course is an introduction to active literary reading skills, and we will study works of poetry, prose, and drama. As we situate the texts in terms of their literary, historical, and cultural contexts, we will cross temporal and geographic borders while examining—in a wide variety of ways—the relationship of the individual to community and to the world beyond, along with the struggle for personal identity, autonomy, purpose, and dignity.

Because this course is your introduction to literary studies at Carleton, one of my jobs is to help you to develop your critical vocabulary as we read texts from different regions, periods, and genres in order to build a strong base for your future studies. (Plenty of websites may offer quick interpretations; however, they are no substitute for your own confident and well-supported oral and written analyses of texts.) I am well aware that students entering first year bring a range of experience and that the transition from high school to university has its challenges, especially in the area of essay writing. We will discuss academic writing, and you will have plenty of opportunities to hone your skills.

The seminar class size allows for more interaction between you and your fellow students, as well as with me. Consequently, it also makes possible the opportunity to engage in group projects and to build a strong learning community.

**Course Objectives:**

- To situate these texts within their literary and historical contexts
- To examine both the form and content of the selected works of poetry, prose, and drama and to build a vocabulary of analytical terms
- To develop students' textual analysis skills
- To develop students' critical thinking, reading, and writing skills
- To foster a learning community

**\*English Department definition of “Writing Attentive”:**

- Students will write at least one examination.
- Students will write a minimum of two graded writing assignments per term, in which they are expected to do the following:
  - i. develop an argumentative thesis across an essay
  - ii. develop complex ideas using correct and effective expression according to academic English practice
  - iii. use and cite evidence from primary texts appropriately
  - iv. develop literary skills through close critical analysis of texts from a variety of genres
  - v. develop fluency in genre-specific literary terms of analysis
- Students will be introduced to issues in secondary research (such as critical evaluation of and citation of secondary materials)
- A portion of class time will be devoted to developing and improving essay writing skills.

**Required Texts:**

- Books are available at **Haven Books** 43 Seneca Street, Ottawa (at Sunnyside, one block from campus)
- <http://havenbooks.ca/new/>

Broadview Press Custom Texts: ENGL 1000D / FYSM 1004A

Frances Itani, *Deafening* (Harper Collins)

Virginia Woolf, *Mrs Dalloway* (Broadview)

Ann-Marie MacDonald, *Goodnight Desdemona (Good Morning Juliet)* (Random House)

Lawrence Hill, *The Book of Negroes* (Harper Collins)

Richard Wagamese, *Indian Horse* (Talon)

Drew Hayden Taylor, *Only Drunks and Children Tell the Truth* (Talon)

**Evaluation:**

Fall Term

In-class passage analysis + grammar and scansion quiz 10%

Author visit question and reflection\* 5%

\*You must attend on Oct. 23 for this assignment, so plan accordingly!

Major Fall-term essay 10%

December exam 15%

Participation 5%

Winter Term

Major Winter-term essay 10%

Review of CUAG exhibition following gallery visit\* 10%

\*You must attend the Gallery visit to complete this assignment, so plan accordingly!

Oral presentation on poetry + written notes 10%

Final exam 20%

Participation 5%

**Please note:**

- You must complete **all of the term work and the final exam** in order to be eligible to pass the course. This means that failure to complete the term work will result in a final grade of “F.”
- **Term work must be submitted according to the assigned deadlines.** (Given the 5% per day late penalty, assignments will not be worth anything 20 days after the deadline.)
- There are policies in place to support students who require academic accommodation. (See below.) Should you, though, find yourself in circumstances that threaten to preclude your successful completion of an assignment, please contact me before the particular deadline. I would much rather work with you to find a solution than have you face the possibility of failing the course.
- I will grade **print copies** only of assignments, unless otherwise indicated; however, I ask that you submit electronic back-up copies through CU Learn of your analyses and essays.
- “Standing in a course is determined by the course instructor subject to the approval of the Faculty Dean. This means that grades submitted by the instructor may be subject to revision. No grades are final until they have been approved by the Dean.” (FASS Teaching Regulations)

**Opportunities for bonus marks outside of class:**

- ✓ Earn up to 3% (added to your final grade) for attending study-skills workshops through Learning Support Services. <http://carleton.ca/lss/> (1% per workshop, with a limit of three workshops.) Attendance will be taken at the workshops and then forwarded to me.
- ✓ Receive one 2% addition to your final grade for attending a campus or community event that relates to the course in some way—even if tangential.
  - You must submit a one-paragraph description of the event and some proof of attendance to receive the credit.

**Community events of interest:**

- ❖ **The Ottawa International Writers Festival** runs from October 23 to 29. Among the writers who will be reading from new works are **Frances Itani** and **Dionne Brand**. As Carleton students, you may attend the regular events for free, but you must reserve your seat.
  - <http://www.writersfestival.org/>
- ❖ **Oscar Wilde’s *The Importance of Being Earnest*** will be performed at The National Arts Centre, October 21 to November 8
  - Pay What You Can Night: Oct. 21
  - <http://nac-cna.ca/en/englishtheatre/event/8442>

**Campus Event:**

- ❖ Thursday, October 23, 7 pm: The Department of English Language and Literatures’ **Munro Beattie Lecture**: Lynn Coady, 2013 Giller Prize winner (for *Hellgoing*)

**Carleton University Art Gallery (CUAG) in St Patrick’s Building:**

- ❖ Hours: Tuesday-Friday: 10 to 5 Saturday-Sunday: 12 to 5
  - <http://cuag.carleton.ca/>

**Academic Accommodation:**

*You may need special arrangements to meet your academic obligations during the term. For an accommodation request the processes are as follows:*

***Pregnancy obligation:*** 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. For more details see the Student Guide

***Religious obligation:*** 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. For more details see the Student Guide

***Academic Accommodations for Students with Disabilities:*** The Paul Menton Centre for Students with Disabilities (PMC) provides services to students with Learning Disabilities (LD), psychiatric/mental health disabilities, Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD), Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD), chronic medical conditions, and impairments in mobility, hearing, and vision. If you have a disability requiring academic accommodations in this course, please contact PMC at 613-520-6608 or [pmc@carleton.ca](mailto:pmc@carleton.ca) for a formal evaluation. If you are already registered with the PMC, contact your PMC coordinator to send me your Letter of Accommodation at the beginning of the term, and no later than two weeks before the first in-class scheduled test or exam requiring accommodation (if applicable). After requesting accommodation from PMC, meet with me to ensure accommodation arrangements are made. Please consult the PMC website for the deadline to request accommodations for the formally-scheduled exam (if applicable).

**General Policy on Major Essays** (See individual assignment sheets for detailed expectations)

Generally, essays are due in class on the day assigned; however, you each have a total of **3 grace days** to use to best advantage when completing the major essays (not reviews /analyses/presentations). For instance, you could use 1 grace day when completing the first essay and 2 when completing the second. (In other words, you have a built-in extension should you experience hardware failures or other problems.) Otherwise, requests for extensions MUST be made BEFORE the due date. Busier-than-average schedules or computer problems do not ordinarily constitute good reasons for extensions. A penalty of **5% per business day** will be applied to late assignments. (I will keep track of grace days used.)

- **As already indicated, you will be required to submit print copies of your assignments for marking\* and to provide electronic back-ups in cuLearn. However, you should still keep a copy of each assignment until the original has been returned, and be prepared to submit a copy immediately if need be.** (\*Call me a Luddite if you must, but I will only grade on paper.)
- Do not slide assignments under my office door. There is a drop-off slot outside of the English Department office (DT 1812).
- Essays are to conform to MLA format. Errors in documentation and formatting will cost you marks.
- **You are expected to know the University's policy and procedures regarding plagiarism.\* (See the section on "Academic Integrity Standards" in the University Calendar.) Unacceptable paraphrasing does count as a form of plagiarism. Be particularly careful in your use and documentation of internet sources. I shall report cases of unacknowledged use of sources to the Chair of the English Department.**
- For Carleton's policies and procedures related to academic integrity, see the following: <http://calendar.carleton.ca/undergrad/regulations/academicregulationsoftheuniversity/acadregsuniv14/>

<http://www1.carleton.ca/studentaffairs/academic-integrity/>

**Definition and examples of plagiarism excerpted from Carleton's Academic Integrity Policy:**

([http://www1.carleton.ca/studentaffairs/ccms/wp-content/ccms-files/academic\\_integrity\\_policy.pdf](http://www1.carleton.ca/studentaffairs/ccms/wp-content/ccms-files/academic_integrity_policy.pdf))

Plagiarism is presenting, whether intentional or not, the ideas, expression of ideas or work of others as one's own.

- Plagiarism includes **reproducing or paraphrasing** portions of someone else's published or unpublished material, regardless of the source, and presenting these as one's own without proper citation or reference to the original source. Examples of sources from which the ideas, expressions of ideas or works of others may be drawn from include but are not limited to: books, articles, papers, literary compositions and phrases, performance compositions, chemical compounds, art works, laboratory reports, research results, calculations and the results of calculations, diagrams, constructions, computer reports, computer code/software, and material on the internet.

Examples of plagiarism include, but are not limited to:

- submitting a take-home examination, essay, laboratory report or other assignment written, in whole or in part, by someone else;
- using ideas or direct, verbatim quotations, paraphrased material, algorithms, formulae, scientific or mathematical concepts, or ideas without appropriate acknowledgment in any academic assignment;
- using another's data or research findings;
- submitting a computer program developed in whole or in part by someone else, with or without modifications, as one's own;
- failing to acknowledge sources through the use of proper citations when using another's works and/or failing to use quotation marks.

**In-Class Passage Analysis, Author Visit Reflection, Exhibition Review, Group Presentation:** Individual assignment sheets will be posted in cuLearn.

**Attendance and Participation:**

**Attendance:** I have always found there to be a strong correlation between regular attendance and student success in my classes. You are responsible for what we cover in class, and we will make links between texts and topics as we move forward in the course and build on what we have discussed. On a very practical note, exam questions in this course will come straight out of lecture and discussion materials.

- ❖ I will take attendance at each class. (If I forget, please remind me!)
- ❖ If you have to miss a class, see if you can get notes from someone AND check with me to see if you missed any hand-outs or marked assignments that I may have distributed.

**Participation:** Students' thoughtful participation in class discussion greatly enriches the learning experience for everyone, including me.

**The grade:** In assigning the participation grade at the end of the year, I take into account both attendance records and participation in class. (If you don't attend, you can't participate!) Perfect attendance is not a guarantee of a perfect score: you will need to demonstrate your engagement with the material. (If you sit in class but spend your time on social media sites, I don't consider that participation.)

- I will, of course, take into account any documented reasons for absence (e.g. illness).

**cuLearn: Course Materials and Grades:** I will post course materials (e.g. the syllabus, poetry resources, web links) and any PowerPoint slides that I use in lecture, and I will enter your marks in the grade-book. (I do not as a rule post lecture notes.)

- You will get your marked assignments back in class, and I will periodically update the grade-book. I give priority to class preparation and marking: I update the on-line records when I have

time. Please do compare my records to yours before the end of the course, and let me know if you discover any errors or omissions.

**Assignments, Calendar, News Forum, and other features:** I will set up assignments, indicate assignment due dates and grace days in the calendar, and post any class announcements in cuLearn. We can decide whether we want to use other features on a regular basis.

**E-mail Communications:**

- I will check e-mail daily during the week. If you send a message on Friday evening, be aware that I may not reply to it until Monday morning.
- I will delete mail without opening it, if it comes from a sender I do not recognise, so please use your Carleton account.
- University policy prohibits me from sending information about grades over e-mail if the request comes from any non-Carleton e-mail address.
- It is always a good idea to avoid excessive informality in your e-mail communications with instructors. (“Dear Professor –” is the safest way to begin when e-mailing any instructor.)

**Preparation for Class:**

- Ideally, you should have the texts read before we begin discussing them in class. In the case of novels, try to have a substantial portion read prior to the first class on the respective texts.
- Make sure you bring the relevant text(s) to class.
- When you are taking notes, do include references to passages that we focus on in class: I choose identification passages for the exams from those that we discuss in class.

**Classroom Courtesy:**

- Please put mobile phones into silent mode before coming into class.
- Try to resist using your electronic devices for anything other than course-related work. (In my experience, the students who sit through class smiling at their phones and laptops rarely do well on exams.)
- Please plan to stay for the duration of the class. Should you need to leave the classroom early, I would appreciate your letting me know ahead of time, if possible.

**Schedule (subject to change, if necessary):**

Dates	Tuesday	Thursday
Sept. 4		Introductions; course overview
9, 11	<p><b><i>There’s reading, and then there’s close reading</i></b>  <b>Poetry:</b> William Blake, “The Lamb,” <i>Songs of Innocence</i>; “The Tyger,” <i>Songs of Experience</i>; “The Chimney Sweeper,” <i>Songs of Innocence</i>; “The Chimney Sweeper,” <i>Songs of Experience</i>  <b>(selections in the Broadview Press Coursepack)</b></p> <p>❖ <b>Bring your coursepack to class!</b></p>	<p>Further discussion of Blake’s poems:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Content</li> <li>• Form</li> <li>• Historical context</li> <li>• Analysis</li> </ul> <p><b>Readings in cuLearn:</b> Reading Poetry, Studying Prosody; “Innocence and Complicity in William Blake’s “The Chimney Sweeper” from <i>Songs of Innocence</i>”</p>

16, 18	Literary analysis: thesis statements, paragraphing, quoting <b>Readings in cuLearn:</b> Thesis statements and paragraphing <b>Bring your coursepack to class!</b>	Editing and proofreading <b>Readings in cuLearn:</b> Grammar / Punctuation Overview
23, 25	<b>Dramatic Monologues:</b> Alfred, Lord Tennyson, "Ulysses" Robert Browning, "Porphyria's Lover"; "My Last Duchess"	<b>Form and rhetorical schemes</b> Emily Brontë, "Remembrance" Christina Rossetti, "In an Artist's Studio" Elizabeth Bishop, "Sestina"
Sept. 30, Oct. 2	<b>Narrative Poetry:</b> John Keats, "The Eve of St Agnes"	<b>In-class passage analysis, grammar and scansion quiz</b>
7, 9	<b>LIBRARY SESSION:</b> <b>Room 252 MACODRUM LIBRARY</b>	<b>Political sonnets</b> Percy Bysshe Shelley, "England in 1819" Wilfred Owen, "Anthem for Doomed Youth"
14, 16	<b>Worlds of sound and silence</b> Frances Itani, <i>Deafening</i>	Frances Itani, <i>Deafening</i>
21, 23	Frances Itani, <i>Deafening</i>	Frances Itani, <i>Deafening</i>  <b>*Frances Itani will be visiting the class. Please note associated assignment.</b>
28, 30	FALL BREAK	NO CLASSES
Nov. 4, 6	<b>Comedy of (Victorian) Manners</b> Oscar Wilde, <i>The Importance of Being Earnest*</i> (coursepack) *NAC presents this play from Oct. 21-Nov. 8	Oscar Wilde, <i>The Importance of Being Earnest</i> <b>Reflection on Frances Itani's visit due</b>
11, 13	Oscar Wilde, <i>The Importance of Being Earnest</i>	<b>Literary response and satire</b> Edmund Spenser, Sonnet LXXXI William Shakespeare, Sonnet 130
18, 20	Christopher Marlowe, "The Passionate Shepherd to His Love" Sir Walter Raleigh, "The Nymph's Reply to the Shepherd" Philip Larkin, "This Be the Verse"	Jonathan Swift, "The Lady's Dressing Room" Lady Mary Wortley Montagu, "The Reasons that Induced Dr. S. to Write a Poem called The Lady's Dressing Room"
25, 27	<b>Revising and Revising Shakespeare</b> Ann-Marie MacDonald, <i>Goodnight Desdemona (Good Morning Juliet)</i>	Ann-Marie MacDonald, <i>Goodnight Desdemona (Good Morning Juliet)</i>
Dec. 2, 4	Ann-Marie MacDonald, <i>Goodnight Desdemona (Good Morning Juliet)</i>	Ann-Marie MacDonald, <i>Goodnight Desdemona (Good Morning Juliet)</i> <b>Major Fall-term essay due</b> Exam review

**Dec. 10-21: Examination Period**

- ❖ The Registrar's Office will post the exam schedule: <http://www1.carleton.ca/registrar/>
- ❖ Do not finalise travel plans until you know the exam schedule.

Dates	Tuesday	Thursday
Jan. 6, 8	<b>Narrative point of view and reliability</b>	Charlotte Perkins Gilman, "The Yellow"

	Edgar Allan Poe, "The Black Cat" (coursepack)	Wallpaper"
13, 15	<b>"To be or not to be" in Romantic and Modernist contexts</b> John Keats, "Ode to a Nightingale"; Thomas Hardy, "The Darkling Thrush"; Virginia Woolf, <i>Mrs Dalloway</i>	Virginia Woolf, <i>Mrs Dalloway</i>
20, 22	Virginia Woolf, <i>Mrs Dalloway</i>	Virginia Woolf, <i>Mrs Dalloway</i>
Jan. 27, 29	<b>Ekphrasis</b> John Keats, "Ode on a Grecian Urn"; William Carlos Williams, "Landscape with the Fall of Icarus"; W. H. Auden, "Musée des Beaux Arts"	<b>CLASS VISIT TO CUAG (ST PAT'S)</b>  *Please note associated assignment
Feb. 3, 5	<b>The historical novel and <i>Bildungsroman</i> / <i>Künstlerroman</i></b> Lawrence Hill, <i>The Book of Negroes</i>	Lawrence Hill, <i>The Book of Negroes</i>
10, 12	Lawrence Hill, <i>The Book of Negroes</i>	Lawrence Hill, <i>The Book of Negroes</i> <b>CUAG assignment due</b>
17, 19	WINTER BREAK	NO CLASSES
24, 26	<b>Trauma and healing through storytelling</b> Richard Wagamese, <i>Indian Horse</i>	Richard Wagamese, <i>Indian Horse</i>
Mar. 3, 5	Richard Wagamese, <i>Indian Horse</i>	Richard Wagamese, <i>Indian Horse</i> <b>Major winter-term essay due</b>
10, 12	<b><i>In vino veritas: identity and family politics</i></b> Drew Hayden Taylor, <i>Only Drunks and Children Tell the Truth</i>	Drew Hayden Taylor, <i>Only Drunks and Children Tell the Truth</i>
17, 19	<b>Two very different takes on ethnic discrimination</b> Sherman Alexie, "Flight Patterns" Eden Robinson, "Terminal Avenue" (coursepack)	<b>Presentation prep class</b>
24, 26	<b>Group Presentations on Poetry</b> Schedule and poems TBA	<b>Group Presentations</b>
Mar. 31, Apr. 2	<b>Group Presentations</b>	<b>Group Presentations</b>
Apr. 7	Last Class! Exam review	

### Final Exams: April 11-23

- ❖ The Registrar's Office will post the exam schedule. <http://www1.carleton.ca/registrar/>. Do not finalise travel plans until you know the exam schedule.
- ❖ **Final exams** will not be returned to you; however, you may make an appointment to review your exam after it is marked. Final exams are kept in the English Department for one year.
- ❖ **Final Grades** are not official until they have been approved by both the Department Chair and the Dean. Consequently, I will not post final grades in cuLearn. You may access your final grades through **Carleton Central**.