

**Carleton University**  
**Fall 2023/Winter 2024 Preliminary Course Outline**  
**Department of English**

**FYSM 1004A**  
**Reading Literatures and Cultures**

**Prerequisite(s):** Normally restricted to students entering the first year of a B.A., B.Cog.Sc., B.Co.M.S., B.Econ. or B.G.In.S. program.

**Precludes additional credit for ENGL 1000 (no longer offered), ENGL 1100, ENGL 1200, ENGL 1300, ENGL 1400, ENGL 1600, and ENGL 1700.**

**Tuesdays 11:35-2:25pm**  
**In-person, not suitable for online students**

**Instructor: Brian Johnson**  
**Email: [BrianJohnson@cunet.carleton.ca](mailto:BrianJohnson@cunet.carleton.ca)**

**\*\*\*This is a preliminary syllabus only—texts and assignments are subject to change.  
A complete version will be available closer to the start of the term.\*\*\***

**Course Description:** This in-person seminar introduces students to the study of literature at the university level. Its approach emphasizes classroom engagement and participatory learning. In the fall, we will focus on fundamentals of understanding, analyzing, and writing about texts across several genres and media: poetry, short stories, the novel, film, and comics. In winter term we will study a smaller pool of texts in greater depth as the course shifts from a focus on formal textual analysis to a focus on more advanced techniques of research and project design. In early winter, students will work collectively and in small groups on interpreting a single text as they are guided through the stages of developing research questions, locating and working with secondary sources, critical thinking, project design, argument construction, close reading, and scholarly writing. In late winter, students will work individually to refine these skills as they devise and complete capstone research projects, assisted by lectures, in-class exercises, and advising meetings with the professor.

**An important note about course format and grading:** Students will be expected to prepare for and attend every class. Because this is a seminar rather than a lecture, participation is compulsory; 50% of the final grade will be based on short writing assignments, group discussions, reports, and team-based oral presentations that must be completed in class. The remainder of the course grade will be determined by formal take-home writing assignments (30%) and two in-person exams (20%).

**Required Texts**

Wayne Booth et. al., *The Craft of Research*, 4th edition (Chicago)

William Blake, *Songs of Innocence and Experience* (Oxford)

Paul Negri, ed., *Great American Short Stories* (Dover)

Mary Shelley, *Frankenstein* (Norton Critical Edition)

James Whale (dir.), *Frankenstein* (1931) and *The Bride of Frankenstein* (1935)

selected issues of *Swamp Thing* Vol. 1 and Vol. 2 (DC Comics)

Eric Walrond, *Tropic Death* (Liveright)

W. B. Yeats, *The Major Works* (Oxford)

Natalie Diaz, *When My Brother Was an Aztec* (Copper Canyon)