

**Carleton University
Fall/Winter 2018-19
Department of English**

ENGL 1300A: Literature, Psychology, and the Mind

Prerequisites: Precludes additional credit for ENGL 1000, 1100, 1200, 1400, and FYSM 1004

**Fall: M/W 4:05 p.m.-5:25 p.m.
Location: SP 100**

**Instructor: Matthew Scribner
Email: Matthew.Scribner@Carleton.ca
Office: 1906 Dunton Tower
Office Hours: TBD**

Literature is a unique way of exploring someone's mind. It transports us into the head of a character and even into the head of an author. Likewise, telling a story is a tried-and-true way of psychological treatment.

Or is it? Is everything I just said a psychological mind game?

Literature and psychology have a long history together. Occasionally that relationship has seemed positive, and even natural, but at other times, the two fields expose weaknesses and vulnerabilities in each other.

This course will explore that history and ask some key questions along the way. How do writers create characters? How do they represent the internal thoughts of characters? What ideas have psychologists abandoned, but fiction writers still use? What are some critiques of psychology, and how does fiction bring them out?

We will read a variety of fiction alongside psychological theory texts in order to address these questions.

Course Objectives:

- Learn basic psychological concepts and ideas that are relevant to the study of literature
- Apply critical theory to primary sources
- Refine skills in generating and supporting argumentative thesis statements across essays
- Improve the ability to express in writing sophisticated ideas and opinions using proper, correct, and effective academic English practice

- Use, cite, and interpret primary literary texts in complex ways while following MLA documentation standards
- Develop critical thinking skills

Evaluation:

As stated in the Academic Regulations of the University, Section 2.1, students must complete all term papers and examinations to obtain credit for this course.

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.

3 Term Papers	1) Two pages (Due: September 25 th , 2018)	10%
	2) Three pages (Due: October 31 st , 2018)	20%
	3) Four pages (Due: November 28 th , 2018)	30%

In-Class Assignments	10%
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There will be an opportunity to make up ONE missed assignment. Otherwise, you need to be in class to do the assignment.

Final Examination	30%
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Work handed in late will be penalized 10% per day, unless there has been a prior arrangement.

PLAGIARISM

The University Senate defines plagiarism as “*presenting, whether intentionally or not, the ideas, expression of ideas or work of others as one’s own.*” This can include:

- ☐ 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;
- ☐ 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, or paraphrased material, concepts, or ideas without appropriate acknowledgment in any academic assignment;
- ☐ using another’s data or research findings;
- ☐ failing to acknowledge sources through the use of proper citations when using another’s works and/or failing to use quotation marks;

□ handing in "substantially the same piece of work for academic credit more than once without prior written permission of the course instructor in which the submission occurs."

Plagiarism is a serious offence that cannot be resolved directly by the course's instructor. The Associate Dean of the Faculty conducts a rigorous investigation, including an interview with the student, when an instructor suspects a piece of work has been plagiarized. Penalties are not trivial. They can include a final grade of "F" for the course.

The policy can be found at: <http://carleton.ca/fass/wp-content/uploads/Academic-Integrity-Sept-2017.pdf>

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

Please contact your instructor 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, visit the Equity Services website: carleton.ca/equity/wp-content/uploads/Student-Guide-to-Academic-Accommodation.pdf

Religious obligation

Please contact your instructor 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, visit the Equity Services website: carleton.ca/equity/wp-content/uploads/Student-Guide-to-Academic-Accommodation.pdf

Academic Accommodations for Students with Disabilities

If you have a documented disability requiring academic accommodations in this course, please contact the Paul Menton Centre for Students with Disabilities (PMC) at 613-520-6608 or pmc@carleton.ca for a formal evaluation or contact your PMC coordinator to send your instructor your Letter of Accommodation at the beginning of the term. You must also contact the PMC 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 your instructor as soon as possible to ensure accommodation arrangements are made.
carleton.ca/pmc

Survivors of Sexual Violence

As a community, Carleton University is committed to maintaining a positive learning, working and living environment where sexual violence will not be tolerated, and is survivors are supported through academic accommodations as per Carleton's Sexual Violence Policy. For more information about the services available at the university and to obtain information about sexual violence and/or support, visit: carleton.ca/sexual-violence-support

Accommodation for Student Activities

Carleton University recognizes the substantial benefits, both to the individual student and for the university, that result from a student participating in activities beyond the classroom experience. Reasonable accommodation must be provided to students who compete or perform at the national or international level. Please contact your instructor 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. <https://carleton.ca/senate/wp-content/uploads/Accommodation-for-Student-Activities-1.pdf>

Other Carleton Services:

Please note that the following university-wide services are available to you: Writing Support Services, 4th Floor, MacOdrum Library, 613-520-2600x1125, <http://carleton.ca/csas/writingservices/> (offers assistance with developing and improving writing skills); Academic Advising Services, 302 Tory Building, 613-520-7850; Career Development Services, 401 Tory Building, 613-520-6611, <http://carleton.ca/sacds/>; The Centre for Student Academic Support, 4th floor of the MacOdrum Library, 613-520-2600 x1125; Research Help Desks at MacOdrum Library, 613-520-2600 x2735, <https://library.carleton.ca/services/research-help> (offer assistance with digital research and using the library); the Office of Student Affairs or Health and Counseling Services, 613-520-2600 x2573; www.carleton.ca/studentaffairs or www.carleton.ca/health (offer assistance coping with stress or crisis).

Please note as well that you are warmly invited to access Departmental Academic Advising. The English Department's Undergraduate Supervisor will offer advice about your program of study as an English Major or Minor and check your fulfillment of program and university requirements for graduation. To make an appointment for academic advising, contact the Undergraduate Supervisor, Professor Birkwood, at susan.birkwood@carleton.ca.

Please note: Student or professor materials created for this course (including lectures, hand-outs, assignments, quizzes, drafts, essays, and examinations) remain the intellectual property of the author(s). They are intended for personal use and may not be reproduced or redistributed without prior written consent of the author(s).

Etiquette

Please give the person who is speaking in class—whether it is the instructor or one of your peers—your full attention.

You may use a laptop to take notes, but please, do not surf the web, check social media, or do other distracting things in class. Please do not use cellphones in class, even to take notes.

Discussion is encouraged, but (obviously) please disagree without being disagreeable.

Texts

Dangarembga, Tsiti. *Nervous Conditions*. Ayebia Clarke Publishing, 2004. (ISBN 9780954702335)

Hoffman, E.T.A. “The Sandman” (available online through cuLearn)

Nothomb, Amelie. *The Character of Rain*. St. Martin's Press, 2003. (ISBN 9780312302481)

Roche-Mahdi, Sarah (trans). *Silence: A Thirteenth-Century French Romance*. Michigan State University Press, 1999. (ISBN 9780870135439)

All non-online texts are available from Haven Books, 43 Seneca St., Ottawa, ON, K1S 4X2. Regrettably, Haven Books is not wheelchair accessible: please contact me if this presents a problem.

In addition to these primary texts, there are several short articles on psychology. These are available online through cuLearn. In most cases, you will need to log in to Ares, Carleton’s online library program. Just use your regular Carleton log-in.

There are a number of these articles to read each week, but they are short. It is okay if you do not understand them at first—we will talk about them in class.

Schedule

A more specific and up-to-date schedule will be available through cuLearn.

Part One: Weeks 1-2

Our primary text will be “The Sandman” and we will cover psychology basics, including Sigmund Freud, the subconscious, conformity (with reference to the Milgram experiment), and personality.

Part Two: Weeks 3-6

We will be studying *The Character of Rain*, which will help us examine childhood development, with particular reference to the ideas of Jean Piaget, Jacques Lacan, and B.F. Skinner.

Part Three: Weeks 7-10

Silence gives us the opportunity to explore unusual and outdated psychological theories, especially theories about how the human mind may (or more likely, may not) have changed over time. We will also discuss Carl Jung’s idea of archetypes.

We will also talk about Harold Bloom’s famous theory on authorship.

Finally, and importantly, we will discuss psychological theories of gender.

Part Four: Weeks 10-13

While reading *Nervous Conditions*, we will talk about the ideas of Frantz Fanon and other critiques of previous theories, including Sandra Gilbert and Susan Gubar's response to Bloom and Julia Kristeva's challenge to Lacan.