

Carleton University  
Fall 2017  
Department of English

**ENGL 1400A: *Literature, Art, and Culture***  
**For the Love of a Good Book: A Brief History of Readers and Reading**  
**Precludes additional credit for ENGL 1000, 1009, 1100, 1200, 1300, and FYSM 1004**

**Wednesday and Friday, 4:05 to 5:25 p.m.**  
**Location: Mackenzie 3235**

**Instructor: Bridgette Brown**  
**Email: [Bridgette.Brown@carleton.ca](mailto:Bridgette.Brown@carleton.ca)**  
**Office: Dunton 1903**  
**Office Hours: Wednesdays 2 to 3 p.m.**

## 1. Course Description

What happens when we read—between the words on the page and the vivid images conjured up in our mind? How do we read, in what contexts and why? What is the psychology of reading? Can we ever know *how* people read, even when we know *what* they have read? These are some of the questions we will explore, as we try to understand the practice of reading in various historical and social contexts. Lecture and discussion topics include: how readers are depicted in art and film; the physiology of reading, learning to read, and childhood reading; freedom to read and banned books; popular reading, book clubs, mass reading events; and, the transformations in reading taking place in the digital age.

This course will also teach skills to enhance your academic reading abilities such as reading critically, close reading and reading long texts.

## 2. Required Texts\*

*If on a Winters Night a Traveller* by Italo Calvino  
*Reading Lolita in Tehran: a Memoir in Books* by Azar Nafisi

Available at the campus bookstore. Additional short readings will be made available through the library's electronic reserve system (ARES), CULearn, or handed out in class.

## 3. Course Requirements and Assignments

10%: Attendance / Participation

20%: Two short writing assignments (400-500 words; 10% each).

20%: Mid-term test

20%: Final Research Essay

30%: Final Exam (Cumulative)

## **Weekly Themes and Readings:**

### **Week 1: A History of Reading**

**Sept. 6:** Introduction

**Sept. 8:** A History of Reading and Print

Alberto Manguel. "The Shape of the Book." *A History of Reading*. pp. 124-147.

### **Week 2: A History of Reading; Spaces Between Words and the Origins of Silent Reading.**

**Sept. 13 and 15:**

Robert Darnton. "First Steps Towards a History of Reading." *The Kiss of the Lamourette: Reflections In Cultural History*. New York: Norton. 1990. pp. 154-187.

### **Week 3: Expanded Reading Publics and The Reader in Art**

**Sept. 20 and 22:**

Martyn Lyons *A History of Reading and Writing in the Western World*. "New Readers and Reading Cultures" pp. 153-170.

Garrett Stewart, "Facing Pages." Overview. *The Look of Reading: Book, Painting Text*. pp. 1-28.

### **Week 4: Close Reading: A How-To Guide**

**Sept. 27:** What is Close Reading?

**Sept. 29:** Writing exercise (10%)

### **Week 5: Learning to Read and the Psychology of Reading**

**Oct. 4 and Oct. 6:**

Stanislas Dehaene. "Chapter 1: How do we read?" *Reading in the Brain: The Science and Evolution of a Human Invention*. pp. 11-29; 38-39.

Maryanne Wolf. "Reading Lessons from Proust and the Squid," *Proust and the Squid: The Story and Science of the Reading Brain*. Chapter 1, pp. 3- 23.

### **Week 6: Novel Study**

**Oct. 11 and 13:** *If on a Winters Night a Traveller*

### **Week 7: Novel Study and In-Class Mid-Term**

**Oct. 18:** *If on a Winters Night a Traveller*

**Oct. 20:** In-class mid-term test (weeks 1-5 + *If on a Winters Night*) worth 20%

### **Week 8: Reading Week: No Class (October 23 to 27)**

### **Week 9: Freedom to Read and Banned Books**

**Essay Assignment Handed Out**

**Nov. 1:** Paul N. Edwards. "How to Read a Book 2.0" [Online text]

**Nov. 3:** Lawrence Hill. *Dear Sir, I Intend to Burn Your Book: An Anatomy of a Book Burning* E-Text.

### **Week 10: Novel Study #2**

**Nov. 8:** *Reading Lolita in Tehran* (Part 1: Lolita)

**Nov. 10:** *Reading Lolita in Tehran* (Part 2 and 3: Gatsby and James)

### **Week 11: Novel Study continued**

**Nov. 17:** *Reading Lolita in Tehran* (Part 4: Austen)

**Nov. 15:** Writing assignment in class about *Reading Lolita in Tehran* (10%).

### **Week 12: Film Study: *The Reader***

**Nov. 22:** *The Reader* (Film shown in class)

**Nov. 24:** *The Reader* Film discussion

### **Week 13: The Future of Reading and Digital Reading**

**Nov. 29:** The Book in the Digital Age

Andrew Piper *Book was There: Reading in Electronic Times*. "Turning the Page (Roaming, Zooming, Streaming). Pp. 45-61. Digital Book.

**Dec. 1:** Future Reading

### **Week 14: Revision, Review, Exam Prep**

**Dec. 6:** Revision and exam prep; **final research essay due in class** (20%).

Final Exam: Date and Details t.b.d. (30%)

### **Make note of the following course regulations:**

1) **Submissions:** A) Essay assignment should be printed in hard copy and submitted by the due date, at the beginning of the assigned class, or dropped off at the English Department drop box located outside 1812 Dunton Tower. Those assignments are date-stamped and put in my mailbox. Emailed or faxed assignments will not be accepted without **prior** written agreement of the professor. B) Two writing assignments will take place in class, on the scheduled time. There is no make-up date for missed in-class writing assignments. C) Mid-term test to take place in-class. Only for exceptional medical or personal situations will a make-up test time be scheduled. Medical documentation will need to be submitted.

2) **Due Dates and Late Policies:** A) Final Research Essay assignment, submitted after the due date without accompanying medical or other appropriate documentation will be deducted 20% penalty. I will accept late papers up to 1 week after the due date. After this time, the paper will receive a 0. There will be no individual exemptions from or exceptions to this rule. If non-emergency situations develop, familiarize the professor with them **BEFORE** they occur whenever possible. B) For the mid-term test, only in the case of exceptional medical or personal situations, will a make-up time be arranged. Documentation to be provided to professor, with advanced email warning. C) In-class writing assignments to take place in-class on the scheduled day and time. Only for exceptional medical or personal situations will a make-up test time be scheduled. Medical documentation will need to be submitted.

3) **Posted Grades:** All assignment grades will be posted on the course's cuLearn site. 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.

4) **Plagiarism:** The University Senate defines plagiarism as presenting, whether intentionally or not, the ideas, expression of ideas, or the 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, quotations, or paraphrased material, concepts or ideas without appropriate acknowledgement in an essay or assignment
- 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 form of intellectual theft. It is a serious offence that cannot be resolved directly with the course's instructor. The Associate Deans of the Faculty conduct 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 failure of the assignment, failure of the entire course, suspension from a program, suspension from the university, or even expulsion from the university. You should familiarize yourself with the University's Academic Integrity policy online at

<http://carleton.ca/studentaffairs/academic-integrity/>. For more detailed discussion of the issue of plagiarism and proper use of sources, consult the following website:

<http://www.writing.utoronto.ca/advice/using-sources/how-not-to-plagiarize>.

5) **Preparation & Attendance:** Regular attendance at lectures is expected and attendance is recorded. **Those who miss more than ten classes will not be permitted to write the final exam.** Lecture notes or synopses will not be provided to students missing class—it is your responsibility to make up for missed work. **Active participation is expected; this means being prepared to take notes, discuss readings and participate in small group activities in class.**

You are required to attend every class, to have read the assigned material, to bring the assigned reading with you, to respond to questions, and to join class discussion. Term work must be completed in order to pass the course.

6) **Communication:** I will use email and the cuLearn course site to communicate with students; you are advised to check both regularly. You are encouraged to contact me through email using your cmail accounts. Please indicate your concern in the subject line (*e.g.* "mid-term test question"); unidentified emails will be deleted. Excessive informality is discouraged. I check email once daily Monday to Friday (usually sometime in the morning) but NOT on weekends. This means last-minute emails concerning assignments or what-have-you will likely not be returned in time to clarify questions (particularly those sent later in the day on Fridays).

7) **Classroom Etiquette:** Students are expected to be on time for each class so as not to disrupt the lecture for other class members. Also any electronic activity is expected to be for note-taking purposes only; texting, surfing, "facebooking," "tweeting" etc. are rude and disruptive for all others in the classroom. Cell-phones should be turned off for the duration of lecture. Additionally, while discussion is

encouraged, private conversations between students are distracting to those not involved; any comments should be made openly or not at all.

## ACCOMMODATIONS

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.

**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.

**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*).

**Requests made within two weeks will be reviewed on a case-by- case basis.** After requesting accommodation from PMC, meet with me to ensure accommodation arrangements are made. Please consult the PMC website ([www.carleton.ca/pmc](http://www.carleton.ca/pmc)) for the deadline to request accommodations for the formally-scheduled exam (*if applicable*).