

Carleton University: (late) Summer 2021
Department of English
ENGL 1600a: Literature and Magic

Prerequisites: none

Preclusions: ENGL 1000, 1100, 1200, 1300, 1400, and FYSM 1004

Time: Mondays and Wednesdays, 8:30 -11:30 am (lectures will be posted at this time)

Location: online (Brightspace)

Format: asynchronous

Instructor: Dr. Esther Post

Email: estherpost@cunet.carleton.ca

Office hours: via Zoom; TBD and by appointment

Course description:

This asynchronous online course will explore how magic is used in fictional literature, focusing on magical literary elements including the supernatural, myths, fairy tales, folklore, legends, and fantasy. While closely analyzing texts featuring ghosts, wizards, witches, talking animals, flying men, and human characters with telekinetic, psychic, and other mystic powers, we will examine how such magical elements present worlds drastically differently from our own, while simultaneously emphasizing contemporary cultural issues. We will situate our texts within feminist, post-colonial, Indigenous, and African American contexts, explore how they represent and respond to issues related to gender, race, sexuality, and nationality, and consider the social, cultural, and political functions and effects of magic in fiction.

Required Texts:

Toni Morrison, *Song of Solomon*

Isabel Allende, *The House of Spirits*

Thomas King, *Green Grass, Running Water*

*The three required novels can be purchased new at Chapters-Indigo, Amazon, and any other bookstore; they can also be purchased used from abebooks/Canada/. All other texts, including short stories and essays, will be available online and/or through ARES.

Course Format:

This course is fully online (at Brightspace) and fully asynchronous; however, students must remain up to date with the readings, lectures, and assignments (see more info highlighted below). At each scheduled class time, I will post recordings of lectures and accompanying Powerpoint slides for each assigned text and the specific topic for that class. Lectures will be recorded in small segments, usually around 20 minutes each. While classes are scheduled for three hours, I will NOT be posting a three-hour lecture for each class, as I will allot time for students to take

notes while listening to my recorded lectures and to post to discussion forums so that we may try to digitally replicate the actual classroom experience of lively discussions, debates, and participation from students.

Please note: A six-week summer course is often quite intensive, and if my home circumstances were different, I would be teaching this course in a synchronous format to keep students on track with the readings. However, since my husband is working from home and I have 2 young children at home 24/7, live lectures are not a realistic circumstance for me. **It is imperative that students keep up to date with the readings, lectures, and assignments, complete the assigned readings before our scheduled class time, and meet assignment deadlines.** Ideally, students will use our scheduled class time to view lectures so that they can stay up to date.

Technical Requirements:

Students will need a computer with high-speed Internet access to view videos, lectures, and slides, and to post discussion forum posts and submit assignments. Ideally, students will have a webcam and mic to meet with the instructor and/or other students virtually.

Learning Outcomes:

This course will teach students how to:

- critically read, interpret, and analyze literature
- understand and implement terminology related to magic in literature
- reflect upon the effects and functions of magic in literature
- place literature in its important historical, cultural, and political contexts
- write critically about literature

Evaluation:

Discussion Forum Posts (ongoing, see dates below; 7 X 5%):	35%
Passage Analysis (3 pages; due Mon., July 19 by midnight):	10%
Final Essay Outline (1-2 pages; due by Fri. Aug. 6 by midnight)	10%
Final Essay (6 pages; due Mon. Aug. 16 by midnight):	20%
Final Exam (formally scheduled as a “range exam” for a 5-day period; date TBD):	25%

Please note: 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

Note: If one of your assignments is lost, misplaced, or not received by the instructor, you are responsible for having a backup copy that can be submitted immediately upon request.

Please note: all course materials, including recorded lectures, Powerpoint slides, assignments, and discussion prompts are copyright of the instructor and are made available only to students registered in the course. Any reproduction or distribution of any of the course material is strictly prohibited.

Assignment Submission:

- All assignments MUST be submitted as Word documents. Those submitted as PDFs, shared Google files, or any other form will NOT be accepted, nor will they be graded.
- Please note that as a Carleton University student, you have free access to Microsoft Word 360 (<https://carleton.ca/its/help-centre/get-microsoft-office-for-students/>).
- All essays and other written assignments must be double spaced, formatted in Times New Roman font 12, with one-inch margins on all sides, and must conform to MLA style and documentation guidelines. Please consult the MLA style and documentation guidelines at https://owl.purdue.edu/owl/research_and_citation/mla_style/mla_formatting_and_style_guide/mla_formatting_and_style_guide.html.

Late Policies and Due Dates:

- Deadlines for the 7 discussion forum posts are firm (see dates highlighted in blue on the schedule below); forums will be closed to posts at midnight for each due date; late posts will not be accepted or graded.
- Due dates for the Passage Analysis, Final Essay Outline, and Final Essay are firm (see dates highlighted in purple for each assignment on the schedule below). Given the unprecedented circumstances due to COVID, there will be no late penalties; however, assignments which are submitted 5 days past the due date will be given a grade, but no comments/feedback. **Please note that the university has mandated that all final term work (including your final essay) is due by Mon. Aug. 16. 2021; assignments submitted after Aug. 16 will not be accepted without prior approval for a formal deferral from the Registrar's Office**

Plagiarism: There will be a policy of ZERO TOLERANCE for 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 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, or suspension from a program. For more information please go to:

<https://carleton.ca/secretariat/wp-content/uploads/Academic-Integrity-Policy.pdf> and <https://carleton.ca/registrar/academic-integrity/>.

COURSE EXPECTATIONS and CLASSROOM NETIQUETTE

- Students are expected to have read the assigned material before our scheduled class time
- **Brightspace:**
 - You will be required to use Brightspace on a regular basis, as all relevant documents related to our course, including the syllabus, assignment instructions, lectures, etc. will be uploaded to this page. **Most importantly, treat this syllabus as your bible for this course**, as it provides all necessary information in terms of reading and assignment schedules, submission policies, etc.
 - You should also **frequently check the announcements** on our course page at Brightspace, as this is where I will post important announcements and information
- **“classroom” netiquette/discussion forums/chats:** I will be discussing this in more detail in my intro lectures, but these are some of the most important principles:
 - Always remember that there are real people behind screens and be respectful
 - No harassing, racist, homophobic, sexist, or transphobic language will be tolerated
 - Avoid using all caps, as it often comes across as shouting at and/or bullying
 - Emoticons can be helpful to convey tones, but avoid using them too much
 - Avoid dominating discussions online so that everyone gets the chance to participate
 - Always read over your posts before sending them
 - Be careful when using humour or sarcasm and ensure that your tone is properly conveyed
 - Keep an open mind, so that you are prepared to have your thinking challenged
 - Debates are certainly welcome, but again, ensure that you are respectful of others’ opinions

Contact with the instructor:

- The best way to get in contact with me is by email (EstherPost@cunet.carleton.ca). I check email at least once a day, and will respond to emails within 48 hours, though it could take longer on weekends.
- When emailing, please be professional. Do not use text speak, do not begin your email with an informal greeting such as “hey!”, and identify yourself by your full name as well as the course code. Remember you are not sending an informal text message to a friend, but a formal email to your professor.
 - Emails should be reserved for clear, precise questions; they should not be used to ask questions such as, “what should I read for next week?” or anything else that simply requires you to read the syllabus.
- My office hours will be offered by Zoom for one hour per week (day and time TBD). Otherwise, I am available to meet with students at another time by request. Please email me if you would like a meeting or have any questions or concerns.

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 click [here](#).

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 click [here](#).

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 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).

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 where 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: <https://carleton.ca/equity/sexual-assault-support-services>

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. 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. <https://carleton.ca/senate/wp-content/uploads/Accommodation-for-Student-Activities-1.pdf>

Reading Schedule (*subject to revisions)

Dates	Topic	Readings	Assignments due
Week 1: Mon. Jul. 5 and Wed. Jul. 7	Mon.: Intro to course, overview of syllabus and assignments; overview of important literary terms; plagiarism Wed.: intro to magic in/and literature; intro to mythology, folklore; intro to magic realism	Mon.: this syllabus; instructions and grading rubrics for assignments; intro to instructor; plagiarism policies and contract Wed.: Michael D. Bailey, "Introduction: A Magical World." In <i>Magic: The Basics</i> (Routledge: 2017), pp.. 1-7 [ARES] ** I strongly recommend you start reading one of our 3 long novels, ideally Morrison	*Due by Friday, July 9 at midnight: Discussion Forum Post (DFP): Student Introductions *Plagiarism Contract (please note: no assignments, including discussion posts, will be marked until this contract is submitted)
Week 2: Mon. Jul. 12 and Wed. Jul. 14	Magic Realism	Mon.: Gabriel Garcia Marquez, "The Handsomest Drowned Man in the World" and "A Very Old Man with Enormous Wings" (short stories) Wed.: Kelly Link, "The Faery Handbag," "Stone Animals," and "Magic for Beginners" (short stories)	*Due by Friday, July 16 at midnight: DFP 1: Marquez (5%) DFP 2: Link (5%)
Week 3: Mon. Jul. 19 and Wed. Jul. 21	Magic in African American Literatures and Cultures	Mon. and Wed.: Toni Morrison, <i>Song of Solomon</i>	Due by Mon. Jul 19 at midnight: Passage Analysis (3 page essay; 10%) *Due by Friday, July 23 at midnight: DFP 3: Morrison (5%)
Week 4: Mon. Jul. 26 and Wed. Jul. 28	Magic, Feminism, and Post-Colonialism	Mon. and Wed.: Isabel Allende, <i>The House of the Spirits</i>	*Due by Friday, July 30 at midnight: DFP 4: Allende (5%)

<p>Week 5: Wed. Aug. 4</p>	<p>Magic and Fantasy</p>	<p>Wed. (no class on Monday): Terry Pratchett, “Wizard War,” “An Ant Called 4179003,” “Rincemangle, the Gnome of Even Moor” (short stories)</p>	<p>Due by Friday, Aug. 6 at midnight: Essay Outline (10%)</p> <p>*Due by Friday, Aug. 6 at midnight: DFP 5: Pratchett (5%)</p>
<p>Week 6: Mon. Aug. 9 and Wed. Aug. 11</p>	<p>Magic in Indigenous Cultures</p>	<p>Mon. and Wed. Thomas King, <i>Green Grass, Running Water</i></p>	<p>*Due by Friday, Aug. 13 at midnight:</p> <p>DFP 6: T. King (5%)</p>
<p>Week 7: Mon. Aug. 16 *last class*</p>	<p>Magic and Horror Fiction</p>	<p>Mon. (FINAL CLASS) Stephen King, short story TBD; exam prep and course review</p>	<p>Due by Mon. Aug. 16 at midnight: Final Essay</p> <p>*Due by Mon. Aug. 16 at midnight:</p> <p>DFP 7: S. King (5%)</p>