

**Carleton University  
Fall 2016  
Department of English**

**ENGL 2103A: Introduction to the Novel**

*Prerequisite: second-year standing Precludes additional credit for ENGL 2003 {1.0} (no longer offered).*

**Monday and Wednesday 13:05-14:25**

**Canal Building 3101  
(Please confirm on Carleton Central)**

**Instructor: Dr. P. Whiting  
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Office: DT 1810**

**Phone: 613-520-2600 ext. 6702  
Office Hours: Tuesday 11:00-12:00, or by appointment**

Used as an adjective, the word “novel” means “of a kind not seen before; fresh; new; original.” Thus, it is doubly appropriate that the novel carries this name: it is one of the newest of the print genres, and it has been in a state of change since its beginnings, appropriating the topical and generic preferences of readers in every age, inventing and re-inventing itself as it went along.

The genre evolved alongside the rise of the individual, and regardless of the type of novel, it has overwhelmingly dealt with the ways individuals negotiate the terms of their existence in the world, whether the world of the family, society, or the nation. For many years and through a great many changes, the novel was an important and hugely influential instrument of popular culture, sometimes distrusted by the literary establishment, often employed by it.

In this course, we will read texts representative of the novel’s evolutionary stages from the 17<sup>th</sup> century to the end of the 20<sup>th</sup>. In our survey, we will look not only at the ways the novel has changed and the ways it has stayed the same, but at every step, we will consider its relationship to that all-important necessity, the reader.

**Required Texts**

Behn, Aphra. *Oroonoko* (Oxford)  
Radcliffe, Ann. *A Sicilian Romance* (Oxford)  
Austen, Jane. *Northanger Abbey* (Broadview)  
Dickens, Charles. *Hard Times* (Broadview)  
Woolf, Virginia. *To the Lighthouse* (Broadview)  
Marquez, Gabriel Garcia. *The Chronicle of a Death Foretold* (Vintage)

**These books are available at Octopus Books, 116 Third Avenue.**

**Evaluation**

Attendance and participation	10%
Discussion group	5%
Early Feedback assignment	10%
Essay, Option one <u>or</u> two	35%
Final	40%

**Please read this carefully:**

- 1. Attendance:** Attendance is mandatory, and attendance will be taken. You are required to show knowledge of texts, as well as lecture material in all assignments and tests. Thus, it is not a good idea to miss classes. You are expected to complete the scheduled readings before you come to class and to come prepared to discuss what you've read. If you have to miss a class because of illness, be sure to get the notes from a classmate because you are still responsible for class material.
- 2. Classroom Conduct:** Cell phones must be turned off during class, and laptops are to be used only for note-taking.
- 3. Discussion group:** Small groups of students will lead 20-30-minute class discussions on each of the novels. Each member of the group will be marked anonymously by the rest of the group, and the average will comprise the 5% discussion mark.
- 4. Essays:**

**PROTOCOL:** Essays are to be handed in at the beginning of the class on the day that they are due; however, for those "crunch" times, papers may be submitted after class via the Drop Box in the English Department. In order to be accepted, papers must be date-stamped with the due date, which means they have to be in the drop box by 8:00 a.m. on the following day. **IF YOU USE THE DROP BOX, YOU MUST PUT MY NAME ON THE FRONT SHEET. OTHERWISE, THE ESSAY MAY WELL GO ASTRAY. ESSAYS LOST DUE TO FAILURE TO INCLUDE MY NAME WILL BE COUNTED AS LATE PAPERS, REGARDLESS OF THE DATE STAMP.**

**Mandatory Early Feedback Assignment:** The early feedback assignment for everyone will involve writing an insight report on *Oroonoko*.

**Essay Option One:** Five double-spaced insight reports (minimum 400 words, maximum 450 words) on the last five novels on the syllabus will be submitted *before* the beginning of class on days designated on the syllabus. Going over or under the word count by more than 10 words will result in a reduction in grade. These papers need not be "academic" in terms of a formal essay, but they may **not** refer to the reader....ever!...nor may they be opinion-based. Rather, they should be thoughtful, focused, and well-written, demonstrating substantive knowledge of the novel being addressed (in other words, you must demonstrate that you have finished and thought about the novel). A list of general areas of interest is provided at the end of the course

outline, although students are not bound to choose a topic from the list. Each report will be worth 7 points toward the final grade. **All five reports must be turned in or students will lose the entire 35% of their essay mark.**

**Essay Option Two: A 9-10-page formal essay written on one of the topics to be provided.** The essay should be carefully detailed and contain a logically structured argument that relies on the close analysis of the novels discussed. Essays more than fifty words over or under the word count will be docked. Although the use of secondary sources is neither required nor advised, quotations from the primary texts must be used and parenthetically cited in proper MLA documentation style, and a Works Cited section must be provided.

- 5. Late papers** must be accompanied by valid medical documentation in order not to be penalized. Late papers will receive a penalty of 2% per day. Papers more than a week late will receive a grade of 0. **Rewrites of papers are not an option. Essays must conform to the stated word count requirement, must answer the essay question, and must discuss only texts read in this course. Papers that are too short or too long may be penalized.**

**Paper topics are distributed only in class, not via CULearn or e-mail.**

**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 e-mailed immediately upon request.**

- 6. Extensions:** Extensions on papers may involve a penalty. All extensions must be arranged by e-mail 24 hours in advance of the due date, when the terms of the extension will be fixed. There are no exceptions to this policy.
- 7. In-Class Assignments and Scheduled Examinations:** In-class assignments and scheduled examinations must be written on the scheduled dates and may not be made up without a valid doctor's certificate.

**The Fall term exam period is December 10-22 (including Saturdays and Sundays). The Registrar's Office states that it will make the December exam schedule available on Oct. 7. Do not make work or travel plans until the exam schedule has been released. Exams will not be rescheduled for students who take on other commitments during the exam period.**

- 8. E-Mail Protocol:** You are encouraged to work with me on your written assignments and to send me your working thesis statements. Please identify the course in the subject line; otherwise, your e-mail may be deleted without being read. Please do not send attachments.

**I DO NOT ACCEPT PAPERS BY E-MAIL. YOU MAY E-MAIL AN ESSAY TO ME ONLY UNDER ALL THE FOLLOWING CIRCUMSTANCES AND CONDITIONS:**

- a. If you have printer problems at the last minute
  - b. If you e-mail me the finished essay by the beginning of the class on the day it is due.
  - c. If you come to that class and inform me of the problem.
  - d. If you bring a hard copy of the essay to my office within 24 hours of the due date.
- 9. Collaboration:** Although you are encouraged to talk with each other about assignments and to review each other's work, all assignments written for evaluation are to be the original work of individual students.
- 10. Plagiarism:** See statement on Academic Integrity on the Student Affairs website at <http://carleton.ca/studentaffairs/academic-integrity/>

**Please note that I hand over ALL cases of suspected plagiarism to the Dean of the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences for investigation.**

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

**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).

**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](#).

## Syllabus

Sept. 7 – Introduction

Sept. 12 – The Novel in History and Elements of Fiction

September 14 – *Oroonoko*

Sept. 19 – *A Sicilian Romance*

Sept. 21 – *A Sicilian Romance*; **EARLY FEEDBACK ASSIGNMENT DUE**

\*Sept. 26 – *A Sicilian Romance*

Sept. 28 – *Northanger Abbey*

Oct. 3 – *Northanger Abbey*

Oct. 5 – *Northanger Abbey*

**Oct. 10 – THANKSGIVING – NO CLASS**

\*Oct. 12 – *Northanger Abbey*

Oct. 17 – *Hard Times*

Oct. 19 – *Hard Times*

**Oct. 24 – 28 – FALL BREAK**

Oct. 31 – *Hard Times*

\*Nov. 2 – *Hard Times*

Nov. 7 – *To the Lighthouse*

Nov. 9 – *To the Lighthouse*

Nov. 14 – *To the Lighthouse*

Nov. 16 – *To the Lighthouse*

Nov. 21 – *To the Lighthouse*

\*Nov. 23 – *To the Lighthouse*

Nov. 28 – *The Chronicle of a Death Foretold*

Nov. 30 – *The Chronicle of a Death Foretold*

Dec. 5 – *The Chronicle of a Death Foretold*

\*Dec. 7 – *The Chronicle of a Death Foretold*

Dec. 9 – Review; **ESSAY OPTION TWO DUE**

**\* INDICATES DUE DATES FOR OPTION ONE PAPERS**

### **A SAMPLE OF INSIGHT REPORT TOPICS**

Impact of narrative point of view

Function of setting

Importance of minor character

Effect of a single (per report) rhetorical, stylistic, or linguistic device, e.g. metaphor, hyperbole, litotes, unusual punctuation, imagery, motif, leitmotif