

Carleton University  
 Fall 2017  
 Department of English

ENGL 2201 A: The Pleasures of Reading

**Prerequisites: second-year standing or permission of the department.  
 Students in English may take this course only as a free elective.**

**ONLINE COURSE**

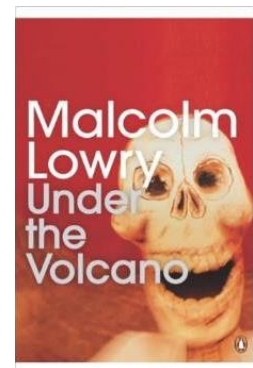
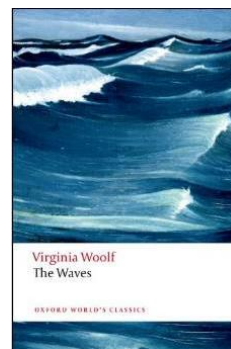
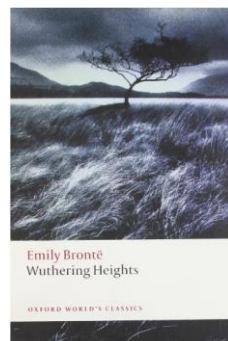
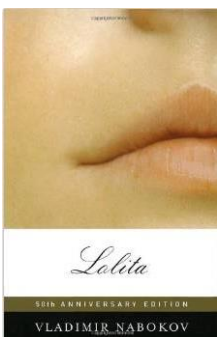
Professor Wallace  
 andrew\_wallace@carleton.ca  
 Office: 1922 Dunton Tower  
 Phone: 520-2600 ext. 1039

**Office Hours:** Tuesdays 12:00-13:00 in person at 1922 Dunton Tower. Meetings outside this time slot can be arranged by appointment. Email is the best way to reach me if you want to set up an appointment.

**Online Office Hours:** Mondays 13:00-14:00 via Big Blue Button. **These will be one-on-one sessions only. Please email me either before or during this office hour spot to arrange for a Big Blue Button session. We can also arrange for a Big Blue Button session by appointment.**

*“Although we read with our minds, the seat of artistic delight is between the shoulder blades. Let us worship the spine and its tingle.”*

Vladimir Nabokov, "Good Readers and Good Writers"



This course studies four great literary masterpieces—Vladimir Nabokov’s *Lolita*, Emily Brontë’s *Wuthering Heights*, Virginia Woolf’s *The Waves*, and Malcolm Lowry’s *Under the Volcano*—with two basic goals: first, to foster skills in the close reading of literature; second, to think seriously about the nature of the pleasures that complex works of literature afford us. What do we gain when we put the question of pleasure at the centre of our reading experience? Do we risk losing sight of anything? Do new possibilities come into view? Is it even possible to

think seriously about pleasure without deadening what Nabokov calls “the spine and its tingle”?

### **Required Texts**

Vladimir Nabokov, *Lolita* (Vintage) 9780679723165  
 Emily Brontë, *Wuthering Heights* (Oxford) 9780199541898  
 Virginia Woolf, *The Waves* (Penguin) 9780141182711  
 Malcolm Lowry, *Under the Volcano* (Penguin) 9780143191582

\*Please note that any edition of these novels is acceptable, but that page references for quotations discussed during lecture modules are keyed to these editions.

\*Supplementary readings will be available either directly on the course CULearn site, through ARES (the link will be provided where this is the case), or through Course Reserve at MacOdrum Library.

Books are at Haven Books 43 Seneca Street, Ottawa, ON, K1S 4X2, (613) 730-9888: [www.havenbooks.ca](http://www.havenbooks.ca)

### **Course Objectives**

My principal goal for the course is to guide you through your encounters with a small group of extraordinary works of art, with special emphasis on the process of what is called “close reading,” so that you can learn both to savour and think critically about literature.

### **Learning Outcomes**

Students who successfully complete this course will be able to:

- 1) Read and analyze challenging texts accurately, contextually, and critically
- 2) Write clear and insightful accounts of the content, thematic concerns, and complexity of the course’s required readings
- 3) Connect discrete passages and details in literary texts to wider thematic and cultural concerns
- 4) Work in an organized and self-reliant fashion to meet the requirements of a course conducted entirely in an online environment

### **Assignment / Activity Structure**

**Please note that you must complete all required assignments in order to be eligible to pass this course.**

Assignments have been distributed at regular intervals throughout the term. It is my hope that this will allow you to isolate these assignments and to work gradually at your grade without overwhelming you with a constant flow of reading responses and weekly assignments.

**You will write the following required assignments:**

- 1) One short test on *Lolita* (5% of your final grade) This test (one question of passage analysis) will give you early feedback and also give you an early view of the kind of questions you will be facing on course tests and on the final examination.
- 2) One test on *Lolita* (15% of your final grade) Please note that this assignment, plus the early feedback test, combine to make *Lolita*, like the other three novels, account for 20% of your final grade.
- 3) One test on *Wuthering Heights* (20% of your final grade)
- 4) One test on *The Waves* (20% of your final grade)
- 5) Final exam (40% of your final grade). Please note that the first half of the exam (i.e., 20% of your final grade) will be dedicated to *Under the Volcano*. The second half of the exam (i.e., the remaining 20% of your final grade) will be devoted to all four of the course texts.

**BONUS ACTIVITY 1:** Each unit will open with an optional quiz of five multiple-choice questions designed to enable you to gauge your ability to retain notable details about the novel under examination. Answers will be provided immediately. If you complete all 12 of these optional quizzes you can, based on your total score in them, earn a maximum of 3% to be added to your final grade. Each quiz session closes automatically after 5 minutes.

**BONUS ACTIVITY 2:** If you choose to contribute once a week during every week of course activity (the Fall Reading Week will not count) to the online message board you may earn up to a maximum of 3% to be added to your final grade. **Three criteria will be used to assess the percentage of bonus you will receive:** 1) the regularity of your contributions 2) the thoughtfulness and length of those contributions 3) the clarity and respectfulness with which you express yourself on the discussion board.

### Course Expectations and Advice for Students

Online courses can be considerably more flexible than traditional in-class courses. But this flexibility or freedom also requires you to be much more self-reliant and better organized than you may usually push yourself to be. Education is a cooperative activity and it is common to expect immediate feedback concerning one's efforts. Reading, however, is a solitary activity that requires and rewards patience, attention to detail, and a willingness to slow down. Speed-reading this course's novels will give you little chance to enjoy or succeed in the course.

Resist the urge to disappear or go silent if you are having difficulty with the novels or with unit materials. I am eager to meet with you either in person or via online forms of contact for office hours. Barring extraordinary circumstances, I can promise to return emails within 24 hours of receiving them. Please contact me immediately if you have a question or concern. Please note, too, that contributing to the course's message board is an excellent way to accumulate bonus marks. Note, however, that to become eligible for these bonus marks (see above, "Bonus Activity 2") you must contribute at least once a week during every week of the course.

Reading the novels carefully, paying close attention to all unit materials, taking detailed notes on each, and taking advantage of your ability to accumulate bonus points through quizzes and

message board discussion will be your most effective way to succeed in the course.

**Please note the following concerning the relationship between your readings, my lectures and supporting materials, and course tests.** Course tests (i.e., there will be multiple choice questions in addition to passages selected for analysis, questions about important themes, etc.) will not be limited to material presented and discussed in my lecture units. Lecture materials have been developed to help guide your readings of the novels and to provide you with new interpretative routes into those novels, but the tests will assume that you have read the novels carefully and that you will be able to respond with clarity and intelligence to questions that can be reasonably posed to anyone who has read them carefully.

Aside from the optional quiz sessions, which will remain open for just 5 minutes, and term tests (which must be completed by specified dates: see cuLearn course page for these dates), materials collected within each unit will remain open for the duration of the course. This will enable you to revisit sections of lectures multiple times if you wish to do so. Course test modules (including the early feedback test) will remain open for 2 hours, after which point they will close and become inaccessible. The final exam must be completed by 23:55 on December 22, 2017.

### **Plagiarism and Instructional Offences**

Please see the section on “Instructional Offences” in the 2017-2018 Undergraduate Calendar. The Undergraduate Calendar defines an act of plagiarism as an attempt “to use and pass off as one’s own idea or product the work of another without expressly giving credit” to the original author. Any act of plagiarism will be prosecuted to the full extent of the guidelines set out in the Undergraduate Calendar. Penalties may include expulsion from Carleton University. The Undergraduate Calendar specifies that the act of submitting “substantially the same piece of work to two or more courses without the prior written permission of the instructors from all courses involved” constitutes an Instructional Offence punishable under the guidelines set out in the Undergraduate Calendar. Please note: “Minor modifications and amendments, such as changes of phraseology in an essay or paper, do not constitute a significant and acceptable reworking of an assignment.” No piece of work written for another course will be accepted for credit in this course.

### **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:

**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](#).

**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*).

### **Late Assignment Policy**

Test modules will remain open only for a specified amount of time. For dates and time allowances see the relevant entries on the cuLearn course page. Late assignments will not be accepted—indeed, they will not even be submittable—except for officially documented reasons such as serious illness or bereavement. Medical conditions require a signed Doctor’s Certificate. Any accommodation will be based on the length of the period of illness specified in the Certificate. In the case of the death of a close relative you must produce an obituary notice in which your name appears in confirmation of your relationship to them; alternatively, a copy of the Death Certificate will be accepted.

### **University Deadlines**

Final deadlines are within the limited established by the University Guidelines. See the 2017- 2018 Undergraduate Calendar for further details. Requests to defer the final examination are to be directed to the Registrar’s Office.