

**Early Summer 2022
Department of English**

**ENGL 3500A: Literature and Cultures 1700-1900
Topic: Transatlantic Slavery and the Literary Imagination**

Lecture: Monday and Wednesday 11:35 a.m. – 2:25 p.m.

**Location: Tory Building 236
(please confirm location on Carleton Central)**

Prerequisite: second-year standing Precludes additional credit for ENGL 3502 {1.0} (no longer offered).

**Instructor: Dr. P. Whiting
email: Patricia_Whiting@carleton.ca
Office Hours will be conducted remotely, by appointment**

NB: Aspects of the course are subject to change if warranted or demanded by external situations beyond anyone's control.

Course description:

The transatlantic world of the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries represented hope and opportunity for many as the trade, imperial expansion, and industrialization of newly emergent global powers opened up new, formerly unimaginable horizons. For millions, however, the same period meant abduction, displacement, slavery, and grueling, unpaid labour, and it is on these millions that this course will focus. The story of transatlantic slavery and the resistance to slavery is recorded not only in historical documents, but also in novels, poetry, and slave narratives by black and white writers of the period. Studying works from England and America from 1688 to 1892, we will encounter major aspects of slavery, including the slave trade, the Middle Passage, plantation slavery, and slave resistance, as well as abolition and emancipation. Although our focus will be on the literature, there is a significant historical component to the course.

Composition, analysis, and critical thinking are central components of the course, and frequent written assignments will be aimed at sharpening students' skills in these areas.

Required texts:

Behn, Aphra. *Oroonoko*

Brown, William Wells. *Clotel*

Douglass, Frederick. *The Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass*

Equiano, Olaudah. *The Interesting Narrative of the Life of Olaudah Equiano*

Harper, Frances E.W. - *Iola Leroy*

Jacobs, Harriet. *Incidents in the Life of a Slave Girl*

Links to the course poetry and to “The Heroic Slave” will be provided on Brightspace. I strongly recommend that you print these out and bring them to class.

The books will be available at Octopus Books, 116 Third Avenue. Please ensure that you have the texts before classes start. <http://shop.octopusbooks.ca/ENGL3500/>

Evaluation:

Attendance and participation	10%
Quizzes (best 4 of 5)	20%
Journal entries x 5	50%
Journal introduction	20%

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.

PLEASE READ FULLY and CAREFULLY

NOTE: All written assignments except quizzes are to be submitted on Brightspace. Late submissions will be penalized.

1. Attendance/ participation: Class attendance is mandatory, and attendance will be taken. Absences for work reasons will not be excused. Students who attend only part of a class will be counted as absent from that class. Everyone has one “free” unexcused absence. The second unexcused absence will result in 2 points being deducted from the attendance mark; the third unexcused absence will result in 3 additional points being deducted from the attendance mark; the fourth unexcused absence will result in the loss of the whole attendance mark. Active participation in class discussions will factor into the overall attendance/participation mark.

As per FASS policy, if you fall ill, in place of a doctor’s note or medical certificate, please complete the [self-declaration form](#) available on the Registrar’s Office website to request academic accommodation for missed course work. I ask that you also connect directly with me to discuss making up missed assignments.

2. Quizzes: The quizzes will be held at the beginning of the class on designated days. They will cover the assigned readings and videos and will last 15-20 minutes. As only the best four of five quizzes will count, missing one quiz will not affect your mark and cannot be made up. Should illness prevent your missing two quizzes, an alternative assignment will be given.

3. Journal entries: A course as narrowly focused as this one allows students to follow a theme and to track changes and continuities with some degree of accuracy despite the small number of texts consulted.

Each student will submit on Brightspace **five** double-spaced journal entries, one on each of the five specified texts, on the days and times indicated on the syllabus and in Brightspace. The entries and the Introduction are to be submitted *before* the beginning of class on the days they are due. Each entry must be double-spaced and 475-550 words in length. Going over or under the word count by more than 15 words will result in a reduction in grade for that entry. Please include the word count at the end of each entry. Each entry is worth 10% of the final grade.

Rather than being formal, academic papers, your entries should reflect genuine critical engagement with the texts. They will be marked on thoughtfulness, originality, quality of analysis, and quality of written expression. **Note that the journal entries are not reader response papers; the best way to avoid this is never to refer to the reader at all. Do not discuss your personal opinion on the topic or your emotional response to the text. Note as well that the journal entries are neither character analyses nor plot summaries and that the entries must be based on the entire text; that is, each entry must show evidence that you have finished the whole book.**

IMPORTANT: All five of your journal entries must concern the same aspect of slavery. This will allow you to make the generalizations that you will discuss in your Introduction. The list of journal topics appears at the end of the course outline. You may not switch topics, so be sure to choose wisely.

Secondary sources are neither required nor recommended for the journal entries.

A sample journal entry, guidelines for the entries, and the submission schedule for assignments will be posted on Brightspace.

3. Introduction: The introduction to your journal will summarize your findings on the topic you've chosen and will state or at least suggest a plausible thesis for your journal as a whole. You should discuss all five of your journal texts in the introduction, but you are also free to refer to the poetry to support your argument. The length of the Introduction is 650-750 words. **The Introduction must include two properly cited, relevant academic references (direct quotations should be no longer than seven words) to secondary sources related to your journal topic, not to the courses texts or to slavery in general.**

Extensions: Extensions on papers may involve a penalty. All extensions must be arranged by e-mail at least 48 hours in advance of the due date.

Late papers: Papers are due before the beginning of class on their due date. Brightspace is set up to accept late papers up to a week after the due date. Unless documentation has been provided, a penalty of 2% per day including weekends will be levied against each late entry and may be returned to you without comment. After a week, entries will receive a grade of 0.

Statement on 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.” According to the Department examples of plagiarism include the following:

- any submission prepared in whole or in part, by someone else;
- 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;
- 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/registrar/academic-integrity/>

Requests 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 accommodation regarding a formally-scheduled final exam, you must complete the [Pregnancy Accommodation Form](#).

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 will 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>

Syllabus (check Brightspace frequently for details of each day's assignment)

May 9 – Introduction

May 11 – *Oroonoko*, videos, Quiz #1

May 16 – Poetry, videos, Quiz #2

May 18 – *Olaudah Equiano*, Journal Entry #1 due

May 23 – Victoria Day, no class

May 25 – *Incidents in the Life of a Slave Girl*, Quiz #3, Entry #2 due

May 30 – Poetry, videos, Quiz #4

June 1 – *Life of Frederick Douglass*, Entry #3 due

June 6 – “The Heroic Slave”, Quiz #5

June 8 – *Clotel*, Entry #4 due

June 13 – TBA

June 15 – *Iola Leroy*, Entry #5 due

June 17 – Introduction due on Brightspace; no class

Journal topics

You must choose one topic and stick to it throughout your journal; in other words, the topic that you choose to write on for your first journal entry will be the topic of all subsequent entries and your Introduction. It is not permitted to switch topics. Subsequent entries on topics other than your first entry on *Olaudah Equiano* will receive a mark of 0 and may not be resubmitted.

More information on the topics, guidelines for the journal entries, and a sample entry are posted on Brightspace.

Food and shelter (each entry should focus on one or the other)

Labour

Resistance

Family (you might want to limit your focus to one aspect of family, e.g. the slave mother, or slave children)

Literacy and education

Special Information Regarding Pandemic Measures

All members of the Carleton community are required to follow COVID-19 prevention measures and all mandatory public health requirements (e.g. wearing a mask, physical distancing, hand hygiene, respiratory and cough etiquette) and [mandatory self-screening](#) prior to coming to campus daily.

If you feel ill or exhibit COVID-19 symptoms while on campus or in class, please leave campus immediately, self-isolate, and complete the mandatory [symptom reporting tool](#). For purposes of contact tracing, attendance will be recorded in all classes and labs. Participants can check in using posted QR codes through the cuScreen platform where provided. Students who do not have a smartphone will be required to complete a paper process as indicated on the [COVID-19 website](#).

All members of the Carleton community are required to follow guidelines regarding safe movement and seating on campus (e.g. directional arrows, designated entrances and exits, designated seats that maintain physical distancing). In order to avoid congestion, allow all previous occupants to fully vacate a classroom before entering. No food or drinks are permitted in any classrooms or labs.

For the most recent information about Carleton's COVID-19 response and required measures, please see the [University's COVID-19 webpage](#) and review the [Frequently Asked Questions \(FAQs\)](#). Should you have additional questions after reviewing, please contact covidinfo@carleton.ca

Please note that failure to comply with University policies and mandatory public health requirements, and endangering the safety of others are considered misconduct under the [Student Rights and Responsibilities Policy](#). Failure to comply with Carleton's COVID-19 procedures may lead to supplementary action involving Campus Safety and/or Student Affairs.