

Carleton University
Summer 2022 (July-August)
Department of English

ENGL 4115B / 5900S: Culture & the Text / Sel. Topic English Studies I
The Future of Literary Culture
Meets Wed & Fri / 11:30-2:30 / location 3110 RB
DRAFT Syllabus

(ENGL 4115 prerequisite: 4th-year standing or permission of the department)

Instructor: Professor Sarah Brouillette
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office hours by appointment (email me)

The purpose of this seminar is to study literary forms, sites, and practices that emerge in conditions where support for cultivation of the traditional literary sphere is waning. Indebted, prolonged austerity governments are busy managing the fallout from decades of economic decline and are disinclined to back the social programs they once did, including higher education and library and other arts and culture funding. For readers, contemporary conditions include rising tuition, stagnant wages, fear of joblessness, underemployment, and insecure work, and a reordering of leisure time and mental energy that shapes how people are inclined to spend shrinking entertainment budgets. The golden age of retail literary fiction – and the traditional English department – may thus be behind us. With the rise of digital platforms, we’ve seen falling book prices and diminishing possibilities for making one’s living by writing. Yet, though making it as a professional writer is becoming more difficult, the ease of digital self-publishing has led to a rapid increase in sheer numbers of published, if seldom read, fiction. With new social conditions come new forms of literary expression and experience. What are these forms? What *will* they be?

Readings: There is nothing to buy. All texts will be accessed via [Brightspace](#).

Grading

Here is a proposed grading schema, designed to minimize end of term stress and maximize engaged writing throughout our intensive semester together. Please look and see if you would offer any revisions. We can discuss on the first day of class.

Discussion leadership (about 30 min; instructions and sign up online)	20 %
Contributions to two online forums in lieu of in-person class	30 % (2 x 15 %)
In-class writing	30 % (3 x 10 %)
Discussion forum contributions as prep for in-person class	30 % (3 x 10 %)

You will notice that this adds up to more than 100 %. This means that if you have to miss one thing: no big deal.

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.

Message about COVID

This is a summary of the COVID-19 measures that will be in place for the summer 2022 term. As the term progresses, these measures may be adjusted as required to ensure everyone's health and safety and to comply with public health advice.

Masks

On the recommendation of Ottawa Public Health, Carleton will be maintaining the mandatory [COVID-19 Mask Policy](#) until further notice. Masks must be worn in all indoor university facilities including shared offices, meeting spaces, athletics facilities, classrooms and labs.

Vaccination Requirements

Proof of vaccination is no longer required to access campus or participate in in-person Carleton activities. However, it may become necessary to bring back proof of vaccination requirements on short notice if the situation and public health advice changes. We strongly recommend that all members of the Carleton community get a full course of vaccination, including booster doses as soon as they are eligible, and [submit their booster dose information in cuScreen](#) as soon as possible.

Screening Self-Assessments

Remaining vigilant and not coming to campus when sick or with symptoms is critically important. Although no longer required, it is recommended that individuals continue to complete the [COVID-19 screening self-assessment in cuScreen](#) each time they come to campus.

Symptom Reporting

The symptom reporting protocols for employees and students have been updated [on the COVID-19 website](#). All individuals who have been on campus in the 5 days before the onset of symptoms potentially linked to COVID-19 or who have received a positive COVID-19 test result must still submit a [COVID-19 Symptom Reporting Form through cuScreen](#). The completion of this form provides all of the necessary information for Environmental Health and Safety (EHS) and Health and Counselling Services (HCS) to do a proper assessment and follow-up. After completing this form, the individual will be provided with more information from EHS and HCS including next steps and when they are eligible to return to campus.

QR Location Codes

Scanning campus QR location codes with your smartphone camera is no longer required. Please leave all signage regarding QR codes in place should we be required to re-implement this in the future.

Physical Distancing and Capacity Limits

Although not required, we strongly encourage all members of our community to practice physical distancing where possible. Capacity limits for on-campus events and activities are no longer adjusted for physical distancing.

Tunnel Access

Pending the installation of new ventilation equipment, access to the tunnels remains restricted to authorized individuals only and those with approval for accessibility purposes. Please visit the COVID-19 website for information on how to [request tunnel access](#). Access to the tunnels is planned to resume once new ventilation equipment is installed.

Other Health and Safety Measures

We will continue to maintain our [enhanced ventilation measures](#). [Hand sanitizer stations](#) will continue to be placed at building entrances.

Any questions you may have that are not answered by [Carleton's COVID-19 information website](#) and its [FAQ section](#) should be forwarded to 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.

Academic Accommodations

Carleton is committed to providing academic accessibility for all individuals. Please follow this link to review the [processes for academic accommodation requests](#).

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 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, visit <https://carleton.ca/registrar/academic-integrity/>.



Schedule

6 July: introductions / syllabus discussion and revision

8 July: neoliberalism and the neoliberal university

- Wendy Brown, “Neoliberalized Knowledge”
- Shannon Dawn Maree Moore, Bruno De Oliveira Jayme, and Joanna Black, “Disaster Capitalism, Rampant EdTech Opportunism, and the Advancement of Online Learning in the Era of COVID19”

13 July: student debt and the (supposed) neoliberal self

*** no in-person class / replaced with self-study & online discussion forum (15 %) ***

- Malcolm Harris, “Go to College”
- Annie McClanahan, “Becoming Non-Economic”
- “Communique from an Absent Future”

15 July: decline of the English department

- *Endgame: Can Literary Studies Survive?*
- William McGurn, “Is Majoring in English Worth It?” & Jonathan Beecher Field, “Got Shakespeare?”
- In class writing 10 %

20 July: contingent work in English; case study of the English department at Ball State University

- Kevin Birmingham, “The Great Shame of Our Profession”
- Olivia Stowell, “The Time Warp, Again?” (on “dark academia”)
- “Dark academia” TikTok
- Links to Ball State English department programming
- Discussion Questions to prepare re. Ball State before class 10 %

22 July: The Rise of Digital Humanities

- David Golumbia, “Death of a Discipline”
- “Neoliberal Tools (and Archives): A Political History of Digital Humanities”
- Look at Stanford Literary Lab; Price Lab for Digital Humanities; Post45 Data Collective
- In-class writing 10 %

27 July: The Rise of Creative Writing

- Juliana Spahr and Stephanie Young, “The Program Era and the Mainly White Room”
- Eric Bennett, “How Iowa Flattened Literature”
- Online discussion forum to prepare before class 10 %

29 July: The Publishing Industry Today

- Alison Flood, “Literary Fiction in Crisis”
- Arts Council England, “Literature in the 21st Century”
- Richard Jean So and Gus Wezerek, “Just How White is the Book Industry?”
- Anamik Saha & Sandra Van Lente, “The Limits of Diversity: How Publishing Industries Make Race”

3 August: Fate of Bookstores

*** no in-person class / replaced with ethnographic observation at area bookstores ***

- “How a Canadian Chain is Reinventing Bookselling” (Chapters/Indigo covered in the *New York Times*)
- “Hungry Bookworms Find Nourishment” (on Black Squirrel Books)
- “Waterstones Says it Can’t Pay a Living Wage”

5 August: The Amazon Era

- Blake Montgomery, “The Amazon Publishing Juggernaut”
- Mark McGurl, “Everything and Less: Fiction in the Age of Amazon”
- In-class writing 10 %

10 August: self-publishing

- Timothy Laquintano, “Amazon as a New Intermediary”
- Wattpad, “The Master Plan”
- Aarthi Vadde, “Platform or Publisher?”
- Online discussion forum to prepare for class 10 %

12 August: new forms (social media, Flash Fiction, Instagram Poetry)

- Sarah Brouillette, “The Talented Ms. Calloway”
- Laura McGrath, “America’s Next Top Novel”
- Faith Hill and Karen Yuan, “How Instagram Saved Poetry”