

**Carleton University
Fall / Winter 2016 / 17
Department of English**

FYSM 1004B: *Literature, Genre, Context*

Precludes additional credit for: ENGL 1000, ENGL 1009, ENGL 1100, ENGL 1200, ENGL 1300,
ENGL 1400, ENGL 1609

Prerequisite(s): Normally restricted to students entering the first year of a B.A., B.Cog.Sc., B.G.In.S, or
B.CoMS program

Tues. / Thurs. / 1:05-2:25pm

Location: tba

Please confirm location on Carleton Central

Instructor: Professor Jody Mason

Email: jody.mason@carleton.ca

Office: 1903 Dunton Tower

Phone: 613.520.2600 x8907

Office Hours: tba

Teaching Assistant: tba

I. Course Description

This course offers an introduction to diverse literary forms in English from the twentieth and early twenty-first centuries, including poetry, drama, the novel, and the short story. We will learn, practise, and refine active reading skills. We will learn to talk about literary form and to think in nuanced ways about how literary forms relate to “context,” which is not distinct from form but rather indistinguishable from it. To acquire these skills, we will analyze literary texts and movements from diverse political, social, and cultural locations and will ask how “contexts” such as colonization and Empire, the world wars, decolonization movements, shifting global power relations, and changing conceptions of the individual are embedded in literary forms.

We will also learn how to write about literary texts, and how to research literary topics. As in other writing-attentive seminars in the Department of English, students in this course will:

- spend a significant amount of class time learning and improving university-level forms of thinking and writing (particularly essay-writing skills) that will concentrate on the following:
 - establishment and refinement of literary critical skills through close analysis of texts from a variety of genres
 - generation and proof of an argument (thesis) across an essay
 - establishment and refinement of sophisticated ideas and opinions using proper, correct and effective academic English style

- use and citation of primary literary texts in appropriate and convincing ways
- development of fluency in and facility with genre
- specific literary terminology
- introduction to the fundamentals of secondary research (including critical evaluation, use, and citation of academic sources)
- complete a minimum of two graded writing assignments per term, in which they will be expected to demonstrate the above skills
- write at least one formally scheduled examination

II. Texts

All course texts listed below can be purchased at Haven Books (43 Seneca St., K1S 4X2, 613.730.9888).

Alexis, André. *Fifteen Dogs* (Coach House P, 2015, ISBN: 9781552453056)

Conrad, Joseph. *Heart of Darkness* (1899) (Bedford / St. Martin's, 2010, ISBN: 0312457537)

Kincaid, Jamaica. *Lucy* (1990) (Farrar, Straus & Giroux, 2002, ISBN: 9780374527358)

Rushdie, Salman. *Midnight's Children* (1981) (Vintage Canada, 1997, ISBN: 9780676970654)

Scholes, Robert, Nancy R. Comley, Carl H. Klaus, and David Staines, eds. *Elements of Literature*. (Oxford University Press, Fifth Canadian Edition 2015, ISBN: 978-0-19-901489-7)

Woolf, Virginia. *To The Lighthouse* (1927) (Broadview, 2000, ISBN: 9781551113968)

*strongly recommended: Modern Language Association of America. *MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers*. 7th ed. (Modern Language Association of America, 2009, ISBN 978-1-60329-024-1)

III. Course Requirements and Assignments

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.

Attendance is recorded in this class. **Those who miss more than ten classes will not be permitted to write the final exam.** You are required to attend every class, to have read the assigned material, to bring the assigned reading with you, to respond to questions, and to join class discussion. Term work must be completed in order to pass the course.

10% Participation

30%: Short Assignments (writing workshops, in-class exercises, quizzes, short writing assignments)

10% Essay One

15% In-Class Midterm Test

15% Essay Two

20% Final Exam