

**Carleton University
Fall/Winter 2019-2020
Department of English**

**FYSM 1004B: *Literature, Genre, and Context*
Literature and/of Identity**

Precludes additional credit for ENGL 1000, ENGL 1100, ENGL 1200, ENGL 1300, ENGL 1400, ENGL 1600.

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

Time: Wednesdays and Fridays 10:05-11:25 am

Location: SA 413

Please confirm location on Carleton Central

Instructor: Dr. Esther Post

Office: Dunton Tower 1914

Office hours: Fridays 11:45 am-12:45 pm or by appointment

email: EstherPost@cunet.carleton.ca

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

Human identity is studied within a vast array of academic disciplines, and literature offers an insightful lens through which to consider the many layers that constitute the individual self. Our readings offer diverse representations of subjectivity, depicting the multitude of influences upon and determinants of personal and cultural identities. Analyzing poetry, short stories, novels, and drama by a range of authors whose works draw attention to the intersectionalities of identity, we will explore some fundamental questions about identity as they are represented in literature: How do individuals come to understand and develop their identities? What kinds of identity quests do we embark upon in our journey to self-discovery? How is individual identity linked with cultural, public, and social identity? How do heteronormative, patriarchal, capitalist societies influence personal subjectivity? What are the intersections between gender, sexuality, race, ethnicity, nationality, class, and religious identity? Is our identity stable and fixed, or do our subjective positions change over time? What are some crises of identity commonly experienced by humans, and how do we confront such crises? And, perhaps most importantly, how can we use language, literature, and other types of narratives to navigate the complexities of our identities?

As an English course, a primary objective of this class is to teach fundamental critical reading, analytic, and writing skills. Over the course of the year, students will learn how to critically engage with literature and present their ideas both orally, during our seminars, and through writing assignments. You will be taught how to develop and express a thesis statement, how to sustain your argument through a close textual analysis, and how to organize and structure your arguments in your essays.

****Please note:** FYSM 1004 is a *writing-intensive* course. This means that students will write a minimum of two graded writing assignments per term in which they are expected to do the following:

- develop an argumentative thesis across an essay
- establish university-level expectations for grammar and syntax
- develop complex ideas using correct and effective expression according to academic English practice
- use and cite evidence from primary texts appropriately
- develop writing, critical reading, and research skills

REQUIRED TEXTS:

Kate Chopin, “The Awakening” (novel)

Tennessee Williams, “The Glass Menagerie” (play)

Toni Morrison, *The Bluest Eye* (novel)

Jeanette Winterson, *Oranges are not the Only Fruit* (novel)

Jonathon Safran Foer, *Extremely Loud and Incredibly Close* (novel)

(Available at Octopus Books, 116 Third Ave., just west of Bank St., by October)

*all other course readings, including poetry and short stories, will be available on our course page at CULearn

EVALUATION:

Participation (ongoing throughout the year):	10%
Informal in-class assignments (5 X 1%; throughout the year):	5%
Fall critical reading response (3 pgs.): due Fri. Oct. 11	10%
Fall short essay (5-6 pgs.): due Wed. Dec. 4	15%
Mid-term exam (Dec; date scheduled by the university):	15%
Winter critical reading response: due. Fri. Jan. 31	10%
Winter essay outline: due Wed. Mar.18	5%
Winter research essay (6-8 pgs.): due Fri. Apr. 3	15%
Final exam (Apr.; date scheduled by the university):	15%

***Note:** 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.

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 submitted immediately upon request.

LEARNING OUTCOMES:

By the end of the course, students will be expected to have learned the following:

- How to critically analyze and interpret literature, using fundamental literary terms and concepts
- How to develop arguments based on close readings of entire texts and select passages
- How to write an effective essay at the university level that presents a strong thesis, develops and sustains arguments through a careful analysis of literary texts, and structures such ideas and arguments in a logical manner, with effective introductions, topic sentences, paragraph structures and transitions, and conclusions
- How to conduct and incorporate scholarly research effectively
- How to identify and correct faulty sentence structures, common punctuation errors, and other grammatical issues
- How to include in-text citations and how to write a bibliography in MLA style

COURSE POLICIES:

Essay style and format:

- All essays must be double spaced, formatted in Times New Roman font 12, and must conform to MLA style and documentation guidelines.

Submissions:

- ALL assignments **MUST** be submitted as hard copies in class or through the assignment drop box at the English Department (1812 Dunton Tower) AND as digital copies through CULearn.
 - o **Essays will not be marked until both a hard copy and digital copy is received.**
- Assignments are NOT to be slipped under my office door.
- 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 submitted immediately upon request.

Late Policies:

- Late assignments will be penalized 5% per day, including weekends, beginning at 8:30 am the day after the due date; **HOWEVER**, assignments due on Fridays **MUST** be submitted in class or at the English Department assignment drop box by 4:30pm or else they will be penalized 5% per day.
 - o For example, if an assignment is due on a Friday and is submitted at the drop box at 5 pm that day, it will be penalized 5%. If it is submitted to the drop box the next day, on Saturday, it will be penalized 10%.
- assignments submitted 5 days after the due date will be given a grade, but no comments

will be given.

- Extensions **may** be granted in extenuating circumstances, supported by proper documentation (medical etc.), but extensions that are requested on or after the due date will NOT be considered. If you are in a situation that may warrant an extension, please speak to me as early as possible, either in person or through email.

Plagiarism: There will be a policy of ZERO TOLERANCE for 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 original 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 serious offence that cannot be resolved directly by the course’s instructor. The Associate Dean of the Faculty conducts 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 a final grade of "F" for the course. It is the responsibility of all students to familiarize themselves with the University’s Academic Integrity policy online at <https://carleton.ca/secretariat/wp-content/uploads/Academic-Integrity-Policy.pdf>

COURSE EXPECTATIONS, CLASSROOM ETIQUETTE, and NETIQUETTE

- Since this class is a seminar rather than a lecture, your participation in class discussions is vital to your success in the course. My teaching style, especially for a seminar, is very much a dialogic approach, such that I will not stand and lecture at you, but instead, will engage you in discussions about our texts and subject matter.
- Students are thus expected to attend classes regularly, having read the assigned material before class, and to be prepared to share your thoughts on the readings. Critical reading and analytic skills cannot be learned simply by reading a text, and asking questions, responding to my prompts, and contributing to class discussions will hone your critical thinking skills.
- Attendance will be taken at every class, absences will be noted, and any missed classes without adequate reasons will negatively impact your participation mark
 - o students who miss more than 3 classes per term will be asked to meet with me individually and more than 3 missed classes per term could result in a grade of zero for participation. Please speak to me in person, after class or during office hours if you are in any kind of situation that may affect your ability to regularly attend class. It’s also a good idea to notify me by email before class if you will be

unable to attend.

- **Classroom etiquette:** We will have a discussion on the first day of class about these policies, but these are some of the most important principles:
 - While students will be encouraged to share their opinions about our readings, there will be toleration of sexist, misogynist, racist, homophobic, or transphobic language. I expect all students to show respect for their fellow classmates and the instructor, even if there are significant differences of opinion.
 - Private conversations between students, especially while other students or the instructor is speaking, are disrespectful to everyone else in the room and will be discouraged.
 - Likewise, using phones or laptops to do anything that is not course-related is also extremely disrespectful, not to mention highly distracting for both the professor and other students. You will be asked to turn your phones to silent at the beginning of each class, and gentle reminders will be given to students using their phones for the first few classes, after which point, not-so-gentle reminders will be given.
 - Laptops should be used only for note-taking purposes, and students who use their computers for any other reason will be asked to turn their computers off. If this is a consistent issue, only students with PMC-approved laptops will be allowed to use them in class.
 - Please do not wear headphones or earbuds during class, as your full attention is needed for the duration of the class.
- **Netiquette:**
 - The best way to get in contact with me is by email (EstherPost@cunet.carleton.ca). I check email at least once a day, and will respond to emails within 48 hours, though it could take longer on weekends.
 - When emailing, please be professional. Do not use text speak, do not begin your email with an informal greeting such as “hey!”, and identify yourself by your full name as well as the course code.
 - Emails should be reserved for clear, precise questions; they should not be used to ask questions such as, “what should I read for next week?” or anything else that simply requires you to read the syllabus.
- **CULearn:**
 - You will be required to use CULearn on a regular basis, as all relevant documents related to our course, including the syllabus, assignment instructions, etc. will be uploaded to this page. Most importantly, treat this syllabus as your bible for this course, as it provides all necessary information in terms of reading and assignment schedules, submission policies, etc.
 - Should I need to cancel a class due to illness, family emergency, etc., I will post an announcement to CULearn before class begins and will also email the entire course. Since this is a morning class, I suggest checking CULearn for such announcements before class, especially if you are commuting.

ACADEMIC ACCOMMODATIONS:

You may need special arrangements to meet your academic obligations during the term. For an accommodation request, the processes are as follows:

Pregnancy obligation

Please contact 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, visit the Equity Services website: carleton.ca/equity/wp-content/uploads/Student-Guide-to-Academic-Accommodation.pdf

Religious obligation

Please contact 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, visit the Equity Services website: carleton.ca/equity/wp-content/uploads/Student-Guide-to-Academic-Accommodation.pdf

Academic Accommodations for Students with Disabilities

If you have a documented disability requiring academic accommodations in this course, please contact the Paul Menton Centre for Students with Disabilities (PMC) at 613-520-6608 or pmc@carleton.ca for a formal evaluation or contact your PMC coordinator to send your instructor your Letter of Accommodation at the beginning of the term. You must also contact the PMC 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 your instructor as soon as possible to ensure accommodation arrangements are made.

carleton.ca/pmc

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 its 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: carleton.ca/sexual-violence-support

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 must be provided to students who compete or perform at the national or international level. Please contact your instructor 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>

READING SCHEDULE (subject to change):**Week 1:**

Wed. Sept.4: Intro to course

Fri: Sept. 6: Overview of important literary terms

Week 2:

Wed. Sept. 11: lecture on modernity and modernism

Fri. Sept. 13: T.S. Eliot, “The Love Song of J. Alfred Prufrock” (poem)

Week 3:

Wed. Sept. 18: Eliot (cont’d)

Fri. Sept. 20: Eliot (cont’d)

Week 4:

Wed. Sept. 25: Kate Chopin, *The Awakening*

Fri. Sept. 27: Chopin (cont’d)

Week 5:

Wed. Oct. 2: Chopin (cont’d)

Fri. Oct. 4: developing a thesis; how to write essay outlines

Week 6:

Wed. Oct. 9: Virginia Woolf, “The Mark on the Wall” (short story)

Fri. Oct. 11: Virginia Woolf, “The Mark on the Wall” (short story) ***CRITICAL RESPONSE DUE***

Week 7:

Wed. Oct. 16: WWI poetry: Wilfred Owen, “Anthem for Doomed Youth” and “Dulce et Decorum Est”

Fri. Oct. 18: WWI poetry: Isaac Rosenberg, “Louse Hunting,” “Dead Man’s Dump”

Wed. Oct. 23: FALL READING WEEK – NO CLASSES

Fri. Oct. 25: FALL READING WEEK – NO CLASSES

Week 8:

Wed. Oct. 30: WWI poetry: Siegfried Sassoon, “They,” “Glory of Women” and Rupert Brooke, “The Soldier”

Fri. Nov. 1: Harlem Renaissance poetry: Langston Hughes, “The Negro Speaks of Rivers,” “I Too,” “Silhouette”

Week 9:

Wed. Nov. 6: Harlem Renaissance: Countee Cullen, “Heritage,” “Yet Do I Marvel”

Fri: Nov. 8: lecture on (faulty) sentence structures (fragments, comma splices, and run-ons)

Week 10:

Wed. Nov. 13: lecture on effective essay structure

Fri. Nov. 15: lecture on introductions

Week 11:

Wed. Nov. 20: lecture on effective paragraph structure

Fri. Nov. 22: Tennessee Williams, *The Glass Menagerie* (drama)

Week 12:

Wed. Nov. 27: Williams (cont'd)

Fri. Nov 29: Williams (cont'd)

Wed. Dec. 4: Review and Midterm Exam prep *FINAL CLASS* *FALL ESSAY DUE*

WINTER

Week 1:

Wed. Jan. 8: The Beat Generation (poetry): Allen Ginsberg, "America," "A Supermarket in California"

Fri. Jan. 10: Ginsberg, "Howl"

Week 2:

Wed. Jan. 15: Ginsberg (cont'd)

Fri. Jan. 17: Sylvia Plath, "Tulips," "Daddy," "Lady Lazarus" (poems)

Week 3:

Wed. Jan. 22: Plath (cont'd)

Fri. Jan 24: Dorothy Livesay, "Green Rain," "Bartok and the Geranium," and "The Three Emilys" (poems)

Week 4:

Wed. Jan. 29: Livesay (cont'd); Miriam Waddington, "Girls" and "Gossip" (poems)

Fri. Jan. 31: Waddington (cont'd) *CRITICAL READING RESPONSE DUE*

Week 5:

Wed. Feb. 5: Patricia Riley, "Damping Down the Road" (short story)

Fri. Feb. 7: Riley (cont'd); begin Toni Morrison, *The Bluest Eye*

Week 6:

Wed. Feb. 12: Morrison (cont'd)

Fri. Feb. 14: Morrison (cont'd)

Wed. Feb. 19: READING WEEK – NO CLASSES

Fri. Feb. 21: READING WEEK – NO CLASSES

Week 7:

Wed. Feb. 26: Lecture on postmodernity/postmodernism

Fri. Feb. 28: Jonathan Safran Foer, *Extremely Loud and Incredibly Close*

Week 8:

Wed. Mar. 4: Foer (cont'd)

Fri. Mar. 6: Foer (cont'd)

Week 9:

Wed. Mar. 11: virtual tour of Carleton's library/how to conduct (scholarly) research; begin

Jeanette Winterson, *Oranges Are Not the Only Fruit*

Fri. Mar. 13: Winterson (cont'd)

Week 10:

Wed. Mar. 18: Winterson (cont'd) ***ESSAY OUTLINE DUE***

Fri. Mar. 20: Ivan Coyote (short story; TBD)

Week 11:

Wed. Mar. 25: Coyote (cont'd)

Fri. Mar. 27: Thomas King, "The One About Coyote Going West" (short story)

Week 12:

Wed. Apr. 1: King (cont'd)

Fri. Apr. 3: Review and exam prep ***FINAL CLASS*** ***FINAL ESSAY DUE***