

Carleton University
Fall and Winter 2025-2026 Preliminary Course Outline
Department of English

FYSM 1004B: READING LITERATURES AND CULTURES

“Journeys: A Writing-Attentive Seminar”

This seminar precludes additional credit for
ENGL 1000 (no longer offered), ENGL 1100, ENGL 1200, ENGL 1300, ENGL 1400,
ENGL 1600, and ENGL 1700. DO NOT register in any of these precluded courses.

Professor A. Wallace
andrew_wallace@carleton.ca

***** This is a preliminary syllabus only—texts and assignments are subject to change.
A complete version will be available closer to the start of the term. *****

This seminar introduces students to poetry, prose, and drama from a wide range of historical periods. One of the course’s goals will be to expose you to older texts that exercise massive influence on modern literature; a second goal will be to explore some of the modern texts in which that influence is realized and reimagined. The reading list will be arranged thematically around a series of literal and metaphorical journeys. Books will range from Homer’s *Odyssey* in September to Jean Rhys’ *Wide Sargasso Sea* in late May / early April. Throughout the course, the emphasis will be on helping you develop skills in close reading (i.e., analysis and interpretation), interpretive argument, and formal essay writing.

The course will adhere to the aims and principles that are common to other writing-attentive seminars taught within the Department of English and Literature.

Students 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 of university-level expectations for grammar and syntax
- establishment and refinement of literary-critical skills through close analysis of texts from a variety of genres
- generation and proof of an argumentative thesis across an essay
- establishment and refinement of arguments and opinions using persuasive, clear and grammatically correct English
- use and citation of primary literary texts in appropriate and convincing ways
- introduction to the fundamentals of secondary research (including critical evaluation, use, and citation of academic sources)
- completion of a number of writing assignments which will include at least one formal scholarly essay

- writing at least one formally scheduled examination or a culminating reflective assignment

This course also shares with other First Year Seminars at Carleton a common set of Learning Outcomes:

- Closely analyze texts (“text” can be interpreted broadly) in order to extract key ideas and construct meaning
- Distinguish between opinion and evidence-based argument
- Effectively identify and evaluate resources in relation to a specific problem
- Comprehensively explore an issue, including interpreting available data or evidence and formulating an argument or conclusion that is supported by the examined resources
- Communicate ideas to a variety of audiences, including purposeful development and expression of academic ideas in written and/or oral formats
- Identify available university-support services for students and recognize how they can contribute to academic success