

Methods of Evaluation

Final exam	35%
Mid-year exam	30%
In-class assignment	15%
Assignment	15% (1000 words)
Attendance and participation	5%

The two exams will require you to write short essays on topics discussed in class as well as answer a multiple choice question. Tests and exams must be written by hand. No laptops/electronic devices will be permitted, except with special permission. No notes or notebooks may be consulted during the examination.

The in-class assignment should be completed in one hour. The assignment will consist of a short essay and an objective-type (multiple choice, fill-in-the-blanks, match-the-following etc) test. For the take-home assignment you can use material from the coursepack. Essays must be handed in before or on the due date; no extensions will be granted unless discussed with the instructor at least a week **before** the date on which the essay is due. Please retain a copy of the final draft of each essay; if a submitted essay is lost, you will be asked to submit the duplicate for grading.

A student must receive a passing grade for both term work and the final examination in order to receive a passing grade for the course. This applies to all courses in all programs offered by the department. Students whose term and final exam grades average 50% or above, even though one of the two is a failure, shall receive a default grade of 48%. Please note: The department of English & Writing Studies does not release final grades. All undergraduate grade reports will be available online from the Office of the Registrar.

Students are fully responsible for looking at and being familiar with the information posted on the department website at <http://www.uwo.ca/english/undergraduate/Student%20Information.html>.

Late assignments:

A penalty of one mark per day (including weekends) will be imposed for late essays beginning the first day after the deadline. No essays will be accepted after the tenth day. Essays submitted after that day will be accepted only on (a) humanitarian grounds, or (b) medical grounds, for which written proof must be provided to the Office of the Academic Dean. No essay will be accepted after the last day of classes unless (a) or (b) above apply, or the student has received prior permission from the instructor. **Late essays not handed in at class may be dropped off in the mailbox outside the English department office.** All essays dropped off after 4:00 p.m. on a Friday will be date-stamped the following Monday. Essays should be placed in an envelope and addressed to the professor.

Use of laptops in the classroom: I have no objection to laptop use in general; however, if you are using laptops to text friends, to view material unrelated to the course, or in a manner that is distracting and offensive, you will be asked to leave the classroom.

Attendance and participation:

The UWO calendar states: "Any student who, in the opinion of the instructor, is absent too frequently from class... in any course, will be reported to the Dean of the Faculty offering the course (after due warning is given). On the recommendation of the department concerned, and with the permission of the Dean of the Faculty, the student will be debarred from taking the regular examination in the course..." Class attendance is important: 5% of the overall grade is set aside for this component.

Timetable:

This is a flexible schedule: if the discussion is interesting or the class takes longer than anticipated, class will spill over into the next hour or week. In general, however, we will stay on track. Materials on which the lectures are based will be either in the coursepack or on Powerpoint.

Sep 13	Introduction: Popular and "high" culture, critiques of popular culture and defences.
Sep 20, 27, Oct 4	Adorno, Benjamin, Healy High culture/low culture; conservative critique of popular culture; radical defences of popular culture; television viewing and its effects on reading skills; new social media and literacy
Oct 18, 25	Ideology and desire; ideological analyses of popular films; individualism, averageness, taciturnity, class, American exceptionalism and vigilantism in action blockbusters In-class assignment Oct 25 (15%)

