

Department of English & Writing Studies

The Many Faces of Harry Potter
English 2092F (001)
Fall 2017

Instructor: Dr. Gabrielle Ceraldi
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Course Location: Somerville House 3345

Course Date/Time: Tuesday 6:30-9:30 pm

Office Hours: Tues/Thurs 2:30-3:30 pm

Course Description

The wildly successful *Harry Potter* series has been noted for its capacity to cross traditional boundaries.

protagonist and young boy

Harry Potter has found an enthusiastic readership among children of both sexes. Age boundaries have proven to be equally elastic; the popularity of the series among adults has even prompted the creation of an adult-friendly edition of the series with dark cover art suitable for reading on public transportation. The flexibility of the series may relate to its roots in a wide variety of genres including the gothic novel, detective fiction, fantasy, adventure, and even the dystopian novel. This course will examine the *Harry Potter* series in relation to all these genres. We will read all seven books alongside other novels and short stories that illustrate the generic conventions Rowling is using.

Learning Objectives:

By the end of the course, the successful student will be able to:

Recognize how the *Harry Potter* series employs conventions from a variety of genres;

Identify and analyze the basic elements of literature such as plot, character, point of view, theme, setting, imagery, and diction;

Understand the series in relation to all these genres. We will read all seven books alongside other novels and short stories that illustrate the generic conventions Rowling is using.

Methods of Evaluation

Close Reading (750 words, due Oct. 3)	15%
Comparison Assignment 1 (750 words, due Oct. 24)	15%
Comparison Assignment 2 (750 words, due Nov. 21)	15%
Film Discussion (300 words, due Nov. 28)	10%
Attendance and Participation	10%
Final Exam	35%

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>.

Timetable:

Sept. 12: Introduction

The Actively Detecting Reader

Sept. 19:

The Tales of Beedle the Bard)

Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone

Uncovering the Past: The Gothic

Sept. 26:

MLA Format:

Surname 1

Your Name

Name of T.A./House

English 2092G

February 11, 2014

Wit and Wizardry