

THE UNIVERSITY OF WESTERN ONTARIO

EN 1020E (651): Understanding Literature Today

Summer 2014

Instructor: Dr. Jo Devereux

Course Description: This course takes you on a journey through the genres, historical periods, and critical approaches to English literature. In online lectures and small group discussions, you will study major works of poetry, prose, and drama with attention to their use of literary form and the cultural contexts in which they were written. The written assignments for the course will provide you with training in literary analysis, logical and rhetorical argumentation, and strong skills in grammar and composition.

This course is recommended to students who may be co9alys(bTm4(l)-u-l5e)-5(n 9Tg)l3m31oþr Minit y gn,ion. and are interested in reading poetry, prose, and drama.

Prerequisite: Grade 12U English or permission of the Department.

Course Objectives:

Successful students who complete the course will be able to:

- Identify and analyze basic elements of literature, such as plot, character, point of view, theme, setting, imagery, diction, tone, figures of speech, syntax, and rhythm
- Recognize connections between course texts
- Write an essay about a work (or works) of literature, containing a clear and effective thesis supported by adequate evidence from the original text(s)
- Research critical commentary on literary works
- Evaluate the relevance, reliability, and usefulness of research sources, especially those obtained through the Internet
- Integrate outside research materials and references to the original text(s) into an essay through the use of quotations and paraphrases
- Organize and present ideas clearly and effectively in writing
- Document essays using MLA format

below for details. With permission of the instructor(s), students may rewrite Essay 1 to improve their mark. The rewritten version must be submitted no later than two weeks after the original essay has been returned; the maximum mark a rewritten essay can receive is 65%.

Online English 1020E Schedule and Due Dates Summer 2014

(Note that *Elements of Literature* is abbreviated to EL)

May 5-7: Unit 1.1: Creation Stories

pack); *Elements of Literature* (EL) 3-4; Discussion 1.1

May 7-9: Unit 1.2: Creation Stories: Milton, *Paradise Lost*, from Book 4 (course pack); EL 399-400; Discussion 1.2

May 12-14: Unit 2.1: The Natural World

Earth (course pack), EL 388-99; Discussion 2.1

May 14-16: Unit 2.2: The Natural World

-6; Discussion 2.2

May 19-21: Unit 3.1: The Reading Self: Austen, *Northanger Abbey*, EL 7-9; Discussion 3.1

May 21-23: Unit 3.2: The Reading Self: Austen, *Northanger Abbey*; Discussion 3.2

May 26-28: Unit 4.1: Art and Life

May 28-30: Unit 4.2: Art and Life

pack), EL 9-11; Discussion 4.2; **ESSAY 1 DUE JUNE 2**

June 2-4: Unit 5.1: Dreams and Nightmares

June 4-6: Unit 5.2: Dreams and Nightmares

July 7-9: Unit 10.1: Public and Private Selves: C
-14; Discussion 10.1

July 9-11: Unit 10.2: Public and Private Selves

July 14-16: Unit 11.1: Storytelling: Barnes, excerpt from *A History of the World in 10 ½ Chapters* (course pack); Discussion 11.1

July 16-18: Unit 11.2: Storytelling

July 21-23: Unit 12.1: Storytelling: Yann Martel, *Life of Pi*; EL 4-5; Discussion 12.1; **ESSAY 2 DUE JULY 21**

July 23-25: Unit 12.2: Storytelling: Yann Martel, *Life of Pi*; Discussion 12.2; **DISCUSSION REFLECTION DUE JULY 25**

TBA July 28-31: FINAL EXAM