

# ENGL147: Literary Traditions

## Course Outline

### INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION

Instructor: Lindsey Seatter

Office: Clearihue D321

E-Mail: lseatter@uvic.ca

Phone: 250-721-7247

Office Hours: Mondays & Thursdays 10:30-11:30, or by appointment

### CLASS INFORMATION

Session Days: Mondays & Thursdays

Session Time: 11:30-12:50

Classroom: David Strong C126

### CALENDAR COURSE DESCRIPTION

Lecture series devoted to four or five renowned literary works (chosen from novels, plays, long poems or poetry sequences, or creative non-fiction), combined with weekly small-class tutorial sections devoted to discussions and writing workshops. Lectures focused on aesthetic values as well as cultural and historical contexts of featured works. Assignments will develop skills for writing about literature and for making research-based academic arguments in any discipline.

### COURSE OVERVIEW

#### A WOMAN'S PLACE: REVISING, RESISTING, AND THE RISE OF FEMINISM IN ROMANTIC LITERATURE

This course introduces you to a selection of great women writers from the British Romantic era (broadly defined as 1750-1850). Focusing on this unique and tumultuous time period, we will read five texts covering three genres: the novel, non-fiction prose, and poetry. This course will explore the historical, social, political, and cultural contexts, as well as the various formal and stylistic features of each text, in order to develop an understanding of the novel's significance to the transforming landscapes of women's writing and Romantic literature. We will also pay particular attention to how the literature of the past resonates with our own time. While the course will be of special interest to prospective majors in English, it should also appeal to those with an interest in the humanities or gender studies more broadly and to those who love to read.

### PREREQUISITES

There are no prerequisites for this course.

### COURSE GOALS AND LEARNING OBJECTIVES

The course goals state what the course should help students learn; the learning objectives state what you should be able to demonstrate during and at the end of the course.

#### **Analytic Skills:**

- Ability to understand and engage in close reading practices
- Ability to identify and discuss the function of literary devices

- Ability to identify and communicate literary themes, especially those related to the broad umbrellas of Romantic literature and women’s literature
- Ability to identify and discuss different modes of narration or points-of-view
- Ability to identify key ways literature addresses specific historical, cultural, political, and/or social contexts
- Ability to identify what classifies a work as “feminist” and to critically assess what feminism is

### **Composition Skills:**

- Develop the vocabulary and rhetorical skills to express ideas as arguments and not just opinions
- Develop the skills to create a strong thesis statement and argumentative structure (eg. The Academic Essay)
- Develop an understanding of English grammar and its importance in expressing thoughts clearly
- Develop a strong grasp of proper citation techniques according to MLA guidelines

### **REQUIRED TEXTS**

You will require six texts for ENGL 147:

- ***A Vindication of the Rights of Woman* by Mary Wollstonecraft**  
Broadview edition (eds. D.L. Macdonald and Kathleen Scherf)
- ***Pride and Prejudice* by Jane Austen**  
Broadview edition (ed. Robert Irvine)
- ***The Woman of Colour* by Anonymous**  
Broadview edition (ed. Lyndon J. Dominique)
- ***Frankenstein* by Mary Shelley**  
Vintage Classics edition (with two versions) (ed. Charles E. Robinson)
- ***Selected Poetry and Prose* by Anna Letitia Barbauld**  
Broadview editions (eds. William McCarthy and Elizabeth Craft)
- ***Academic Writing Essentials* by UVic Department of English**  
Pearson edition (2<sup>nd</sup>)

All textbooks are available at the UVic Bookstore.

### **COURSE RESOURCES**

In addition to your textbooks and any material your instructor hands out, a number of campus resources are available to support your learning in ENGL 147.

- **The Centre for Academic Communication**  
The Centre for Academic Communication (<http://www.uvic.ca/learningandteaching/home/home/centre/>) provides free one-on-one tutoring to help students build their writing skills and proficiency in English. The CAC also runs workshops that address common problems in academic writing. You can book appointments online, drop in for help, or even access tutoring online.

The Centre for Academic Communication is located in Room 135j, k, l, and m in the Academic Help corridor of the Learning Commons, in the McPherson Library.

- **UVic Libraries**

The Research Help link at the UVic Libraries Gateway offers students help with their research, writing papers, locating resources, and identifying people to ask for more help. The Research Help section includes links to eTutorials on basic research skills. You can also ask questions by e-mail or talk to a subject librarian by phone. All first-year students can request individual research help for any course through the Personal Librarian Program:  
<http://www.uvic.ca/library/research/plp/index.php>.

- **CALL Facility**

The CALL (Computer Assisted Language Learning) facility offers software, audio, and video resources for language learners, including EAL learners. Resources are available on an individual, drop-in basis. The CALL Facility is located in the basement of the Clearihue building (A051). You can contact the CALL facility by phone at 250-721-8959 or by email <calllab@uvic.ca>.

### COURSE REQUIREMENTS

As part of the requirements for successful completion of ENGL 147, you will write a minimum of 2500 final (that is, edited and proofread) words, along with other assignments and a final exam.

Required assignment type	What your instructor will assign	Value
Writing diagnostic (mandatory)	A short in-class writing task	0%
Close readings (length: 500 words)	A critical analysis of a literary text assigned for class reading	10% 15%
In-class / homework assignments	A research essay proposal A peer review worksheet + reflection	10% 10%
Final essay (length: 1500 words)	An essay or research paper that requires multiple sources	25%
Final exam		25% (Note: An F – a mark below 50 – on the exam means a failing mark in the course; that is, you must pass the final exam to pass ENGL147.)

### LATE ASSIGNMENTS

All assignments are due in hardcopy at the beginning of class on the date indicated on the syllabus. Extensions will be granted only in extenuating circumstances and, when appropriate, with documentation. When possible, extensions should be discussed with me well in advance of the due date. Late assignments will receive a penalty of 3% per day. Late work will not receive substantive feedback.

### THE 'N' GRADE

Students who fail to complete one or more of the assignments before the end of the course and/or fail to write the final examination will automatically receive an 'N' grade, which is associated with a final grade of no more than 49%.

## GRADING

The writing you do in ENGL 147 will be evaluated according to the Department of English's grading standards for first-year writing, available online on the department website: <http://www.uvic.ca/humanities/english/undergraduate/currentstudents/firstyeargrading/index.php>. Your work will also be evaluated in terms of how well it meets the requirements of the assignment and your achievement of the learning objectives of the course.

The following table shows how the letter grade or percentage score you receive on an assignment corresponds to the university's standard grading system:

<b>Letter Grade</b>	<b>Grade Point Value</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>Description (from the University of Victoria Undergraduate Calendar)</b>
A+	9	90-100	An A+, A, or A- is earned by work which is technically superior, shows mastery of the subject matter, and in the case of an A+ offers original insight and/or goes beyond course expectations. Normally achieved by a minority of students.
A	8	85-89	
A-	7	80-84	
B+	6	77-79	A B+, B, or B- is earned by work that indicates a good comprehension of the course material, a good command of the skills needed to work with the course material, and the student's full engagement with the course requirements and activities. A B+ represents a more complex understanding and/or application of the course material. Normally achieved by the largest number of students.
B	5	73-76	
B-	4	70-72	
C+	3	65-69	A C+ or C is earned by work that indicates an adequate comprehension of the course material and the skills needed to work with the course material and that indicates the student has met the basic requirements for completing assigned work and/or participating in class activities.
C	2	60-64	
D	1	50-59	A D is earned by work that indicates minimal command of the course materials and/or minimal participation in class activities that is worthy of course credit toward the degree.
F	0	0-49	F is earned by work, which after the completion of course requirements, is inadequate and unworthy of course credit towards the degree.

## COURSE POLICIES AND EXPECTATIONS

### You can expect your instructor to

- be on time and prepared for class
- teach to the course goals
- give clear instructions for assignments and exercises
- advise and support students in their course work
- treat students with respect

- act in a fair manner
- be available during office hours or, if necessary, arrange an alternative time to meet
- evaluate students fairly and constructively, based on criteria made clear to students beforehand
- return assignments in a timely manner
- give useful feedback

### **Your instructor will expect you to**

- attend all classes except in case of illness or emergency
- prepare for class by completing readings and assigned work in advance
- actively participate in classroom activities
- ask questions if you do not understand
- submit all assignments according to instructions, complete, and on time
- use instructor comments and feedback to improve future work
- cooperate with and act respectfully toward other students and the instructor
- communicate with the instructor about problems or concerns as soon as possible
- put focused and disciplined effort into the course assignments

### **Attendance**

The university expects students to attend all classes in which they are enrolled. University policy allows an instructor to refuse a student admission to class because of lateness, misconduct, inattention, or failure to meet the responsibilities of the course. According to the UVic calendar (<https://web.uvic.ca/calendar2020-01/undergrad/info/regulations/attendance.html#>), students who neglect their academic work, including assignments, may be refused permission to write the final examination in a course.

Attendance will be taken at the beginning of every class. Students are given two ‘freebies’ over the semester: this means that a student can miss two sessions – for whatever reasons – without receiving a grade reduction. However, missing more than two sessions (that are not excused by a doctor’s note or proof of a serious personal emergency) will negatively affect a student’s final grade in the course. If a student misses more than six sessions, they may be barred from writing the final examination, unless they have received academic concession. Any in-class assignments missed due to a failure to attend class will result in a 0 grade.

If you do miss class, you are responsible for the catching up on the covered material. You may wish to collaborate with one or more classmates to share notes or you are welcome to see me during my office hours. Due to my personal time constraints, I am not able to reteach class material.

### **Grade appeals**

If you feel that an assignment you submitted has been unfairly evaluated, your first step is to discuss your concerns with your instructor. As your instructor is using the grading standards for first-year writing, be prepared to show your instructor how your work matches the standards for the letter grade you think you should have received.

If you are not satisfied with your discussion with the instructor, you may apply for a formal grade review, which is described in detail in the UVic academic calendar.

### **Academic honesty**

The writing you do in ENGL 147 must be your own. Presenting the work of others, whether it is used without attribution (plagiarism) or submitted by you but written by someone else (cheating), violates the university’s policy on academic integrity.

The university has prepared several documents to help you understand the university’s policy, what constitutes plagiarism and cheating, and how to avoid them.

- Plagiarism from the UVic Libraries website explains what plagiarism is and how to avoid it (<http://www.uvic.ca/library/research/citation/plagiarism/>).
- The University of Victoria’s Policy on Academic Integrity, from the academic calendar, defines plagiarism and describes the university’s procedures for dealing with allegations of plagiarism and the penalties (<https://web.uvic.ca/calendar2020-01/undergrad/info/regulations/academic-integrity.html>).

In addition to these handouts, here are a few points about plagiarism to keep in mind when you write:

- The best way to avoid inadvertent plagiarism is to ask your instructor for guidance. Some students end up plagiarizing because they aren’t sure how to correctly incorporate the work of others into their writing. Your instructor can help you learn how to quote, paraphrase, and cite your sources correctly.
- Students who are found guilty of plagiarism or cheating face serious consequences. According to the university policy, “A largely or fully plagiarized assignment should result in a grade of F for the course.”
- If a student is found guilty of violating the university’s policy on academic integrity, the offence will be added to the student’s record and will remain there for four years after the student graduates.

#### SCHEDULE

Date	Primary Text	Academic Writing Essentials Reading	Assignments Due
Jan 5	Administrative matters In-class diagnostic		
<b>Unit One: A Vindication of the Rights of Woman</b>			
Jan 8		“Reading Actively”, “Reading Critically” & “Keeping Track of What You Read” (p. 22-26)	
Jan 12			
<b>Unit Two: Pride and Prejudice</b>			
Jan 16	Volume 1	“Preparing a Close Reading” (p. 112-113)	
Jan 19	Volume 2		
Jan 23	Volume 3		Close reading #1 (submit in class)
Feb 2	<i>Completed Novel</i>	“Documentation Styles: MLA” (p. 59)	
<b>Unit Three: The Woman of Colour</b>			
Feb 6	Pages 1-50		

Feb 9	Pages 50-100	“Quoting, Paraphrasing, and Summarizing” (p. 41-48)	
<b>Feb 13</b>	<b>Reading break</b>		
<b>Feb 16</b>	<b>Reading break</b>		
Feb 20	Pages 100-end		Close reading #2 (submit in class)
Feb 23	<i>Completed Novel</i>	“Developing a Thesis” (p. 82-83)	
<b>Unit Four: Frankenstein</b>			
Mar 6	Volume One (Mary only)	“Writing Strong Paragraphs” (p. 62-67)	
Mar 9	Volume One (Mary + Percy)		
Mar 13	Volume Two (Mary only)		
Mar 16	Volume Two (Mary + Percy)	“Common Errors in Grammar” (p. 134-139)	Research essay proposal (submit in class)
<b>Unit Five: Selected Poetry and Prose</b>			
Mar 20	“The Mouse’s Petition”; “To a Lady with some painted Flowers”	“Writing an Essay” (p. 84-89)	
Mar 23	In-class writing: peer review exercise (bring one copy of your essay introduction to class)		Peer review exercise (complete and submit in class)
Mar 27	“A Letter from Grimalkin to Selima”; “The Rights of Woman”		
Mar 30	“Eighteen Hundred and Eleven, a Poem”		
Apr 3	Exam Review	“Preparing for an Exam” (p. 120-121)	Final essay (submit in class)

#### ASSIGNMENT DESCRIPTIONS

##### 1. Close readings

**500 words each, due Jan. 23, Feb. 20, worth 10 and 15%, respectively**

You will need to produce two 500-word close readings, each focused on a selection of given text from one of our course readings. Following a correctly formatted bibliographical entry, you will be expected to capture the main idea(s) of the passage in your own words and to provide specific textual evidence to support your claims.

##### 2. In-class/homework assignments

**due Mar. 16, Mar. 23, worth 10% each**

Your final essay in this course will closely examine two of the works we have read as a class. To help you develop the focus of our paper, you will develop a research proposal that includes a tentative essay thesis statement and a paragraph-by-paragraph outline of what you intend accomplish. The following week, you will participate in an in-class peer review session. For the peer review, you will

bring a copy of your essay introduction to exchange with your class members. You will then evaluate each other's work using a rubric of questions in order to assist your critical evaluation.

**3. Final essay**

**1500 words, due Apr. 3, worth 25%**

Building on your in-class proposal, you will develop a final essay that incorporates close reading skills to compare and/or contrast two texts read over the course of the semester. You must make effective use of quoted or paraphrased and include a properly formatted bibliography.

**4. Final exam**

**TBA, 25%**

A three-hour final examination will be scheduled by the university during the official exam period. Remember, you must pass this exam in order to receive a passing mark in ENGL147. More information will be provided as the semester goes on, but it is a common exam: all students in all sections of ENGL147 this semester will be writing the same exam, at the same time. You **MUST NOT** plan to leave Victoria before the end of the examination period, until the exam schedule is posted.