

Preliminary Web Course Description

*Please note: This is a preliminary web course description only. The department reserves the right to change without notice any information in this description. The final, binding course outline will be distributed in the first class of the semester.

School of English and Theatre Studies

<p>Course Code: ENGL*1200*01</p>	<p>Course Title: Reading the Contemporary World</p> <p><u>PLEASE NOTE:</u> DO NOT WORRY IF CLASS SIZE REACHES THE MAXIMUM EARLY IN THE REGISTRATION PERIOD; EACH SUMMER MANY SPOTS OPEN UP JUST BEFORE OR RIGHT AFTER THE START OF THE COURSE AS REGISTRANTS MAKE OTHER PLANS FOR THE SUMMER. NO SPECIAL ARRANGEMENTS WILL BE MADE TO SIGN FORMS TO ADMIT EXTRA STUDENTS EARLY. JUST PLAN ON ATTENDING THE FIRST CLASS ON Thursday 11 May AND KEEP WATCHING FOR CHANCES TO ADD THE COURSE ELECTONICALLY AT TIMES WHEN YOU ARE ALLOWED TO DO SO.</p>	<p>Date of Offering: SUMMER 2017</p> <p>Classes: ON CAMPUS, Tuesday & Thursday, 10:00 – 11:20, <u>starting on THURSDAY 11 May</u></p> <p><u>ALSO NOTE:</u> (1) <u>The essay for this section of ENGL*1200 will meet the 1,500-word requirement for various professional schools.</u> (2) <u>The last of the three in-class tests for this course, to be held in late July, will take the place of a standard final exam during the official exam period in August.</u></p>

<p>Course Instructor: Dr. J.R. (Tim) Struthers MacKinnon 407 e-mail: tstruthe@uoguelph.ca</p> <p><u>OFFICE HOURS FOR FEB. & MAR. 2017:</u></p> <p>1:40 – 2:40 p.m. Tuesdays 1:40 – 2:40 p.m. Thursdays and by appointment</p>	<p>Course Format: Lecture/Discussion</p>
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<p>Brief Course Synopsis: This course, which is designed primarily for those not planning a specialization in English, introduces students to literary texts and persuasive forms of writing, bringing to the fore some of the links between language and contemporary social and political issues. Course materials</p>
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will represent diversity in terms of national origins, gender, race, and class. The course emphasizes the use of figurative language as well as the development of students' critical reading and writing skills. Students planning to major or minor or pursue an area of concentration in English must take ENGL*1080 and ENGL*2080, but may also take ENGL*1200 and count it as an elective lecture.

This section of ENGL*1200 will focus on ways of looking at how, technically, a range of creative forms – fiction, autobiography, non-fiction, and criticism – work, through studying them individually and side by side. Special attention will be given to strengthening your writing skills through careful study, from the first week of classes onward, of Maxine Ruvinsky's *Practical Grammar: A Canadian Writer's Resource* (preferably the latest edition) – chapters from which will be part of the material tested on in the three in-class tests to be held during the course. Opportunity to work on improving your writing will be provided by undertaking a good first draft and then a guided rewrite of the 1,500-word take-home essay.

Readings for the opening weeks of the course will include the first half of Nobel Prize-winning Canadian writer Alice Munro's volume of family history and autobiographical stories *The View from Castle Rock*, studied side by side with Sri-Lankan-born Canadian writer Michael Ondaatje's family biography / personal autobiography *Running in the Family* and successive chapters from American fiction writer Francine Prose's equally brilliant and personal critical study *Reading Like a Writer* on topics such as "Close Reading," "Words," "Sentences," "Paragraphs," and "Narration."

As weeks proceed, we'll go on to compare First Nations writer and University of Guelph Professor Emeritus Thomas King's critical study / autobiographical work *The Truth About Stories* and American First Nations writer Linda Hogan's autobiographical work *The Woman Who Watches Over the World*. Thereafter, we'll treat ourselves to reading University of Guelph graduate Marty Gervais's volume of personal journalism (or some might say prose poems) *My Town: Faces of Windsor* and the autobiographical stories included in the second half of Alice Munro's *The View from Castle Rock*.

Course readings, preparations for class discussion, and work on your assignments – on preparing for the three in-class tests and for your 1,500-word take-home essay and the guided rewrite of that essay – will require vigorous and steady commitment week in and week out throughout the Summer Semester.

15% of the course grade will be assigned for Overall Effort, Participation, Improvement.

The last of the three planned in-class tests, to be scheduled during class time in late July will take the place of a standard final exam. That is to say, THERE WILL BE NO EXAM FOR THIS COURSE DURING THE OFFICIAL EXAM PERIOD IN AUGUST.

Our first class will be on THURSDAY 11 May from 10:00 to 11:20 a.m.

Methods of Evaluation and Weight:

85% distributed amongst five assignments weighted from 15% to 20% apiece, one taking the form of a 1,500-word essay (20%), a second being a guided rewrite of that essay (20%), and three others consisting of 3 in-class tests (15% + 15% + 15%) focussed on successive groups of course readings including portions of Maxine Ruvinsky's book *Practical Grammar*.

15% for Overall Effort, Participation, Improvement.

PLEASE NOTE:

(1) The essay for this section of ENGL*1200 will meet the 1,500-word requirement for various professional schools.

(2) The last of the three in-class tests for this course, to be held in late July, will take the place of a standard final exam during the official exam period in August.

Texts and/or Resources Required (e.g. Internet access, specific textbook title, lab kit, etc.)

Required texts will include Maxine Ruvinsky's *Practical Grammar: A Canadian Writer's Resource* (preferably the latest edition) and a total of six books of fiction, autobiography, non-fiction, and criticism by Alice Munro, Michael Ondaatje, Francine Prose, Thomas King, Linda Hogan, and Marty Gervais.

PLEASE NOTE: Anyone interested in doing some advance reading for the course should begin with the first half of Alice Munro's *The View from Castle Rock*.

Other information that you wish to share about the course (optional):

This course will make every effort to take into full account and to give suitable recognition to all guidelines provided by the University Learning Outcomes for Level-One English Courses in the five specific areas of "Critical and Creative Thinking," "Literacy," "Global Understanding," "Communication," and especially "Professional and Ethical Behaviour" – as well as to guidelines adopted by the School of English and Theatre Studies concerning Common Objectives, Curricular Roles, Best Practices, and Workload Norms for English Courses.

(Further to such guidelines: as a special bonus for taking this section of ENGL*1200 this Summer, registrants will be eligible to obtain matching school uniforms and one-style-fits-all-minds school hats. Please direct all inquiries to the Director of the School of English and Theatre Studies or to the Undergraduate Co-Ordinator for English or to any other very hard-working soul whom you think might enjoy a good laugh.)

List the distribution requirements that this course fulfills:

Not applicable to distribution requirements for English programs. Students planning to major or minor or pursue an area of concentration in English may take ENGL*1200 and count it as an elective lecture; however, they are required to take ENGL*1080 and ENGL*2080.