

## 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

Course Code: ENGL*2130*02	Course Title: Seminar: Literature and Social Change: “The Changing World of Alice Munro”	Date of Offering: W 19
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Course Instructor: Dr. J.R. (Tim) Struthers	Course Format: Seminar Presentations and Class Discussions
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#### Brief Course Synopsis:

ENGL\*2130 has been designated a writing- and presentation-intensive course; it provides an important opportunity for spirited study, for careful preparation of presentations and written work, and for informed conversation. It requires – more importantly, it warrants – full commitment week in and week out by every seminar member to one’s own and everyone else’s education. The topic of our seminar will be “The Changing World of Alice Munro” (or to put this a little differently, the changing world of Southwestern Ontario, the region known to writers, painters, and others as “Souwesto”) – with attention to changes in fact and in perspective as seen in literary, historical, and cultural terms. Texts to be read for the course will include Alice Munro’s first and fourth books, the story collection *Dance of the Happy Shades* and the story cycle *Who Do You Think You Are?* (both strongly autobiographical books), along with important works by a range of “majority” and “minority” writers.

#### Methods of Evaluation and Weight:

Please Note: Assignments for this section of ENGL\*2130 will include a Two-Part Out-of-Class Take-Home Final Exam due during the final exam period at the time and the room assigned by the Registrar’s Office.

- 10% > First Seminar (10 to 12 to perhaps 15 minutes, including intervals for discussion; to be accompanied by an approx. 1½-page outline of arguments and examples in point form)
- 10% > Second Seminar (10 to 12 to perhaps 15 minutes, including intervals for discussion; to be accompanied by an approx. 1½-page outline of arguments and examples in point form)
- 15% > Analytic Paper of about 1,000 words (to be revised and resubmitted if requested by instructor)
- 20% > Reading Journal in 5 parts of approx. 250 words apiece (that is, totalling approx. 1,250 words) consisting of double-spaced typed commentaries on assorted theoretical and fictional works identified by the instructor
- 10% > Third Seminar (about 15 minutes, including intervals for discussion; to be accompanied by an approx. 1½-page outline of arguments and examples in point form)
- 20% > Two-Part Out-of-Class Take-Home

Final – each part worth 10% and  
each part approx. 600 to 750 words  
15% > Overall Effort, Participation, Improvement (including work on Take-Home Final  
Exam)  
TOTAL NUMBER OF WORDS OF FORMAL PROSE REQUIRED:  
approx. 3,450 to 3,750 words (incl. approx. 1,200 to 1,500 words in total for the Two-Part  
Out-of-Class Take-Home Final Exam)

Texts and/or Resources Required (e.g. Internet access, specific textbook title, lab kit, etc.)  
Alice Munro's story collection *Dance of the Happy Shades* and her story cycle *Who Do You  
Think You Are?* (each in the mass-market Penguin edition), along with Basil Johnston's myth  
cycle *Ojibway Heritage* (McClelland & Stewart), James Reaney's story collection *The Box  
Social and Other Stories* (The Porcupine's Quill), Thomas King's Massey Lectures *The Truth  
about Stories* (Anansi), and Terry Griggs's story collection *Quickening* (Biblioasis). And as  
well, and very importantly, the first five chapters of Robert Thacker's standard biography  
*Alice Munro: Writing Her Lives* (updated ed., Emblem-McClelland & Stewart, 2011).

Other information that you wish to share about the course (optional):  
Please Note: This section of ENGL\*2130 WILL FULFILL the "Distribution  
Requirement" in "Canadian Literature" for English Programs

Students who wish to do some advance (and indeed advanced) reading before our first class  
meeting are encouraged to treat themselves to as many of the first five chapters of Robert  
Thacker's standard biography, *Alice Munro: Writing Her Lives* (updated ed., 2011) as you  
have the opportunity to read leisurely, making sure to note particular matters of special  
interest to you in each of those five chapters for the purpose of the course's Reading Journal  
assignment.