

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*1200	Course Title: Reading the Contemporary World	Date of Offering: FALL 2016
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Course Instructor: S. D. Powell	Course Format: Lecture with discussion
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Brief Course Synopsis:

Reading the Contemporary World provides an introduction to literary studies for non-specialists, covering a range of writings in prose, poetry, and drama and the connections of those writings to recent social, cultural, and political issues. The course explores different ways to read and analyze literary texts and to consider these texts in light of the cultural and historical circumstances that shaped them. We will also study the texts as contributions to ongoing dialogues about such issues as community, nationhood, class, race, sexuality, and gender.

Course meetings will provide historical background, address key issues in contemporary literary and cultural studies, introduce literary terms and concepts, and explore strategies for reading literary texts. A central goal of the class is to give you a chance to develop your own close reading and analytic skills. You will have the opportunity to practice those skills in class discussions, during in-class writing assignments, and in short response papers, and on tests.

This course will also provide some instruction in writing, both about literature and otherwise for an academic audience. But the best way to improve your writing is not to hear or read about how to write better, but to write and write a lot. So this course will provide you with a number of opportunities to write and to receive constructive feedback on your writing. You will be able to take the writing skills that you develop in this course on with you to other academic and non-academic endeavours.

Methods of Evaluation and Weight:

Weekly in-class writing assignments (top 10 count) 20%
Response papers (500 words each) (top 3 marks) 30%
Midterm exam 20%
Final exam 30%

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

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