

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*3960.01	Course Title: Literature in History	Date of Offering: Fall 2021
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Course Instructor: Jade Ferguson	Course Format: Seminar
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Brief Course Synopsis: **Plunging “Outside of History”**: Ralph Ellison’s *Invisible Man*

Ralph Ellison’s *Invisible Man* (1952) is one of the great American novels of the twentieth century. Drawing on folklore and preaching, blues and jazz, the novel explores the tropes and traps of history and identity. Centrally concerned with sight, insight, and subjectivity, *Invisible Man* is suffused with subjective visions, hallucinations, and dreams that conflate time and space and blur the boundaries separating past, present, and future. Rejecting linear notions of history or the idea of history as a spiral, Ellison’s protagonist challenges us to see how traditional views of history inhibit our ability to understand social power and political acts of oppression and exclusion.

Methods of Evaluation and Weight:

History Quiz: 5%
Mid-Term Short Essay: 15%
Seminar Presentation and Discussion: 20%
Final Essay Sequence: 50%
Investment: 10%

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

W.E.B. Du Bois, *The Souls of Black Folk* (Oxford)
Frantz Fanon, *Black Skin, White Masks* (Grove)
Ralph Ellison, *Invisible Man* (Vintage)

This course counts towards the following distribution requirement(s) for students who registered at the University prior to the Fall of 2018:

Information about mode of delivery (synchronous/asynchronous/other details):

In-person delivery

*Students who registered at the University of Guelph after Fall 2018 must fulfill the “new” major and minor requirements. Students who registered at the University of Guelph prior to Fall 2018 must fulfill the requirements of the Calendar in effect when they first enrolled unless they have filed a Schedule of Studies Change Request to change to the 2018-2019 calendar. For more information, please consult the major and minor checklists at <https://www.uoguelph.ca/arts/sets/undergraduate/english/current-student-information>.