

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*2120*02	Course Title: Seminar: Critical Practices “Learning To Read Critically: Interpreting the Short Story, the Novella, and the Story Sequence in Diverse Critical Contexts”	Date of Offering: Fall 2019
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Course Instructor: Dr. J.R. (Tim) Struthers	Course Format: Seminar/Discussion
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Brief Course Synopsis:

ENGL*2120 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 and it requires full commitment week in and week out by every seminar member to one’s own and everyone else’s education. For each section of ENGL*2120 the choices of focus and texts and approach are made by the instructor, then redefined by each student. Our overall topic will be “Learning To Read Critically: Interpreting the Short Story, the Novella, and the Story Sequence in Diverse Theoretical Contexts.” In this pursuit, we’ll draw extensively on the discussions and the examples of different schools of theory and criticism provided in a critical edition of Irish writer James Joyce’s novella “The Dead” from his 1914 collection *Dubliners* with a view to comparing that novella to Canadian writer Alice Munro’s novellas “A Queer Streak” and “Too Much Happiness.” In addition, we’ll have the pleasure of discussing the three-part story sequence *About Love* by the influential turn-of-the-twentieth-century Russian writer Anton Chekhov, along with contemporary American writer Richard Ford’s story collection *Rock Springs*, and additional stories selected from Munro’s *The Progress of Love* and *Too Much Happiness*. In order to achieve a more intricate sense of the nature of fictional form, technique, and style and to suggest how we ourselves might write most perceptively and most powerfully, we’ll be examining creative writer Francine Prose’s book *Reading Like a Writer*. Each seminar member will be asked to prepare reading journals commenting briefly on successive chapters in Prose’s study.

Methods of Evaluation and Weights:

Please Note: Assignments for this section of ENGL*2120 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)

10% > Second Seminar (10 to 12 to perhaps 15 minutes, including intervals for discussion; to be accompanied by an approx. 1½-page outline)

15% > Analytic Paper of about 1,000 words (to be revised and resubmitted if requested by instructor)

20% > Reading Journal in 13 parts of approx. 100 words apiece (that is, totalling approx. 1,300 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)

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. 3,500 to 3,800 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.)

CHEKHOV, Anton. *About Love: 3 Stories by Anton Chekhov*. Trans. David Helwig. Illus. Seth Windsor, ON: Biblioasis, 2012.

FORD, Richard. *Rock Springs*. New York: Grove, 2009.

JOYCE, James. *The Dead*. Ed. Daniel R. Schwarz. Boston: Bedford Books / St. Martin's, 1994. Case Studies in Contemporary Criticism.

MUNRO, Alice. *The Progress of Love*. Introd. Richard Ford. Toronto: Penguin, 2006.

MUNRO, Alice. *Too Much Happiness*. Introd. Miriam Toews. Toronto: Penguin, 2012.

PROSE, Francine. *Reading Like a Writer: A Guide for People Who Love Books and for Those Who Want to Write Them*. New York: HarperCollins, 2007.

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

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

Members of this section (02) of ENGL*2120 who wish to do some advance reading before our first class meeting are encouraged to treat yourself to the opening story or two of either or both of Alice Munro's collection *The Progress of Love* and Richard Ford's collection *Rock Springs*.

*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>.