

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	Course Title: Critical Practice	Date of Offering: W24
---------------------------	------------------------------------	--------------------------

Course Instructor: Julie Cairnie	Course Format: Seminar
-------------------------------------	---------------------------

Brief Course Synopsis:

Calendar Description: This course guides students through a range of critical approaches and explores their implications for readings of a limited number of literary texts. The seminar's main areas of concentration are: (1) close reading, centering on the way a particular poem, work of fiction, or play works in its details and overall structure; (2) critical approaches and methodologies; (3) critical writing and discussion. (Choices of approaches and texts will be determined by individual instructors.) Writing- and presentation-intensive course.

Prerequisite(s): ENGL*1080

Section Description: The American theorist Gerald Graff argues that English students need to be “taught the conflicts” which define our discipline. Graff draws an analogy between the undergraduate student in English and the child in the family: both may have a sense that their teachers/parents are engaged in an argument, but they don’t understand its nature and terms. This course introduces students to those “conflicts.” It introduces students to a range of theoretical approaches and their application to one provocative and chillingly prescient text, Mary Shelley’s *Frankenstein* (1818), and a more recent novel that has been likened to Shelley's famous text, Esi Edugyan's *Washington Black* (2019)

Methods of Evaluation and Weight:

Seminar Presentation	20%
Commonplace Book	20%
Midterm Test (take home)	20%
Critical Reflections 2 @10%	20%
Final Paper (1500-1750 words)	20%

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

Edugyan, Esi, *Washington Black* (Knopf)

Shelley, Mary, *Frankenstein* (Broadview, Third Edition AND Online Theory and Criticism) – **NOTE: this is the required edition – it provides access to a range of online readings and resources**

A few readings are available on CourseLink

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

19th century

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

The course will be delivered face-to-face, but Zoom may play a role depending on weather and health. More information will be provided at the start of the semester and will be updated as necessary.

*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>.