

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: Literature and Social Change	Date of Offering: W'21
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Course Instructor: Pablo Ramirez	Course Format: Seminar
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Brief Course Synopsis:

This course explores the social and cultural work that literary texts perform. Seminars will illuminate such categories as gender, sexuality, nation, race, ethnicity, and class; particular ways in which they are written into a limited number of literary works; and some of the critical debates surrounding our interpretations of those processes. This section will focus on American films and literature from or about the 1980s. The course will focus on street dancing (b-boying, breakdancing and voguing), the AIDS crisis, Reaganomics, backlash against feminism, and the greed of Wall Street. This is a writing- and presentation-intensive course.

Methods of Evaluation and Weight:

Presentation	10%
Participation	20%
Draft of First Paper (500-750 words)	10%
First Paper (1500 words)	20%
Second Paper (1500 words)	20%
Revision of Second Paper (1600-1800 words)	20%

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

Fatal Attraction, dir. Adrian Lyne

Breakin', dir. Joel Silberg

Paris is Burning, dir. Jennie Livingston

American Psycho, Bret Easton Ellis

Bright Lights, Big City, Jay McInerney

The House of Impossible Beauties, Joseph Cassara

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

20th/21st Century

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

Synchronous. Students will be divided into two groups: one group will meet on Monday and the other group will meet on Wednesday. Each group will meet once a week for eighty minutes during one of our scheduled times (M or W 10:00AM to 11:20AM).

*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>.