

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 3870	Course Title: Topics in Literary and Cultural Studies	Date of Offering: W20
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Course Instructor: Dr. Paul Salmon	Course Format: Lecture
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Brief Course Synopsis:

One of the most potent aspects of popular culture is its ability to resist and/or comment upon cultural and political oppression. The headlines in newspapers in America, Britain and many other places in the world are dominated by stories about the rise of right wing populism, political corruption, racial and ethnic tensions, global warming, etc. Yet, even in places marked by political and social unrest, the popular arts flourish and artists provide a defiant repost to those tempted to give up hope for the future. We will not only investigate the use of certain arts (street art, film, photography, literary memoir, etc.) for political purposes but will also spotlight a select number of places (eg. Turkey, Iran, Russia, Sudan, the US) where political art is particularly vital at the present. Though the subject range of the course will be global, it goes without saying that all course works will be in English. Indeed, an additional subject of examination for us will be the ways in which the popular media in English (newspapers, magazines, documentaries, etc.) are responding (often with depth and sophistication) to political art and artists of the 21st century.

Methods of Evaluation and Weight:

Midterm – 30%
Essay Proposal – 15% (approximately 1000 words)
Course Journal – 15% (approximately 1000 words)
Final Essay – 40% (approximately 3000 words)

Texts and/or Resources Required (e.g. Internet access, specific textbook title, lab kit, etc.)
Course readings and av materials will be accessed via the web.

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

Other information about the course (optional):

*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>.