

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*3940*02	Course Title: Seminar: Form, Genre & Literary Value Autobiography, Ficticity, Allegory	Date of Offering: Fall 2019
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Course Instructor: Dr. J.R. (Tim) Struthers	Course Format: Seminar Presentations and Class Discussions
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Brief Course Synopsis:

ENGL*3940 has been designated a writing- and presentation-intensive course, and for each section of this core English seminar the choices of focus and texts and approach are made by the particular instructor. In my view, such a course provides a notable opportunity for seminar members and their instructor to grow both as individuals and as a collectivity, to intensify and to broaden our perspectives. The particular style of this course and the particular nature of its topic offer a chance not only to develop but also to alter our understanding of traditionally distinct, now often merging art forms, of their values to ourselves and to others. As one very important facet of this objective, members of this seminar should consider themselves not simply invited but encouraged to reflect on and to explore the potential that the three different elements “Autobiography; Ficticity; Allegory” comprising the topic of this seminar contain for enhancing our thinking and writing in ways that give more scope to the individual imagination.

This class will seek to encourage both an appreciation for and an enjoyment of the genres of the short story, the novella, and the story sequence as practiced by contemporary Canadian / American / world writer Clark Blaise (1940-) and two important precursors, Canadian / European / world writer Mavis Gallant (1922-2014) and Irish/world writer James Joyce (1882-1941), in the context of theoretical studies of autobiography, facticity, and allegory. Alternatively, we could say that what we will be exploring is what it means to read a work of fiction autobiographically, fictively, and allegorically. Required theoretical reading for the course will include: Linda Anderson’s *Autobiography* (2nd ed.), Matthew Garrett’s *The Cambridge Companion to Narrative Theory*, and Jeremy Tambling’s *Allegory*.

Methods of Evaluation and Weight:

Please Note: Assignments for this section of ENGL*3940 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 (15 minutes, including intervals for discussion; to be accompanied by an approx. 1½-page outline)

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

10%> Reading Journal in 10 parts of approx. 100 words apiece (that is, totaling approx. 1,000 words) consisting of double-spaced typed commentaries on assorted theoretical works identified by the instructor

- 30% > 2,500-word (creative / critical / research) special project
10% > Third Seminar (15 to maybe 20 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 600 to 750 words
10% > Overall Effort, Participation, Improvement (including work on Take-Home Final Exam)

TOTAL NUMBER OF WORDS OF FORMAL PROSE REQUIRED:
approx. 5,000 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.)

- ANDERSON, Linda. *Autobiography*. 2nd ed. Abingdon, Eng.: Routledge, 2011. The New Critical Idiom.
BLAISE, Clark. *Southern Stories*. Erin, ON: The Porcupine's Quill, 2000. Vol. 1 of *The Selected Stories of Clark Blaise*.
BLAISE, Clark. *Pittsburgh Stories*. Erin, ON: The Porcupine's Quill, 2001. Vol. 2 of *The Selected Stories of Clark Blaise*.
BLAISE, Clark. *Montreal Stories*. Erin, ON: The Porcupine's Quill, 2003. Vol. 3 of *The Selected Stories of Clark Blaise*.
GALLANT, Mavis. *Montreal Stories*. Toronto: McClelland & Stewart, 2004.
GARRETT, Matthew, ed. *The Cambridge Companion to Narrative Theory*. Cambridge, Eng.: Cambridge UP, 2018.
JOYCE, James. *Dubliners: Authoritative Text, Contexts, Criticism*. Ed. Margot Norris. New York: W.W. Norton, 2006. A Norton Critical Edition.
TAMBLING, Jeremy. *Allegory*. Abingdon, Eng.: Routledge, 2010. The New Critical Idiom.

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 to share about the course (optional):