

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*1080-01	Course Title: Reading the Past	Date of Offering: F'20
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Course Instructor: Michelle Elleray	Course Format: Lecture (2 hours) and seminar (1 hour)
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Brief Course Synopsis:

This course is focused on the disciplinary skill of close reading and is intended for students planning to specialize in the study of English Literature or Creative Writing. Through a series of case studies, the course introduces students to a range of historical and national writings in various genres (for example, prose, poetry, film), and to some of the key terms and concepts in contemporary literary studies. Lectures and discussions address selected works from the Middle Ages onwards, the periods in which these works were produced, and some of the ways in which these texts have been or could be interpreted. This iteration of the course will focus on:

- Representations of the environment
- The personal and the political
- Memories and memorials of the past in the present
- Imagined futures

The Undergraduate Calendar states that for a 0.5 credit course you should be doing 10-12 hours of work per week (including classes, reading, studying and assignments).

Methods of Evaluation and Weight:

- Group project: 5%
- Close reading (350-500 words): 15%
- Midterm take home exam: 20%
- Creative exercise: 10%
- Essay (25%), consisting of:
 - Pre-writing (100-250 words): 5%
 - Essay (900-1200 words): 20%
- Final take home exam: 25%

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

You will need to buy, borrow, or be able to access the following books:

- H. G. Wells, *The Time Machine* [for those who prefer a hard copy with page numbers, the University and Student Co-op Bookstores have ordered the Oxford University Press edition of this book, but a free online edition (without page numbers or notes) is also available]
- Toni Morrison, *Beloved*
- Shyam Selvadurai, *Funny Boy* [this is the Gryphons Read text for 2020: <https://gryphlife.uoguelph.ca/organization/gryphonsread>]
- Cherie Dimaline, *The Marrow Thieves*

The library will make ebooks of the novels above available if they are able to acquire a license to do so, but that is not always possible with trade books. The rest of the texts we will read are available online for free.

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

N/A

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

We will have 3 hours of instructional and discussion time per week. 2 hours will be asynchronous lectures (you will work through a posted sequence of material--such as videos, exercises and questions--in your own time prior to the online seminar), and 1 hour will be synchronous (an online Friday seminar class of 20-25 students, in which we talk about the readings for that week and develop skills required for assignments). We will hold class meetings via Zoom within CourseLink (the Learning Management System at the University of Guelph)—this means you will need to sign up for a Zoom account (free at <https://zoom.us>) **using your University of Guelph email address**.

*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>.