

## 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 2120-01	Course Title: Critical Practices	Date of Offering: F'20
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Course Instructor: S. Singer	Course Format: virtual
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**Brief Course Synopsis:** This course offers an overview of the practice of literary criticism through an introduction to literary theory. Students examine issues that develop from reading, interpretation, and evaluation of primary fictional and theoretical texts. Critical responses engage the assumptions and methodological implications of theoretically informed approaches (for example, New Criticism, Marxist, or Lacanian strategies) to literary criticism. The course design includes applications of literary theory to *Hamlet* and *Frankenstein*, and to an adaptation of these texts by Ian McEwan in his AI novel, *Machines Like Me* (2019).

**Methods of Evaluation and Weight:**  
Discussion Board Postings (225 words each—best 2 of 3) 10%  
Theoretical Critique (1250 words) 15%  
Group Seminar Presentation 20%  
Essay: 5% paragraph (350 words) and 20% essay (2000 words)  
Tests (15% each) 30%

**Texts and/or Resources Required** (e.g. Internet access, specific textbook title, lab kit, etc.)  
Ian McEwan, *Machines Like Me*  
Anne H. Stevens, *Literary Theory and Criticism: An Introduction*

**Required:** Digitally accessed Shakespeare's *Hamlet* and Mary Shelley's *Frankenstein*

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

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

\*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>.