

## 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: Seminar: Critical Practices Topic for Sec. 01: “Learning To Read Critically: Interpreting the Short Story, the Novella, and the Story Sequence in Diverse Critical Contexts”	Date of Offering: W22
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Course Instructor: Dr. J.R. (Tim) Struthers	Course Format: Seminar
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#### Brief Course Synopsis:

For each section of ENGL\*2120 the choices of focus and texts and approach are made by the instructor, then redefined by each student. Our overall topic will be “Learning To Read Critically: Interpreting the Short Story, the Novella, and the Story Sequence in Diverse Theoretical Contexts.” In this pursuit, we’ll draw extensively on the discussions and the examples of different schools of theory and criticism provided in a critical edition of Irish writer James Joyce’s novella “The Dead” from his 1914 collection *Dubliners* with a view to comparing that novella to Canadian writer Alice Munro’s novella “A Queer Streak” from her collection *The Progress of Love*. In addition, we’ll have the pleasure of discussing contemporary American writer Richard Ford’s story collection *Rock Springs* and additional stories selected from Munro’s *The Progress of Love*. In order to achieve a more intricate sense of the nature of fictional form, technique, and style and to suggest how we ourselves might write most perceptively and most powerfully, we’ll be examining creative writer Francine Prose’s book *Reading Like a Writer*. Each seminar member will be asked to prepare reading journals commenting briefly on successive chapters in Prose’s study.

#### Methods of Evaluation and Weights:

**Please Note: Assignments for this section of ENGL\*2120\*01 will include a Two-Part Out-of-Class Take-Home Final Exam due via e-mail to the instructor by the exam time assigned by the Registrar’s Office during the Winter 2022 final exam period.**

10% > First Seminar Outline (1½ to 2½ pages)

10% > Second Seminar Outline (1½ to 2½ pages)

- 20% > Analytic Paper of about 1,000 words (to be revised and resubmitted if requested by instructor)
- 20%> Reading Journal in 13 parts of approx. 100 words apiece (that is, totalling approx. 1,300 words) consisting of double-spaced typed commentaries on assorted theoretical and fictional works identified by the instructor
- 10% > Third Seminar Outline (1½ to 2½ pages)
- 20% > Two-Part Out-of-Class Take-Home Final Exam – each part worth 10% and each part approx. 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. 3,500 to 3,800 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.)

**IMPORTANT NOTE:** For reading beginning the first week of classes for assignments starting the second week of classes, you will need Alice Munro's story collection *The Progress of Love* and Richard Ford's story collection *Rock Springs* and Francine Prose's theoretical text *Reading Like a Writer*.

**ALSO NOTE:** I STRONGLY DISCOURAGE ORDERING BOOKS BY MAIL FROM OFF-CAMPUS STORES OR ANY NOT IN YOUR NEIGHBOURHOOD SINCE AT THIS TIME YOU CAN EXPECT SIGNIFICANT DELAYS BEYOND STATED DATES FOR DELIVERY FROM DISTANT SOURCES ESPECIALLY IF ORDERING FROM THE U.S. (IN THE FALL OF 2020 – AS I WRITE, I HAVE YET TO HEAR POSSIBLE HORROR STORIES FROM THE FALL OF 2021 -- SOME STUDENTS RECEIVED TEXTS AS HALLOWEEN PRESENTS!)

FORD, Richard. *Rock Springs*. New York: Grove, 2009.

JOYCE, James. *The Dead*. Ed. Daniel R. Schwarz. Boston: Bedford Books / St. Martin's, 1994. Case Studies in Contemporary Criticism.

MUNRO, Alice. *The Progress of Love*. Introd. Richard Ford. Toronto: Penguin, 2006.

PROSE, Francine. *Reading Like a Writer: A Guide for People Who Love Books and for Those Who Want to Write Them*. New York: HarperCollins, 2007.

RUVINSKY, Maxine. *Practical Grammar: A Canadian Writer's Resource*. 3rd ed. Toronto: Oxford UP, 2014.

This course counts towards the following distribution requirement(s) for students who registered at the University prior to the Fall of 2018: NOT APPLICABLE.

Other information that you wish share about the course (optional):

Members of ENGL\*2120\*01 who wish to do some advance reading before the start of the semester are encouraged to treat themselves to the opening story or two of either or both of

Alice Munro's collection *The Progress of Love* and Richard Ford's collection *Rock Springs*.

Information about mode of delivery TBA

\*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>.