

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**

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| Course Code:<br><b>ENGL2130</b> | Course Title:<br><b>Literature and Social Change</b> | Date of Offering: F20 |
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| Course Instructor:<br><b>Paul Barrett</b> | Course Format:<br><b>Seminar</b> |
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Brief Course Synopsis:

**Literature in Times of Crisis**

This course considers literature in times of social crisis with particular attention to pandemics, dystopia, and disease. How have writers responded to pandemics, social upheaval, times of disorder, and crisis? How do ideas of place, nation, environment, and society all shift under the conditions of crisis? Why are we – even before the current pandemic – so interested in moments of social breakdown and disorder? We will consider novels, short stories, movies, podcasts and other forms of narrative to think about how depictions of crisis and social transformation help us understand our contemporary world.

The lectures for this course are asynchronous and can be viewed at a time convenient to the student. There will be regular class hours held via Zoom that students can join for questions or further discussion. Students will be expected to respond to readings regularly to a discussion forum via a class discussion forum. This class will also include writing instruction and numerous opportunities to write, edit, and revise as students develop their writing and argumentation skills.

Methods of Evaluation and Weight:

Short response paper (10%)

Response paper revision (10%)

Editing assignment (10%)

Take home midterm (20%)

Discussion board participation & questions (20%)

Final Assignment (30%)

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

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

Other information about the course (optional):

The lectures for this course are asynchronous and can be viewed at a time convenient to the student. There will be regular class hours held via Zoom that students can join for questions or further discussion.

\*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>.