

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: ENGL3940*02	Course Title: Seminar: Form, Genre, and Literary Value Topic for Sec. 02: Autobiography and Ficticity and Allegory	Date of Offering: F'20
-----------------------------	---	------------------------

Course Instructor: Dr. J.R. (Tim) Struthers	Course Format: Seminar
--	---------------------------

Brief Course Synopsis:

ENGL*3940 has been designated a writing- and presentation-intensive course; it provides an important opportunity for spirited study, for careful preparation of seminar outlines and careful writing of a 2,500-word critical / creative / personal research project, and for informed conversation. Very importantly, it requires full commitment week in and week out by every seminar member to one's own and everyone else's education. For each section of ENGL*3940 the choices of focus and texts and approach are made by the instructor; our overall topic will be "Autobiography and Ficticity and Allegory" – subjects judiciously treated in the three theoretical studies by Linda Anderson and David Lodge and Jeremy Tambling listed amongst the required readings for this course. Other readings will include selections from Irish writer James Joyce's classic story collection *Dubliners*, the five-story "Linnet Muir" sequence from Mavis Gallant's *Montreal Stories*, selections from Clark Blaise's *Montreal Stories*, and portions of the last three books by Canadian Nobel Prize winning writer Alice Munro: her family history/herstory, *The View from Castle Rock*, her second-last story collection, *Too Much Happiness*, and her final story collection, *Dear Life*. The variations in critical / creative / personal styles meant to be fostered in this section of the course, along with its chosen topic, offer a chance to develop and possibly radically alter our understanding and our employment of traditionally distinct, now often merging art forms. As one very important facet of this objective, members of this seminar should consider themselves encouraged to reflect on and to explore the potential that the three different elements "Autobiography and Ficticity and Allegory" possess for enhancing our thinking and writing in ways that give more scope to the individual imagination.

Methods of Evaluation and Weight:

Please Note: Assignments for this section (02) of ENGL*3940 will include a Two-Part Out-of-Class Take-Home Final Exam due during the final exam period at the time assigned by the Registrar's Office.

10% > First Seminar (consisting of a 1½- to 2-page typed outline, with questions for rest of class inserted at intervals, for instructor to distribute electronically to entire class); if can be presented via Zoom, 10 to 12 to 15 minutes, including intervals for discussion)

10% > Second Seminar (consisting of a 1½- to 2-page typed outline, with questions for rest of class inserted at intervals, for instructor to distribute electronically to entire class); if can be presented via Zoom, 10 to 12 to 15 minutes, including intervals for discussion)

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

30% > 2,500-word creative / critical / personal research project

10% > Third Seminar (consisting of a 1½- to 2-page typed outline, with questions for rest of class inserted at intervals, for instructor to distribute electronically to entire class); if can be presented via Zoom, 10 to 12 to 15 minutes, including intervals for discussion)

20% > Two-Part Out-of-Class Take-Home Final – each part worth 10% and each part approx. 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*. Routledge. 1st ed. or 2nd ed.
 Blaise, Clark. *Montreal Stories*. The Porcupine's Quill.
 Gallant, Mavis. *Montreal Stories*. McClelland & Stewart.
 Joyce, James. *Dubliners*. Penguin Canada.
 Lodge, David. *The Art of Fiction*. Penguin Canada.
 Munro, Alice. *The View from Castle Rock*. 2006. Penguin Canada.
 ---. *Too Much Happiness*. 2009. Penguin Canada.
 ---. *Dear Life*. 2012. Penguin Canada.
 Tambling, Jeremy. *Allegory*. Routledge.

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):

Likely with some synchronous meetings during requested class times, if Zoom sessions can be arranged and managed. In such a case, to enable more personal discussions, possibly dividing the seminar into smaller groups according to which of the three theoretical books that we'll be reading – Linda Anderson's *Autobiography* or David Lodge's *The Art of Fiction* or Jeremy Tambling's *Allegory* – each class member considers of greatest interest personally. Also with opportunities at certain stages to visit individually with the instructor by telephone for encouragement and advice about carrying out and improving your work.

*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>.