

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 3940	Course Title: Form, Genre & Literary Value	Date of Offering: W22
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Course Instructor: Dr. Paul Salmon	Course Format: Seminar
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Brief Course Synopsis:

Practitioners of pop culture journalism have sometimes had to defend themselves from elitist critics who argue that their writing constitutes little more than infotainment, involving a dumbing down of serious cultural issues for the masses. But, at its best, pop culture journalism provides astute commentary and analysis of some of the most pressing issues of our day. Indeed, in recent decades, pop culture journalism has implicitly absorbed the dynamics of intersectionality, and there are pop culture writers expanding the parameters of this kind of journalism in arresting ways. This semester our course will focus on some examples of pop culture journalism that situate entertainment within the wider topics of race and racism, cultural appropriation, gender and class issues, etc.

Methods of Evaluation and Weight:

Seminar presentation – 20%
Essay Proposal – 20% (approximately 1000 words)
Seminar Journal- 20% (approximately 1000 words)
Final Essay – 40% (approximately 3000 words)

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

Course readings and av resources will be accessed online.

This course counts towards the following distribution requirement(s) for students who registered at the University prior to the Fall of 2018:
20th/21st Century

Other information about the course (optional):

Class discussion will be a crucial element of ENGL 3940 this semester. Therefore your presence in class and your commitment to keeping up with class reading and viewing will be integral to the success of the course.

*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>.