

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 2130	Course Title: Literature and Social Change	Date of Offering: W23
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Course Instructor: Paul W. Salmon	Course Format: Seminar
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Brief Course Synopsis:

In recent decades, pop culture journalism has become a seemingly inexhaustible source of information and opinion on every aspect of popular culture. Anyone with interests in the arts can enjoy almost instant access from their laptop to commentary on their favorite works of film, television, theatre, fiction, music, etc. While some pop culture journalism is admittedly infotainment that does little to challenge us, pop culture writing at its best can help to elucidate the fundamental importance of the arts in our era of uncertainty and social upheaval. This semester we will particularly focus on a number of examples of pop culture journalism that make sophisticated, if problematic, use of the first person voice. Commentary on a range of popular arts will be explored, including music, cinema and television.

Methods of Evaluation and Weight:

Seminar presentation – 20%
Midterm – 20%
Article Proposal – 10% (approximately 1000 words).
Seminar Journal – 20 %
Article - 30 % (approximately 3000 words).

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

Course Readings will be accessible via the Web. No textbook purchases will be required.

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

ENGL 2130 is a core seminar for the English Major.

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

This course is scheduled as a face to face on campus offering.

*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>.