

# COURSE SYLLABUS



COURSE TITLE: ENGL-163-Intro to Literary Traditions

CLASS SECTION: 001

TERM: 2025W

COURSE CREDITS: 3

DELIVERY METHOD(S): Face-to-face,

Monday, 8:30 am – 9:50 am, Wilna Thomas, 201

Thursday, 8:30 am – 9:50 am, Wilna Thomas, 101

Camosun College respectfully acknowledges that our campuses are situated on the territories of the Ləkʷəŋən (Songhees and Kosapsum) and WSÁNEĆ peoples. We honour their knowledge and welcome to all students who seek education here.

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## INSTRUCTOR DETAILS

NAME: Max Olesen

EMAIL: olesenm@camosun.ca

OFFICE: Paul Building, Room 328

HOURS: Monday and Thursday, 10:00 – 11:00 am; Wednesday and Friday, 2:30 – 3:30 pm; Online office are held Monday and Thursday 11:00 am – 12:00 pm. Please contact me for details about how to access them.

*As your course instructor, I endeavour to provide an inclusive learning environment. However, if you experience barriers to learning in this course, do not hesitate to discuss them with me. Camosun College is committed to identifying and removing institutional and social barriers that prevent access and impede success.*

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## CALENDAR DESCRIPTION

This course examines literary form, genre, historical context, and the interactions among these areas of study through close study of texts, including both primary and secondary sources, using case studies. Critical reading, thinking, and writing are essential components.

PREREQUISITE(S):

One of:

B in English 12

C+ in Camosun Alternative

C in ENGL 151

CO-REQUISITE(S):

EQUIVALENCIES:

#### COURSE LEARNING OUTCOMES / OBJECTIVES

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Upon successful completion of this course a student will be able to:

##### Reading and Writing:

Explain how literary traditions change with time and affect creation of new literary texts;

Identify different literary forms, genres, and historical periods;

Describe the complex variety of literary study and literature's relationship to formal, cultural, social, political and historical contexts;

Identify various approaches to literary texts and draw connections between different texts;

Debate canon formation and challenges to the canon;

Use critical, literary terminology;

Use a critical approach with appropriate language and terminology;

Argue for various interpretations;

Evaluate specific literary techniques;

Employ close reading and argumentation skills;

Use a scholarly essay form, including: a thesis; topic sentences; argument and/or analysis; use of quotations; unified, coherent paragraphs and transitions; rhetorical strategies appropriate for purpose and audience; effective introductions and conclusions;

Produce writing under exam or exam-like conditions;

Write clear, concise, effective prose, and know how to identify as well as correct common mechanical and grammatical errors.

Evaluate secondary sources and integrate where applicable;

Write persuasive arguments in scholarly, academic essay format, using MLA documentation.

##### Information Literacy Skills:

Determine the nature and extent of the information needed.

Know and use what information resources are available, in different formats.

Use print and electronic resources effectively and efficiently.

Evaluate sources for authority, relevance, reliability, currency and other criteria.

Incorporate and integrate research through correct use of summary, paraphrase and quotation.

Document sources fully and ethically, according to specified bibliographic conventions.

Discussion/Reflection:

- Discuss and analyze literature in class;
- Identify a variety of literary approaches and/or theories that can be taken towards a text;
- Articulate one's position in a critical debate of ideas.
- Engage respectfully with different interpretations.
- Reflect on one's own writing for continuous improvement.

REQUIRED MATERIALS & RECOMMENDED PREPARATION / INFORMATION

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- Vandermeer, Ann and Jeff Vandermeer, editors. *The Big Book of Science Fiction*, Vintage Books, 2016.
- Other readings provided as handouts.

COURSE SCHEDULE, TOPICS, AND ASSOCIATED PREPARATION / ACTIVITY / EVALUATION

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The following schedule and course components are subject to change with reasonable advance notice, as deemed appropriate by the instructor.

WEEK or DATE RANGE	ACTIVITY or TOPIC	OTHER NOTES
Week 1 - Jan. 6-12	Introduction – defining science fiction; history of genre <b><u>Theme: Space Madness!</u></b> Reading: “Hinterlands” - William Gibson ( <i>Burning Chrome</i> , pg. 64-85)	In-class Discussions, Writing Responses, and Reflections begin (continue throughout course)
Week 2 - Jan. 13-19	<b><u>Theme: Space Madness!</u></b> Reading: “The Conquest of Gola” - Leslie F. Stone ( <i>Big Book of Science Fiction</i> , pgs. 97-107)	Complete Academic Integrity Course and Information Literary Course by Sunday, Jan. 19, 11:59 pm.
Week 3 - Jan. 20-26	<b><u>Theme: Dystopias and Disasters; Utopias and Eutopias</u></b> Readings: “The Star” – H.G. Wells ( <i>Big Book of Science Fiction</i> , pgs. 1-8) “The Comet” – W.E.B. Du Bois ( <i>Big Book of Science Fiction</i> , pgs. 53-61)	Assignment #1 due by Thursday, Jan. 23

WEEK or DATE RANGE	ACTIVITY or TOPIC	OTHER NOTES
Week 4 - Jan. 27-Feb. 2	<b><u>Theme: Dystopias and Disasters; Utopias and Eutopias</u></b> Readings: "Johnny Mnemonic" - William Gibson ( <i>Burning Chrome</i> , pg. 5-26)	
Week 5 - Feb. 3-9	<b><u>Theme: Political Science and Social Science...Fiction!</u></b> Readings: "Aye, and Gomorrah" - Samuel R. Delany ( <i>Big Book of Science Fiction</i> , pgs. 527-533)  "Good News from the Vatican" - Robert Silverberg ( <i>Big Book of Science Fiction</i> , pgs. 596-601)	
Week 6 - Feb. 10-16	<b><u>Theme: Political Science and Social Science...Fiction!</u></b> Readings: "The Snowball Effect" - Katherine MacLean ( <i>Big Book of Science Fiction</i> , pgs. 221-229)  "The Astronaut" - Valentina Zhuravlyova ( <i>Big Book of Science Fiction</i> , pgs. 424-435)	Assignment #2 due by Thursday, Feb. 13
Week 7 - Feb. 17-23	Reading Break – no class, no new material	College closed for Family Day – Feb. 17
Week 8 - Feb. 24-Mar. 2	<b><u>Midterm Paragraph Exam - Monday</u></b> <b><u>Theme: Mad Science!</u></b> Readings: "The IWM 1000" - Alicia Yanez Cossio ( <i>Big Book of Science Fiction</i> , pgs. 632-635)	Midterm Paragraph Exam in class on Monday, Feb. 24
Week 9 - Mar. 3-9	<b><u>Theme: Mad Science!</u></b> Readings: "The Last Question" - Isaac Asimov ( <i>Big Book of Science Fiction</i> , pgs. 300- 308)  Readings: "Blood Music" - Greg Bear ( <i>Big Book of Science Fiction</i> , pgs. 740-754)	
Week 10 - Mar. 10-16	<b><u>Theme: Close Encounters</u></b> Readings: "Beyond Lies the Wub" - Philip K. Dick 215-220  "The Squid Chooses Its Own Ink" - Adolfo Bioy Casares ( <i>Big Book of Science Fiction</i> , pgs. 436-445)	Assignment #3 due by Thursday, March 13
Week 11 - Mar. 17-23	<b><u>Theme: Close Encounters</u></b> Readings: "The Universe of Things" - Gwyneth Jones ( <i>Big Book of Science Fiction</i> , pgs. 1016-1023)	
Week 12 - Mar. 24-30	<b><u>Theme: Close Encounters</u></b> Readings: "Story of Your Life" - Ted Chiang ( <i>Big Book of Science Fiction</i> , pgs. 1097-1125)	
Week 13 - Mar. 31-Apr.6	<b><u>Theme: Close Encounters</u></b>	

WEEK or DATE RANGE	ACTIVITY or TOPIC	OTHER NOTES
	Readings: "Story of Your Life" - Ted Chiang ( <i>Big Book of Science Fiction</i> , pgs. 1097-1125), continued	
Week 14 - Apr. 7-13	Final Project Presentations in both classes this week	Final Project due by Thursday, April 10
Exam Period - Apr. 14-25	<b><u>No Final Exam in this course.</u></b>	

Students registered with the Centre for Accessible Learning (CAL) who complete quizzes, tests, and exams with academic accommodations have booking procedures and deadlines with CAL where advanced notice is required. Deadlines can be reviewed on the [CAL exams page](https://camosun.ca/services/academic-supports/accessible-learning/academic-accommodations-exams). <https://camosun.ca/services/academic-supports/accessible-learning/academic-accommodations-exams>

## EVALUATION OF LEARNING

DESCRIPTION	WEIGHTING
In-class Discussions, Writing Responses, and Reflections (throughout course)	10%
D2L Information Literacy Course & D2L Academic Integrity Course	5%
Midterm Paragraph Exam	15%
Assignment #1 – Creative Project or Essay or Presentation (You will choose one of these three options for each assignment and can only do each option once, so throughout the course you will do a creative project, an essay, and a presentation.)	15%
Assignment #2 – Creative Project or Essay or Presentation	15%
Assignment #3 – Creative Project or Essay or Presentation	15%
Final Project	15%
Final Project Presentation	10%
	<b>TOTAL</b>
	100%

If you have a concern about a grade you have received for an evaluation, please come and see me as soon as possible. Refer to the [Grade Review and Appeals](#) policy for more information.

<https://camosun.ca/sites/default/files/2021-05/e-1.14.pdf>

**Assignment Expectations:**

- All specific instructions for assignments will be provided on their respective assignment sheets.
- Please submit assignments to their assigned D2L drop-box as required by their due dates.
- **Due dates:** While I aim to be understanding, due dates are there to help us move through class at a smooth, manageable pace. If you need an extension, you must discuss it with me in-person, via a Zoom meeting, or via a phone call to me. I do not discuss requests for extensions by email alone. If an assignment is late without a formal extension, it will lose 5% per day, including weekends, until it is submitted. Late assignments will receive a grade, but no comments.

**Academic Integrity:** To me, academic integrity isn't about hassling you or making life difficult for you as a student; it is about encouraging honesty, communication skills, problem-solving, and resilience.

- The Camosun College's policy on Academic Integrity (<https://camosun.ca/sites/default/files/2021-09/e-1.13.pdf>) defines academic integrity as "the commitment to and demonstration of honest and ethical behaviour in an academic setting. It is the performance of all academic work without cheating, plagiarizing, lying, stealing, inappropriately collaborating, falsifying information, or receiving unauthorized assistance from any other person or using any source of information not appropriately authorized or attributed" (Camosun College, 2). This is a clear definition, but seems like something that is punishing, rather than beneficial, which I believe it is.
- Increasingly, people say they do not feel prepared for the future, less able to set goals, take initiative, figure things out, and deal with setbacks. I believe that a major part of achieving your goals is by not settling for the easiest path. Plagiarizing work and fabricating research are the easy way. Regardless of the substance of any one course, part of what you are doing in college is creating work habits and learning *how* to work.
- As Camosun's policy further states, "Academic integrity is the responsibility of the entire College community" (Camosun College, 2). I take my responsibility seriously, and all suspected instances of academic misconduct will be addressed by me. If you have difficulty completing assignments, please do not engage in unethical academic behaviour. Instead, contact me for help. My main responsibility is to your academic well-being, and I aim to be understanding.

**Generative AI:** **Do not use** generative AI programs, such as ChatGPT or Gemini, in your final submitted work. Using generative AI as a tool to help you generate an idea, an outline, or early draft is permissible in our course.

- To me, the issues of generative AI are connected to why I think academic integrity is so important and why I think that, regardless of the substance of any one course, part of what you are doing in college is creating work habits and learning *how* to work. I can see a place for working with these tools in creative and ethical ways when brainstorming or creating outlines and drafts. However, for me, they must be the tool rather than the artist, so to speak.
- You are then responsible, as the author, for developing and refining the draft to incorporate your particular research sources and to make the majority of the work your

own thoughts and your own words. ChatGPT is bad at citations: it invents sources and fabricates quotes. This is not because it's malicious -- remember, it's not human -- but because the way it's programmed to work is through predictive algorithms that fill in the next piece of text based on the corpus of texts that it has digested. This corpus of texts excludes most peer-reviewed academic writing, which is behind paywalls.

- If you do use any generative AI that makes its way into your final submitted assignments, its work is not your work. As such, you must put its words in quotation marks to let me know they are not your words, and you must provide a proper citation. If you don't do this citing, it is plagiarism. The Camosun Library has produced a guide to help you in citing such tools: <https://camosun.libguides.com/ai/citation>.
- However, thinking your own thoughts and struggling slightly to produce your own work is far more interesting and far more valuable to you than outsourcing your thinking to a computer program. Developing your critical and creative skills first will lead to you more effectively and ethically using these tools when that time comes.
- Using ChatGPT or any other generative AI tool to generate your submitted assignments, including citations, is a violation of Camosun's policies about academic integrity, specifically the policy against fraud and fabrication. If I suspect this is what's happened, your work will be subject to close scrutiny and discussions between us. If substantiated, the assignment will receive 0%. It's important to note that if you are dealing with allegations of academic misconduct, you can seek support: the college Ombudsperson (<https://camosun.ca/services/ombudsperson>) helps ensure that students are treated fairly, including during investigations of academic misconduct.

### **Class Environment:**

- **This course is an inclusive, non-judgmental, and respectful space.** Even though it is easy to feel distant from one another in an online classroom, our class is a shared environment where we are all learners and collaborators; it is a space where we have fun, learn, and express ourselves. New knowledge is gained when we learn collaboratively and feel connected. Respect for each other, and the many divergent views we will encounter in this course, is a requirement for all participants. Disagree with one another, but disrespectful language and actions are not tolerated. Please practice judgment, maturity, politeness, and respect in all interactions and communications with your instructor and your fellow students. If you find that any texts or discussion comments troubling to you, please let me know, to the extent you feel safe and comfortable doing so, so that you can be well supported.
- **Participation** will be essential to creating a productive online classroom environment. Being comfortable sharing your views and learning from others can take time, but it will benefit your learning and communication skills. Be curious, record your observations, questions, and ideas as you read, reflect on what we read and discuss, post questions, and develop your critical thinking skills.

## STUDENT RESPONSIBILITY

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Enrolment at Camosun assumes that the student will become a responsible member of the College community. As such, each student will display a positive work ethic, assist in the preservation of College property, and assume responsibility for their education by researching academic requirements and policies; demonstrating courtesy and respect toward others; and respecting expectations concerning attendance, assignments, deadlines, and appointments.

## SUPPORTS AND SERVICES FOR STUDENTS

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Camosun College offers a number of services to help you succeed in and out of the classroom. For a detailed overview of the supports and services visit [camosun.ca/services](https://camosun.ca/services).

Support Service	Website
Academic Advising	<a href="https://camosun.ca/services/academic-supports/academic-advising">camosun.ca/services/academic-supports/academic-advising</a>
Accessible Learning	<a href="https://camosun.ca/services/academic-supports/accessible-learning">camosun.ca/services/academic-supports/accessible-learning</a>
Counselling	<a href="https://camosun.ca/services/health-and-wellness/counselling-centre">camosun.ca/services/health-and-wellness/counselling-centre</a>
Career Services	<a href="https://camosun.ca/services/co-operative-education-and-career-services">camosun.ca/services/co-operative-education-and-career-services</a>
Financial Aid and Awards	<a href="https://camosun.ca/registration-records/financial-aid-awards">camosun.ca/registration-records/financial-aid-awards</a>
Help Centres (Math/English/Science)	<a href="https://camosun.ca/services/academic-supports/help-centres">camosun.ca/services/academic-supports/help-centres</a>
Indigenous Student Support	<a href="https://camosun.ca/programs-courses/iecc/indigenous-student-services">camosun.ca/programs-courses/iecc/indigenous-student-services</a>
International Student Support	<a href="https://camosun.ca/international">camosun.ca/international</a>
Learning Skills	<a href="https://camosun.ca/services/academic-supports/help-centres/writing-centre-learning-skills">camosun.ca/services/academic-supports/help-centres/writing-centre-learning-skills</a>
Library	<a href="https://camosun.ca/services/library">camosun.ca/services/library</a>
Office of Student Support	<a href="https://camosun.ca/services/office-student-support">camosun.ca/services/office-student-support</a>
Ombudsperson	<a href="https://camosun.ca/services/ombudsperson">camosun.ca/services/ombudsperson</a>
Registration	<a href="https://camosun.ca/registration-records/registration">camosun.ca/registration-records/registration</a>
Technology Support	<a href="https://camosun.ca/services/its">camosun.ca/services/its</a>
Writing Centre	<a href="https://camosun.ca/services/academic-supports/help-centres/writing-centre-learning-skills">camosun.ca/services/academic-supports/help-centres/writing-centre-learning-skills</a>



If you have a mental health concern, please contact Counselling to arrange an appointment as soon as possible. Counselling sessions are available at both campuses during business hours. If you need urgent support after-hours, please contact the Vancouver Island Crisis Line at 1-888-494-3888 or call 911.

## COLLEGE-WIDE POLICIES, PROCEDURES, REQUIREMENTS, AND STANDARDS

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### Academic Integrity

Students are expected to comply with all College policy regarding academic integrity; which is about honest and ethical behaviour in your education journey. The following guide is designed to help you understand your responsibilities: <https://camosun.libguides.com/academicintegrity/welcome>

Please visit <https://camosun.ca/sites/default/files/2021-05/e-1.13.pdf> for Camosun's Academic Integrity policy and details for addressing and resolving matters of academic misconduct.

### Academic Accommodations for Students with Disabilities

Camosun College is committed to achieving full accessibility for persons with disabilities. Part of this commitment includes arranging appropriate academic accommodations for students with disabilities to ensure they have an equitable opportunity to participate in all of their academic activities. If you are a student with a documented disability and think you may need accommodations, you are strongly encouraged to contact the Centre for Accessible Learning (CAL) and register as early as possible. Please visit the CAL website for more information about the process of registering with CAL, including important deadlines:

<https://camosun.ca/cal>

### Academic Progress

Please visit <https://camosun.ca/sites/default/files/2023-02/e-1.1.pdf> for further details on how Camosun College monitors students' academic progress and what steps can be taken if a student is at risk of not meeting the College's academic progress standards.

### Course Withdrawals Policy

Please visit <https://camosun.ca/sites/default/files/2021-05/e-2.2.pdf> for further details about course withdrawals. For deadline for fees, course drop dates, and tuition refund, please visit <https://camosun.ca/registration-records/tuition-fees#deadlines>.

### Grading Policy

Please visit <https://camosun.ca/sites/default/files/2021-05/e-1.5.pdf> for further details about grading.

### Grade Review and Appeals

Please visit <https://camosun.ca/sites/default/files/2021-05/e-1.14.pdf> for policy relating to requests for review and appeal of grades.

### Medical / Compassionate Withdrawals

Students who are incapacitated and unable to complete or succeed in their studies by virtue of serious and demonstrated exceptional circumstances may be eligible for a medical/compassionate withdrawal (see [Medical/Compassionate Withdrawals policy](#)). Please visit <https://camosun.ca/services/forms#medical> to learn more about the process involved in a medical/compassionate withdrawal.

### Sexual Violence

Camosun is committed to creating a campus culture of safety, respect, and consent. Camosun's Office of Student Support is responsible for offering support to students impacted by sexual violence. Regardless of when or where the sexual violence occurred, students can access support at Camosun. The Office of Student Support will make sure students have a safe and private place to talk and will help them understand what supports are available and their options for next steps. The Office of Student Support respects a student's right to choose what is right for them. For more information see Camosun's Sexualized Violence Policy: <https://camosun.ca/sites/default/files/2021-05/e-2.9.pdf> and [camosun.ca/services/sexual-violence-support-and-education](https://camosun.ca/services/sexual-violence-support-and-education).

To contact the Office of Student Support: [oss@camosun.ca](mailto:oss@camosun.ca) or by phone: 250-370-3046 or 250-370-3841

### Student Misconduct (Non-Academic)

Camosun College is committed to building the academic competency of all students, seeks to empower students to become agents of their own learning, and promotes academic belonging for everyone. Camosun also expects that all students to conduct themselves in a manner that contributes to a positive, supportive, and safe learning environment. Please review Camosun College's Student Misconduct Policy at <https://camosun.ca/sites/default/files/2021-05/e-2.5.pdf> to understand the College's expectations of academic integrity and student behavioural conduct.

### Looking for other policies?

The full suite of College policies and directives can be found here: <https://camosun.ca/about/camosun-college-policies-and-directives>

**Changes to this Syllabus:** Every effort has been made to ensure that information in this syllabus is accurate at the time of publication. The College reserves the right to change courses if it becomes necessary so that course content remains relevant. In such cases, the instructor will give the students clear and timely notice of the changes.

