

COURSE SYLLABUS



COURSE TITLE: ENGL-163: Intro to Literary Traditions

CLASS SECTION: B01

TERM: Winter 2024

COURSE CREDITS: 3

DELIVERY METHOD(S): Blended

Camosun College campuses are located on the traditional territories of the Lək̓ʷəŋən and W̱SÁNEĆ peoples. We acknowledge their welcome and graciousness to the students who seek knowledge here.

Learn more about Camosun's [Territorial Acknowledgement](#).

INSTRUCTOR DETAILS

NAME: Kelly Pitman

EMAIL: pitman@camosun.ca

OFFICE: Paul 218

HOURS: Wednesdays from 2-4 PM

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.

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):

Not Applicable

EXCLUSION(S):

Not Applicable

COURSE LEARNING OUTCOMES / OBJECTIVES

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

1. 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.

2. 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.

3. 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

- Students must purchase a copy of the assigned novel: *The Sympathizer* by Viet Thanh Nguyen.
- Other assigned readings are available via the course D2L site. Students are expected to bring print or electronic copies of readings to class to facilitate analysis.

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

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	Introduction	
Week 2	WWI Poetry Analysis	
Week 3	In-class Paragraph	
Week 4	WWII Poetry Analysis Online Discussion Assignment	
Week 5	Film Analysis Online Discussion Assignment	
Week 6	Film Analysis Film Analysis Essay Due	
Week 7	Reading Week	
Week 8	Research Skills	
Week 9	Vietnam War Poetry Analysis Online Discussion Assignment	
Week 10	Short Story Analysis Online Discussion Assignment	
Week 11	Protest Poetry Analysis	
Week 12	Novel Analysis Online Discussion Assignment	
Week 13	Novel Analysis Research Essay Due	
Week 14	Novel Analysis Final Exam Preparation	

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](http://camosun.ca/services/accessible-learning/exams.html). <http://camosun.ca/services/accessible-learning/exams.html>

EVALUATION OF LEARNING

DESCRIPTION	WEIGHTING
Poetry Analysis Paragraph (In-class)	10%
Poetry Analysis Paragraph	10%
Film Analysis Essay	15%
Research Essay	25%
Online Discussions	15%
Final Exam	25%
	TOTAL
	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](http://camosun.ca/about/policies/education-academic/e-1-programming-and-instruction/e-1.14.pdf) policy for more information.
<http://camosun.ca/about/policies/education-academic/e-1-programming-and-instruction/e-1.14.pdf>

COURSE GUIDELINES & EXPECTATIONS

Get Organized

College requires students to be self-motivated and to organize their time well. I cannot stress enough how crucial this is to your survival not just in this course, but in college, maybe in life itself. I've been teaching for three decades, and I believe organization to be *the single greatest contributor to student success*. Many smart, capable, interesting people fail courses simply because they did not commit early enough to working hard and staying on task.

Any credit course will require 5 to 8 hours a week of concentrated effort, and since life is busy and no one is prodding you, it's easy to put these off. If you're a procrastinator, get over it. Start every assignment at least two weeks before it is due. Ask yourself each week if you have put in the required hours. When you're in between assignments or in a slower period in the class, ask yourself how you can get ahead. This will make your life easier when you have assignments due in the same week in different courses. It will also usually result in higher grades because writing gets better when you can leave it and return to it. For example, I have revised this document many times. Good thing I started early.

Let me put it this way. If you don't do any work in one week, you will need to add that work to another week or risk getting a lower grade than you might have. Those are the choices. I recommend staying **at least one week ahead of schedule**. Then if something happens to get in your way in any given week, you'll be alright.

Blended Means Both

This is a blended class, not an on-line class. That means that **the in-person meetings and the on-line discussions are equally important**. Our approach will be layered. In class, we'll begin forming interpretations. In

online discussions, you will build on those interpretations. In assignments, you will continue to build on those interpretations. If you miss classes or miss online discussions, your assignments will suffer.

Figure Out D2L

The first task in the course is to familiarize yourself with the information on the course D2L site. Most of what you need for succeeding in the course is here, and reading the information on the site is your responsibility. For help with D2L, check out the guides and tutorials here: [Online Learning](#) and [D2L Tutorials](#).

It is crucial that you **check D2L daily** for updates and announcements, which I will publish on the front page, in the "News" section. Staying up to date is your responsibility. I also recommend **checking the [The Question Hub](#) discussion frequently** for helpful tidbits and to ask questions. I will check it every day.

If I have important information for individuals or the whole class, I may communicate it via D2L email. You should check every day, just in case. If you prefer to use another email address, you can link it to your D2L email so that D2L messages are automatically forwarded to another email address. Here's a guide to doing that: [Setting Email Forwarding](#).

Know the Standards

You will find expectations for discussion assignments here: [Expectations: Discussions](#). **Please read these before week 3 of the course.** You will find expectations for written assignments here: [Expectations: Written Assignments](#). Please read these, well, long before you start your assignments. Each assignment also has a grading rubric attached, giving you more detailed information about requirements.

One of your important responsibilities as a student is to be aware of the ethical standards for academic endeavour and to avoid any unethical behaviour. Many instances of academic dishonesty are the result of ignorance rather than deviousness, but because you are supposed to know the rules, not knowing what constitutes plagiarism is no excuse. Read the [Academic Honesty Guidelines](#) and please let me know if you have any questions. In particular, you should be aware that **using generative artificial intelligence software like Chat GPT or Translation programs to complete or revise your work violates the academic integrity policy** and will have consequences as outlined in college policy.

In English, we use MLA (Modern Language Association) format, which dictates not just how you cite sources but also how all assignments are formatted. Use this [Sample MLA paper](#) as a guide, paying particular attention to rules about spacing, margins, page numbers/headers, and how to set up a first page.

Come to Class

In our weekly face-to-face sessions, I will provide information and answer questions, but mostly we will work collaboratively to analyze writers' techniques. Class discussions offer us a chance to engage in real time and are meant to enhance your learning. I will try to make them interesting, interactive, and relevant. In particular, you will find the discussion assignments easier if you attend class, since the classroom work will often be on the same topic as the D2L discussions.

Participate in On-Line Discussions

You can tell that the discussions are important because they are worth 15% of your final grade in the course. In the discussions, we practice communicating and responding to ideas. The discussions therefore enhance the

critical thinking skills that are the foundation for strong arguments. Writing and critical thinking are virtually synonymous, and neither can be learned just by hearing someone talk about it. It's more like learning to play the piano--you must listen, and you must practice. That's what the discussion groups are for. In addition, however many great ideas we might have on our own, we all benefit from hearing what other people think. That is one of the reasons that universities exist: to create the possibility of collaboration and exchange and therefore to increase the sum total of the knowledge in the world.

Therefore, stay on top of discussions. On a week when we have a graded discussion, check in **every day** to see what's new. Comment as frequently as you can (see rubric for guidelines), but don't overwhelm people with whole essays to read. And remember that these are discussions, so you should attend carefully to what others are saying.

Do the Readings

First, learning to read with attention is key to succeeding in post-secondary education and in many other environments. Second, we cannot have productive discussions if you don't do your readings **before class**. Both in-class and online discussions will be based on assigned readings, and if you haven't done them, you won't benefit much from the discussions and you'll be letting down your colleagues. I try not to overwhelm you with written material because I know how much time you need to spend on your writing assignments, but after all, it's a literature class. Doing the reading is fundamental.

Respect Deadlines

Written assignments are scheduled so that you can respond to feedback and improve your work before handing in the next assignment. Therefore, due dates matter to you. In addition, marking is a significant part of my workload, and I must organize my time around it. Therefore, due dates matter to me. However, instead of setting out penalties for lateness, I prefer that we work together on the basis of mutual respect. I respect your desire to do well, which sometimes means giving you an extra day or two to finish an assignment. I ask that you respect that I am a person, not a machine, and receiving twenty late essays is going to burden me with a heavy workload. **If you cannot hand in an assignment on time, please talk to me about it** so that we can set up an appropriate deadline. Treat it like work--you wouldn't just not show up to a shift without telling anyone, would you? I will grade late papers but I may not get to them quickly, and I may not make comments on them, depending upon the situation.

Discussions, on the other hand, cannot be completed after the due date as they are integral to your progression in the course and to your participation in the class community. These assignments are relatively short, and designed to help you learn. A discussion topic will normally be open for one week, giving you a little flexibility.

In-class assignments and the final exam are in person and must be done on the dates on which they are scheduled unless students have evidence of a legitimate reason that they cannot write on that day. I don't schedule the final exam--the college does that--and normally, the final exam schedule comes out in February. **Don't make travel plans until you know when your exams are because a trip is not a legitimate reason for me to write a different exam just for you.**

Talk to Me

Feel free to contact me about any aspect of the course. So often, problems can be avoided or solved through a chat, and I will always make time to talk to you. For quick questions, email is best. I will also have drop-in office hours directly on Wednesdays from 2-4 PM in Paul 218. Drop by with questions about assignments, readings, grammar, research, and hey, even the meaning of life. If you can't come during that time, send me an email, and we'll set something up. If you email me on a weekday and I don't get back to you in 24 hours, it may be that I didn't get the message, so try again. I don't get paid to work on weekends, so if you email me then, I cannot guarantee a response before Monday.

Get Some Help

Besides me, the college provides many services to support your learning, and you have helped pay for these, so you might as well use them. You will find links to those services here: [Services for Students](#). I recommend checking out both the [Camosun Library](#) website and [The Writing Centre](#) website. You may also need some resources for things a college course doesn't cover, like basic grammar instruction. I recommend the [Purdue Online Writing Lab \(OWL\)](#) website and the [English Grammar](#) website. The library also has many resources on writing and grammar, including electronic textbooks. Note that you will need to log on to the library website to get access to its treasures. Use your regular Camosun log-on information (C# and password).

Remember that We Are a Community

When you're studying alone, maybe curled up on the couch in your pajamas or sipping a cappuccino at Habit Coffee, it's easy to feel you're on your own. You're not. All courses should offer the opportunity for people to work together to expand their knowledge, and English courses depend on this more than most. Trust me, I've been at this for years. Learning to think and to write requires interaction with other people. You will do better in the course if you engage with others.

But it's not all about you. Your ideas, your perspective, your questions--these all contribute to *other* people's learning. And this is important, for if learning to reason better and to work together better isn't going to change the world, what is? That is why I've emphasized attending class and participating in discussions. I hope you will find this interaction interesting and motivating.

SCHOOL OR DEPARTMENTAL INFORMATION

STUDENT RESPONSIBILITY

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

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 <http://camosun.ca/students/>.

Academic Advising	http://camosun.ca/advising
Accessible Learning	http://camosun.ca/accessible-learning
Counselling	http://camosun.ca/counselling
Career Services	http://camosun.ca/coop
Financial Aid and Awards	http://camosun.ca/financialaid
Help Centres (Math/English/Science)	http://camosun.ca/help-centres
Indigenous Student Support	http://camosun.ca/indigenous
International Student Support	http://camosun.ca/international/
Learning Skills	http://camosun.ca/learningskills
Library	http://camosun.ca/services/library/
Office of Student Support	http://camosun.ca/oss
Ombudsperson	http://camosun.ca/ombuds
Registration	http://camosun.ca/registration
Technology Support	http://camosun.ca/its
Writing Centre	http://camosun.ca/writing-centre

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

Academic Accommodations for Students with Disabilities

The College is committed to providing appropriate and reasonable academic accommodations to students with disabilities (i.e. physical, depression, learning, etc). If you have a disability, the [Centre for Accessible Learning](http://camosun.ca/services/accessible-learning/) (CAL) can help you document your needs, and where disability-related barriers to access in your courses exist, create an accommodation plan. By making a plan through CAL, you can ensure you have the appropriate academic accommodations you need without disclosing your diagnosis or condition to course instructors. Please visit the CAL website for contacts and to learn how to get started:

<http://camosun.ca/services/accessible-learning/>

Academic Integrity

Please visit <http://camosun.ca/about/policies/education-academic/e-1-programming-and-instruction/e-1.13.pdf> for policy regarding academic expectations and details for addressing and resolving matters of academic misconduct.

Academic Progress

Please visit <http://camosun.ca/about/policies/education-academic/e-1-programming-and-instruction/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 <http://camosun.ca/about/policies/education-academic/e-2-student-services-and-support/e-2.2.pdf> for further details about course withdrawals. For deadline for fees, course drop dates, and tuition refund, please visit <http://camosun.ca/learn/fees/#deadlines>.

Grading Policy

Please visit <http://camosun.ca/about/policies/education-academic/e-1-programming-and-instruction/e-1.5.pdf> for further details about grading.

Grade Review and Appeals

Please visit <http://camosun.ca/about/policies/education-academic/e-1-programming-and-instruction/e-1.14.pdf> for policy relating to requests for review and appeal of grades.

Mandatory Attendance for First Class Meeting of Each Course

Camosun College requires mandatory attendance for the first class meeting of each course. If you do not attend, and do not provide your instructor with a reasonable reason in advance, you will be removed from the course and the space offered to the next waitlisted student. For more information, please see the "Attendance" section under "Registration Policies and Procedures" (<http://camosun.ca/learn/calendar/current/procedures.html>) and the Grading Policy at <http://camosun.ca/about/policies/education-academic/e-1-programming-and-instruction/e-1.5.pdf>.

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. Please visit <http://camosun.ca/about/policies/education-academic/e-2-student-services-and-support/e-2.8.pdf> to learn more about the process involved in a medical/compassionate withdrawal.

Sexual Violence and Misconduct

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 or misconduct 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 and Misconduct Policy: <http://camosun.ca/about/policies/education-academic/e-2-student-services-and-support/e-2.9.pdf> and camosun.ca/sexual-violence. To contact the Office of Student Support: oss@camosun.ca or by phone: 250-370-3046 or 250-3703841

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 <http://camosun.ca/about/policies/education-academic/e-2-student-services-and-support/e-2.5.pdf> to understand the College's expectations of academic integrity and student behavioural conduct.

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.