

COURSE SYLLABUS



COURSE TITLE: ENGL-290: Special Topics in Literature 1

CLASS SECTION: 001; Young 316; 11:30-12:50

TERM: Winter 2024

COURSE CREDITS: 3

DELIVERY METHOD(S): Lecture

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: Dr Callin

EMAIL: callint@camosun.ca

Please do not send emails on weekends; please do not send emails after 5:00 pm weekdays; emails will be returned within 48hrs; I answer general emails Monday – Friday between 9:00 am and 5:00 pm

OFFICE: Paul 322

HOURS: Mondays and Tuesdays via email: 9:00 am-10:00 am; Wednesdays and Fridays face to face: 9:00 am-10:00 am; no office hours Thursdays

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

Each term students focus on one particular period, genre, topic, author or other aspects of literature or culture through reading selected works or viewing media such as film. Critical essays and a final exam are required. Individual assignments range in length from 500 to 2,500 words (course total approximately 5,000 words).

PREREQUISITE(S):

Two of:

- C in ENGL 151
- C in ENGL 161
- C in ENGL 163
- C in ENGL 164

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. When reading literature, students will be encouraged to make connections and evaluate works that clearly represent an overview of the topic under discussion. Works will normally represent a variety of genres such as short stories, poetry, drama and the novel. In cases where the topic focuses on one genre, works will represent varied aspects of that genre and/or illustrate the development of a particular author or literary movement(s). At the end of the course students will be able to:

- Analyze literature or other media such as film for elements such as theme, structure and rhetorical devices according to established critical criteria.
- Evaluate works for component elements that clearly represent a literary movement, author, medium or style.

2. When discussing literature, students will be encouraged to develop their own interpretations of the works using a variety of critical methods and resources. At the end of the course students will be able to:

- Identify the socio-historical context of the works and relate the works to others as part of a literary continuum.
- Identify and account for recurring themes in the spectrum of works evaluated in the course.
- Compare and contrast the stylistic elements of various works by one or more authors within the context of the topic discussed.
- Where applicable, evaluate the importance of literary theory in both the creation and interpretation of texts.

3. When writing about literature, students will be expected to demonstrate their understanding of the above issues and to explain, support and illustrate their interpretations of literature in essays and a final exam. At the end of the course students will be able to:

- Support their work with relevant textual evidence.
- Document sources using current MLA conventions.

REQUIRED MATERIALS & RECOMMENDED PREPARATION / INFORMATION

- *English 290: The Secret Knowledge Course Reader/Novella: Coraline/ Occasional supplemental information uploaded onto D2L and/or provided at class*

What this Isn't:

One: A Subscription to any School of Thought be it Philosophical or Religious

Two: A Negative Criticism/Evaluation of Any Philosophical/Religious System

Three: A Study of "Evil"

Four: A Comprehensive, Historically Chronological Statement of Esoterica and All Secret Knowledge Contained Therein

What this Is:

One: A Study of human nature: Subjects, Themes, and Liminality

Two: An Introduction to what is meant by the term “Esoterica”

Three: The identification of various branches of Esoterica

Four: An Introduction to select Secret Knowledge of these Secret Societies

Five: Future readings concerning Secret Knowledge

COURSE GUIDELINES & EXPECTATIONS:

- 1 No photography or audio recording permitted unless specified by CAL
- 2 No one person (including me) will dominate Symposium discussions
- 3 Chronic lateness, as it is disruptive and attention seeking, will result in a one-mark reduction from the participation grade per late arrival
- 4 There will be no instance of discourteous/impolite behavior
- 5 Students are expected to attend and contribute to class discussion/symposiums
- 6 Participation is negatively influenced directly by a lack of attendance
- 7 There are **no additional assignments** to augment a grade
- 8 A late assignment is docked 10% per day or portion of day
- 9 The Use of AI for an Assignment will result in a 0/zero for the assignment
- 10 Medical Documentation is required for a missed Assignment
- 11 Please be advised that historically the class average is a B-/B

EVALUATION OF LEARNING:

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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>

1. In-Class Quiz: Short answer/Critical response: 20 marks
2. Argument Essay: 20 marks
3. In-Class Quiz: Short answer/Critical response: 20 marks
4. Attendance/Participation/ Positively Articulated Symposium Contributions: 10 marks
5. Final Exam: Short answer/ Critical Writing: 30 marks

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.

<http://camosun.ca/about/policies/education-academic/e-1-programming-and-instruction/e-1.14.pdf>

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.

Jan 10: **Attendance** and Outline of Schedule
 Explanation: Basic Structure of Classes: Lecture and Symposium
 Explanation: Course Assignments
 Read for Next Class: “Genesis” Chapters 2-3

I. Toward a General Definition of Western Esoterica:

Jan 12: **Board Lecture:** Basic Elements of Fiction; Liminal Worlds
 Overhead/Handout Definitions: Liminality/Esotericism/Secret Knowledge
 Context Map Handout: Antiquity Western Mediterranean
 Board Mind map: Branches of Western Esoterica
 Read for Next Class: “Genesis” Chapters 2-3

II. Christianity and Gnosticism in Roman Egypt (Antiquity 1-3 AD):

Jan 17: **Board Lecture:** Brief Review from previous class
 Brief Note: *King James Bible* (KJB): Context and Secret Knowledge
 Board Lecture: “Genesis” Creation Mythology: Basic Subjects and Themes
 Knowledge: Christianity and Gnosticism: Two Creation Mythologies
 Symposium Topics (Choose One): TBA
 Read for Next Class: Review “Genesis” Chapters 2-3; Symposium Topics

Jan 19: **Symposium Class**
 Board Lecture: Brief Review from previous class
 Student led Symposium: Gnosis, Gnosticism, Demiurge, Secret Knowledge
 Read for Next Class: Shelley: “Ozymandias”/ Review Esoterica

III. Hermeticism in Roman Egypt (Antiquity 1-3 AD):

Jan 24: **Board Lecture:** Review from previous class
 Lecture: Shelley: “Ozymandias”: Subjects, Themes, Traditional Symbols
 Overhead/Handout: Hermeticism Mythology, Trismegistus, Emerald Tablet
 Symposium Topics: Hermeticism, Hermes Trismegistus, Emerald Tablet,

Read for Next Class: Handout *Three Initiates*: Select Hermetic Principle

Jan 26: **Symposium Class**

Shelley: "Ozymandias": Basic Review: Subjects, Themes, Liminality

Discussion: *Three Initiates*: Select Hermetic Principle

Student led Symposium: Hermeticism; Trismegistus, Emerald Tablet

Read for Next Class: Hawthorne: "Young Goodman Brown"

IV. Hermes, Alchemy, and Witchcraft:

Jan 31: **Lecture:** "Young Goodman Brown": Subjects, Themes, Liminal Spaces

Introduce Symposium Topics: Hermes/Thoth, Caduceus, Witchcraft

Read for Next Class: Review "Young Goodman Brown," Terminology

Feb 2: **Symposium Class**

Lecture: Brief Review/ Complete Previous Class (if necessary)

Review: Mind-map review of all Information

Student led Symposium: Topic Leads

Read for Next Class: Poe: "The Cask of Amontillado"

V. The Tarot (and Magic) and Freemasonry:

Feb 7: **Lecture:** Poe: "The Cask of Amontillado"

Lecture: Subjects, Themes, Liminal Spaces

Board: Basic List of Esoterica and Topic Leads

Next Class: In-class Quiz (full class)

Feb 9: In-class Quiz (full class)

Collect Argument Essay Outline

Read for Next Class: Review Poe: "The Cask of Amontillado"

Feb 14: **Symposium Class**

Lecture: Brief Review/ Complete Previous Class (if necessary)

Brief Example: Argument Essay Discussions

Student led Symposium: "The Cask of Amontillado" Topic Leads

Read for Next Class: Atwood: Snake Poems: "Eating Snake" and "The White Snake"

VI. Knowledge, the Serpent (again), and Ouroboros:

Feb 16: Atwood: "Eating Snake" and "The White Snake"

Argument Essay Reminders...

Read for Next Class: Atwood: Snake Poems: “Eating Snake” and “The White Snake”

Feb 21: Reading Break

Feb 23: Reading Break

Feb 28: **Symposium Class**

Atwood: “Eating Snake” and “The White Snake”

Argument Essay Reminders/Discussion/Review

Read for Next Class: Mansfield: “The Garden Party”

VII. Rosicrucianism, Sacred Gardens, Sacred Geometry:

March 1: Argument Essay Due (beginning of class time)

Lecture: Mansfield: “The Garden Party” Subjects, Themes, Liminality

Brief Information Handout: Rosicrucianism, Sacred Gardens and Geometry

Read for Next Class: Nabokov: “Signs and Symbols”

VIII. Numerology and Cryptology:

March 6: **Lecture:** Brief Review/ Complete Previous Class (if necessary)

Lecture: Nabokov: “Signs and Symbols”

Board Work: Introduction of Subjects, Themes, Liminality

Read for Next Class: Nabokov: “Signs and Symbols”; Develop Topics Leads

Brief Note: Rossetti “Who Has Seen the Wind?”

Read for Next Class: Nabokov: “Signs and Symbols”

March 8: **Symposium Class**

Review: Nabokov: “Signs and Symbols”

Brief Note: Rossetti “Who Has Seen the Wind?”

Student Led Symposium: Cipher/code/sun/gold/ invisibility/ Icarus

Read for Next Class: Atwood: “Eurydice,” “Orpheus 1,” “Orpheus 2”

March 13: **Lecture:** The Orpheus Myth

Critical Perspectives: Levi, Hall, and Orpheus

Class Discussion: “Eurydice,” “Orpheus 1,” “Orpheus 2”

Read for Next Class: Atwood: “Eurydice,” “Orpheus 1,” “Orpheus 2”

March 15: **Symposium Class**

Class Discussion: “Eurydice,” “Orpheus 1,” “Orpheus 2”

Student Led Symposium: Orphic Mysteries; Orphic Egg

Prepare for Next Class: In-class Quiz (full class)

March 20: In-class Quiz (full class)
Read for Next Class: Jacobs: “The Monkey’s Paw”

IX. Shamanism:

March 22: Lecture: Jacobs: “The Monkey’s Paw”: Subjects, Themes. Liminality
Read for Next Class: Jacobs: “The Monkey’s Paw”; *Coraline*

March 27: **Symposium Class**
Jacobs: “The Monkey’s Paw”; shamanism; architect of universe; fakir
Read for Next Class: *Coraline*

X. Liminality and Esoterica

March 29: **Lecture:** *Coraline*
Subjects, Themes, Liminality
Read for Next Class: *Coraline*

April 3: **Symposium Class**
Coraline Basic Subjects, Themes, Liminality
Read for Next Class: *Coraline*

April 5: **Lecture:** *Coraline*
Subjects, Themes, Liminality
Read for Next Class: *Coraline*

April 10: **Symposium Class:** Complete *Coraline*
Subjects, Themes, Liminality

April 12: Final Exam Information

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.