

	School of Arts & Science ENGLISH DEPARTMENT ENGL 288 Literature & Popular Culture Quarter or Semester/Year
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COURSE OUTLINE

The course description is online @ <http://camosun.ca/learn/calendar/current/web/engl.html>

Ω *Please note: the College electronically stores this outline for five (5) years only. It is **strongly recommended** you keep a copy of this outline with your academic records. You will need this outline for any future application/s for transfer credit/s to other colleges/universities.*

1. Instructor Information

(a)	Instructor:	Raj Mehta		
(b)	Office Hours:	Tues / Thurs 1-2:20pm or by appointment		
(c)	Location:	Paul 318		
(d)	Phone:	3328	Alternative Phone:	
(e)	Email:	mehta@camosun.bc.ca		
(f)	Website:			

2. Intended Learning Outcomes

Literature is the expression of a feeling of deprivation, recourse against a sense of something missing. But the contrary is also true: language is what makes us human. It is a course against the meaningless noise and silence of nature and history. (Octavio Paz)

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course introduces a range of approaches to cultural studies by exploring the intersection between everyday life, mass media, and broader political and historical contexts. We will consider key theoretical readings and approaches to studying culture, and examine such topics as how cultures make meaning through representational systems, what constitutes challenges to hierarchies of cultural value, and explore the theoretical foundations of cultural studies with some focus on social movements like feminism, critical race studies, postmodernism and gender studies. Using these theoretical tools, we will examine a range of popular media and sites of cultural expression - graphic novels, lyrics, films, performance, orature, cyber media and more.

(No changes are to be made to these Intended Learning Outcomes as approved by the Education Council of Camosun College.)

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

1. Analyse the theoretical positions of a range of different texts.
2. Demonstrate how the processes of reading and interpretation are contested and debated.
3. Identify important themes in popular culture and literary texts.
4. Compare and contrast various texts, authors, and theories within the field of popular culture.
5. Evaluate a range of methodologies available for interpreting literature and culture.
6. Write and orally communicate arguments effectively.
7. Support written work and oral presentations with relevant evidence and support.
8. Document source material with current MLA conventions.

3. Required Materials

(a) Texts

Jonathan Silverman & Dean Rader: *World is a Text* (4th Ed.)

(b) Other

4. Course Content and Schedule

(This section can include: class hours, lab hours, out of class requirements and/or dates for quizzes, exams, lectures, labs, seminars, practicums, etc.)

5. Basis of Student Assessment (Weighting)

(This section should be directly linked to the Intended Learning Outcomes.)

(a) Assignments

1. Case Study (4-5 pages) 20%

Provide a case study on reading public spaces, reading visual/design culture. The formal format of the case study will be outlined in class. Note the written submission requires the use of visual elements.

2. Tests 30%

You will write two tests over the term – one around midterm time and one at the end of the semester. The tests cover in-class discussions and my lectures. It is presumed that you are present and have good notes – especially on the assigned readings. The test will also cover the films we view in class. Each test is worth 15%.

3. Film Review (3) pages) 20%

Find a movie that seems not to be about race and read it as a text through the lens of race. Use the theoretical scholarship on race and ethnicity to undergird your focus.

4. Final Essay (8-10 pages) 30%

Your primary semester-long project will be a term paper which will involve substantial research, and will make a complex, well-defined argument in which you seek to apply the theoretical material we have covered to the cultural object or phenomenon of your choosing. Topics must be cleared with me in advance. There will be multiple stages in your work on this paper, aimed at helping you focus your research, draft the paper, and thoroughly revise it before turning it in.

(b) Quizzes

(c) Exams

(d) Other (e.g., Attendance, Project, Group Work)

6. Grading System

(No changes are to be made to this section unless the Approved Course Description has been forwarded through the Education Council of Camosun College for approval.)

Standard Grading System (GPA)

Percentage	Grade	Description	Grade Point Equivalency
90-100	A+		9
85-89	A		8
80-84	A-		7
77-79	B+		6

73-76	B		5
70-72	B-		4
65-69	C+		3
60-64	C		2
50-59	D	Minimum level of achievement for which credit is granted; a course with a "D" grade cannot be used as a prerequisite.	1
0-49	F	Minimum level has not been achieved.	0

Temporary Grades

Temporary grades are assigned for specific circumstances and will convert to a final grade according to the grading scheme being used in the course. See Grading Policy E-1.5 at camosun.ca for information on conversion to final grades, and for additional information on student record and transcript notations.

Temporary Grade	Description
I	<i>Incomplete:</i> A temporary grade assigned when the requirements of a course have not yet been completed due to hardship or extenuating circumstances, such as illness or death in the family.
IP	<i>In progress:</i> A temporary grade assigned for courses that, due to design may require a further enrollment in the same course. No more than two IP grades will be assigned for the same course. <i>(For these courses a final grade will be assigned to either the 3rd course attempt or at the point of course completion.)</i>
CW	<i>Compulsory Withdrawal:</i> A temporary grade assigned by a Dean when an instructor, after documenting the prescriptive strategies applied and consulting with peers, deems that a student is unsafe to self or others and must be removed from the lab, practicum, worksite, or field placement.

7. Recommended Materials or Services to Assist Students to Succeed Throughout the Course

LEARNING SUPPORT AND SERVICES FOR STUDENTS

There are a variety of services available for students to assist them throughout their learning. This information is available in the College calendar, at Student Services, or the College web site at camosun.ca.

STUDENT CONDUCT POLICY

There is a Student Conduct Policy **which includes plagiarism**. It is the student's responsibility to become familiar with the content of this policy. The policy is available in each School Administration Office, at Student Services, and the College web site in the Policy Section.

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS AS APPROPRIATE OR AS REQUIRED

Participation:

-This course requires participation by class members, so it is important that you attend in order to peer edit and contribute to class discussions. Regular and prompt attendance is required. You are responsible for material you miss if you are absent. I do not respond to "what did I miss" queries via email.

Assignments:

-Assignments are mandatory and due according to the dates & times specified. Late work will not be accepted (except under extraordinary circumstances) and will receive a grade of 0 (zero).

-Do not e-mail assignments.

-Please keep a copy of all work - including material you hand in - until final marks have been posted.

Email Policy:

While I make every effort to check email regularly, I would appreciate at least 48 hours to respond to questions/problems.

Academic Honesty:

- Plagiarism is a serious offence. All offences will be reported and will result in a failing grade for the course. **Students are assumed to be familiar with the "Academic Policies and Procedures" in the Camosun Calendar.**