



**School of Arts & Science  
Department of English**

**ENGL 163-005  
Literary Canons and Contexts  
Fall, 2012  
Mondays (E201) & Wednesdays (E348), 10-11:20**

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## **COURSE OUTLINE**

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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.

*Ω Please note: This outline will not be kept indefinitely. It is recommended students keep this outline for your records.*

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### **Instructor Information**

Instructor: Thea Todd  
Office hours: Mondays, 1-2 & Tuesdays, 11-12 (or by appointment)  
Office Location: Paul 326  
Phone: 250-370-3342  
E-mail: toddt@camosun.bc.ca

### **Intended Learning Outcomes**

#### **Reading and Writing:**

- Understand that literary traditions change with time and the creation of new literary texts;
- Identify different literary forms, genres, and historical periods;
- Understand and appreciate 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;
- Understand canon formation and challenges to the canon;
- Use critical, literary terminology;
- Use a critical approach with appropriate language and terminology;
- Demonstrate the possibility of arguing 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 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:**

- Demonstrate an ability to 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**

Texts: T.H. White, *The Once & Future King*

Susan Cooper, *The Dark is Rising*

Other materials will be provided.

### **Course Hours/Location**

Mondays, 10-11:20 (E201)

Wednesdays, 10-11:20 (E348)

Students are responsible for material discussed in class. Take careful notes and review them prior to the next class.

It is essential to your grade that you attend and participate in all classes.

### **Basis of Student Assessment (Weighting)**

We will be discussing texts and writing in every class, sometimes working on assignments that will be handed in for assessment. It is therefore essential to your grade that you attend and participate in all classes.

Late assignments may lose marks at the rate of 5% per day. If there are known circumstances that will hinder you from completing an assignment on time, please speak with me as soon as you can.

Students who fail to complete any assignments listed below by the final class date, or who fail to achieve at least D on the final examination, will fail the course. It is up to you to make sure that all of your assignments are handed in.

Out-of-class assignments are to be **typed and double-spaced**. Assignments that are not double-spaced will be handed back ungraded. Leave 2.5 cm. (1 inch) margins on all sides. Indent the first line of each paragraph (use Tab); do not leave additional spaces between paragraphs. Please don't forget to put your full name on your paper. Use MLA documentation style. (We will be practising this in class.)

There will be written guidelines for each major assignment.

Please see Class Schedule for due dates of the following assignments.

I suggest that you keep all of your essays and other writing assignments, along with drafts. I may ask to see previous work.

### Assignments

Short Essay (10%)

Close Reading (10%)

Arthurian Places & Objects Assignment (5%)

Long Essay Proposal (5%)

Long Essay (20%)

Written responses to texts, throughout the term (10%)

### Exams

Midterm exam (15%)

Final Exam (25%)

The final exam will be held during the formal exam period (December 10-15 & Dec. 17 and 18)

**NB: The course is not over until the end of the exam period**

### **Grading System**

Essays receive complex evaluation. I look for a scholarly approach, critical thinking, and careful use of texts, including correct documentation in MLA format. Clear organization and accurate grammar and spelling are, of course, essential to good writing. I also look for your particular developing voice or style.

#### **Standard Grading System (GPA)**

<b>Percentage</b>	<b>Grade</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Grade Point Equivalency</b>
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](http://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 3<sup>rd</sup> 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.

## 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](http://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 on the College web site in the Policy Section.