



School of Arts & Science
 ENGLISH DEPARTMENT
 ENGL 288 /001
 Literature & Popular Culture
 MW 1:30-2:50 Fisher 201

The Crossroads Legend in Popular [Guitar] Music and Literature: (or, Popular Culture’s Dark Romance with the Devil, the Crossroads, and the Road in “Popular” [Guitar] Music and Literature)

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:	Dr Callin		
(b)	Office Hours:	TBA		
(c)	Location:	Paul 322		
(d)	Phone:	NA	Alternative Phone:	NA
(e)	Email:	callint@camosun.ca		
(f)	Website:			

2. Intended Learning Outcomes

(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:

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

ALL STUDENTS PLEASE READ:

Contract of registration and participation in course: This course and the material content contained herein (course work/lectures/group work/ handouts/ presentations etc) deal with adult subjects and themes. These subjects and themes include, but are not limited to, allusions to love and sex, to violence, to gender, to rock and roll and to many other archetypes found in popular culture. Students taking the course do so by accepting/agreeing to the course material along with the subjects and themes contained in the course material. This outline and description, therefore, serves as a contract of understanding and agreement between student and course material/content and places all responsibility of continued registration in the course with full knowledge of the material at the discretion of the student.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

Students are expected to keep up with attendance, readings, and class assignments. Additionally, students are expected to attend each class, read all assigned readings (on time), and participate in class discussions. A student who does not attend and appropriately participate will risk losing attendance and participation marks. 80% attendance is required to perform adequately in the course. Repeated absences will result in a request to drop the class. Assignments (Unit Tests, for example) will not be accepted from a student who misses more than 25% of classes.

METHOD OF INSTRUCTION:

This course will consist of lectures, class discussions, group work, and presentations. Students are responsible for all lecture material some of which is not available in the assigned readings. At times we will be discussing social issues that some of you may hold strong opinions about. Nevertheless, we must have an environment conducive to learning; therefore, everyone will have respect for each other and each other's ideas.

TAPE-RECORDING IN THE CLASSROOM:

In order to ensure free and open discussion of controversial ideas by the students, tape-recording of the proceedings is not permitted in the class. Exceptions, however, may be made for students who are visually impaired or are unable to write due to physical disability.

STUDENT CONDUCT POLICY/ACADEMIC MISCONDUCT:

There is a Student Conduct Policy. It is the student's responsibility to become familiar with the content of this policy. Please see: <http://camosun.ca/about/policies/education-academic/e-2-student-services-&-support/e-2.5.pdf> . Please be aware that any behavior that is rude, distracting, or disrespectful in any way to anyone in the class will not be tolerated. Offenders will be subject to academic and other disciplinary consequences as proscribed in the Student Conduct Policy. This includes all of the following (and anything else related that I forgot to mention):

NO: cell phones (texting, talking, playing games, and internet whatever). Cell phone use during class time is subject to a 2 mark penalty. If a student cannot comply with this regulation, the student will be asked to leave the class. Accessing any electronic device during an exam or in class assignment constitutes a violation of the Student Conduct Policy and will result in a grade of zero on the exam or in class assignment.

NO: laptops or computers (unless you have a medical or disability support note).

NO: arriving late or leaving early, once or twice is ok, after that it will become a problem.

NO: leaving and returning during class, especially to answer your cell phone.

NO: studying or reading for another class, talking with a neighbour.

Please note this list does not include everything possible.

Please use common sense and common courtesy. A student who does not want to be here should not come to class and disturb other students who want to learn.

INFORMATION ABOUT ASSIGNMENTS:

1. In order to pass this course **you must submit all assignments at the beginning of the class in which they are due**. If you are late, the paper is late. This applies specifically to the abstract and MLA presentation material.
2. Extensions will only be granted with proper documentation.
3. A request for an extension must come at least two actual classes prior to the due date.
4. Late assignments will be docked **10%** for each day (or portion of day) late. This applies specifically to the abstract and MLA presentation material.
5. **There are no make-ups on any course assignments.**
6. Appointments are to be made at the end of a class.
7. If you miss notes, it is up to you to get the notes from someone in the class.

EMAIL TIPS:

I teach a number of classes; thus, when emailing me please include first and last name and student number, the name of the class and section number, and an appropriate subject in the subject line (e.g. question about assignment).

REQUIRED READINGS:

The course pack provides comprehensive coverage of most of the topics that we will examine; the graphic novel is/will be located in the campus bookstore. Additional materials, however, will be introduced during lectures and discussions. Students should be prepared to take notes when materials not covered by the texts are thus presented. It is therefore essential for students to read in advance in order to know when it is necessary to take notes. Recommended readings for each of the topics are indicated in the following detailed course outline.

3. List of Assignments

1. **Unit Test One September 28, 2015:** short answers and in-class writing (no make-ups): 20%
2. **Unit Test Two October 19, 2015:** short answers and in-class writing (no make-ups): 20%
3. **Unit Test Three November 9, 2015:** short answers and in-class writing (no make-ups): 20%
4. **Presentation, Abstract, and MLA November 23 and 25, 2015** (no make-ups): 10% (5 for presentation +5 for abstract/MLA formal submission)
5. **Participation and attendance:** 5%
6. **Final Exam TBA:** 25%

4. Required Materials

There are two required texts for this course: first, the *course pack* which contains our readings and, second, the graphic novel *The Picture of Dorian Gray*. Both are available at the Lansdowne bookstore located downstairs in the Fisher building.

5. Course Content and Schedule

Please note that the course material and chronology of material are subject to change ...

Sept 9: **Introductions...** a conceptual journey through the commoditization of the crossroads story in literature and popular [guitar] music
The shape that matters: taking the “and” literally
Textual notes: short stories, lyrics, images, articles, etc
Assignment from CR: Robert Johnson wiki/ begin Stephen King “The Man in the Black Suit”/ **Class Handouts**

Contextualization: the Supernatural, the Crossroads, and Commoditization

Sept 14: **Introduction:** the subject being studied and the working thesis defined
Map of the Mississippi Delta: (handout)
The Robert Johnson Story: myth, legend, folklore
Robert Johnson and the *Faust* story: that story sells
Wiki article handout: “The Crossroads”
Why the Crossroads?: Turner/ Nietzsche/ the Supernatural
Self-Mythologizing: narrative, *King of the Delta Blues*, “Crossroad Blues”
Group work: summary of “Crossroad Blues” lyric
General context: “The Man in the Black Suit” (time permitting)

Assignment from CR: King “The Man in the Black Suit” and song lyrics

Storytelling: Power, Youth, and the Commoditization of the story

Sept 16: Finish material from previous class (if necessary)...
Robert Johnson and his guitar: “devil at the crossroads” revisited...
Before market/ aftermarket: two pictures of Robert Johnson
Commodity: commercializing the crossroads: popular music and film
Image: the architecture at the Crossroads
Movie: *Crossroads*
Class discussion with song lyric: Robert Johnson “Crossroad Blues”
Class discussion with song lyric: Eric Clapton “Crossroads”
Class discussion with song lyric: Tracy Chapman “Crossroads”
Group Work: King’s “The Man in the Black Suit”
Assignment from CR: Dahl “The Man from the South”

The Supernatural and the Commodity of Power: The Guitar/ist as Symbol of Masculine Dark Knowledge, the Commoditization of the Legend, and the Outsider as Storyteller

Sept 21: Finish material from previous class (if necessary)...
This note’s for you: the Blues, Spirituals, and the Devil’s music
Paul McCartney/ Kanye West/ Pablo Picasso/ “Mr. Jones”/ “The Ballad of a Thin Man”
Wearing the Inside Out: Picasso’s *The Old Guitarist* as Outsider
Characterizing the guitarist: “Guitar Man”
Establishing the relationship: “Me and the Devil Blues”
Grateful Dead: “Friend of the Devil is a Friend of Mine”
Guitarist and supernatural in pop culture: Clapton/ Hendrix/ Page etc...
Class questions: “The Man from the South”
Assignment from CR: O’Connor “A Good Man is Hard to Find”

Don’t let me be Misunderstood: The Devil as Outsider and Complex Character in Pop Culture Music

Sept 23: Finish material from previous class (if necessary)
Class discussion with song lyric: “A Good Man is Hard to Find”
Class discussion with song lyric: “Man of Peace”
Class discussion with song lyric: “Sympathy for the Devil”
Class Discussion/Questions: “A Good Man is Hard to Find”
To conclude: General Outline for Quiz
Assignment: Prepare for Quiz

Sept 28: UNIT TEST ONE (Full Class/no make-ups)

Assignment from CR: "Where are you Going, Where have you Been?"
and song lyrics

Snake in the Grass ... at the Crossroads: Devil as Tempter, the Power of Passive Power, and Gender "Stereo" types

Sept 30: **Class discussion with song lyric:** "NIB"
Class discussion with song lyric: "Devil Song" (time permitting)
Class discussion with song lyric: "Crawling King Snake"
Class discussion with song lyric: "Serpent at the Gates of Wisdom"
Class discussion with song lyric: "It's All Over Now Baby Blue"
A hint of masculine anxiety...
Group Work: "Where are you Going, Where have you Been?"
Assignment from CR: "The Chrysanthemums"/ Song lyrics

Oct 5: Finish (if necessary) "Where are You Going Where Have You Been?"
Class discussion with song lyric: "Just a Girl"
Class discussion with song lyric: "The Man in the Long Black Coat"
Class discussion and Group Work: "The Chrysanthemums"
Assignment from CR: (see below)

Marginalization, Invisibility, the Female as Muse, and Masculine Power: or, Literature Noir: Guitar as Popular Culture Symbol of Feminine Power, Masculine Anxiety, and the Female as Devil

Oct 7: Finish (if necessary) "The Chrysanthemums"
Masculine objectification: Female as Muse/ Female as outsider
Wiki article: *Lilith*
Group Work with song lyric: "Wrapped Around your Finger"
Group Work with song lyric: "Black Magic Woman"
Group Work with song lyric: "The Devil in Disguise"
Group Work with song lyric: "The Devil in her Heart"
Group Work with song lyric: "Devil with a Blue Dress"
Group Work with song lyric: "Soul Stripper"
Group Work with song lyric: "Something"
Group Work with song lyric: "Hell Ain't a Bad Place to Be"
Group Work with song lyric: "Layla"
Assignment from CR: "The Enormous Radio" and song lyrics'

Oct 12: **"Holiday! Celebrate!"**

Communication Breakdown: Technology, Domestic Space, Men, Women, Utopia, Dystopia

Oct 14: Technology, the Radio, and the Supernatural
Song Lyric: "The Devil's Radio"
Song Lyric: "The Spirit of Radio"
Song Lyric: "Around the Dial"
Song Lyric: "Clap for the Wolfman"
Video Clip: Bryan Adams: "Heaven"/ article discussion
Song Lyric: "Everyday Robots"
Domestic Space: Radio amplifies dystopia in utopian setting
Group work from CR: "The Enormous Radio"
Assignment: Outline Handout for unit test

Oct 19: UNIT TEST TWO (Full Class)
Assignment You-Tube: Gap commercial Audrey Hepburn
Assignment from CR: Roald Dahl's "Lamb to the Slaughter"/ Handouts/
song lyrics

Careful with that Axe, Eugene: Guitar as Pop Culture Symbol of the "Dangers" of Technology, the Collective Experience, and Engendered Instruments

Oct 21: **Wiki article:** *The Femme Fatale*
Reading the image of Joan Jett in *Rolling Stone Magazine*
Lyric comparison: "I Love Rock and Roll" / "I Saw Her Standing There"
Discussion: Does the electric guitar promote female equality?
Group Work with song lyric: "Femme Fatale"
TV Commercial: The Gap/ "Back in Black"/ Audrey Hepburn
Return to gender in pop culture: subtext of acoustic/electric guitar
Juke Joints/ The Box/ Jukebox hero/
Class Discussion from CR: "Lamb to the Slaughter"

We are the Road Crew: the End of the Road (the 27 Club): Hubris, the authentic, the inauthentic, gender, and the electric "versus" acoustic guitar

Oct 26: Continue class discussion (if necessary): "Lamb to the Slaughter"
Blake's "Proverbs of Hell"...
Robert Johnson and the 27 Club...
Interpret Image: LP sleeve Pink Floyd: *Wish You Were Here*
Group Work with song lyric: "The Road"
Group Work with song lyric: "Driving South"
Group Work with song lyric: "Highway to Hell"
Group Work with song lyric: "Running with the Devil"
Group Work with song lyric: "Highway 61" (time permitting)
Assignment from CR: *Robot Dreams*
Assignment You-Tube: Tracy Chapman "Fast Car" at Grammys (1989)

Oct 28: **Bargaining with the Devil:** acoustic versus electric
Song Lyric: "The Road to Hell"
Acoustic, Electric, and Authenticity: Tracy Chapman at the Grammys
CBC Article (Handout): Robotics article
CBC Article (Handout): Robotics article
Floyd Lyric: "Welcome to the Machine"
Class discussion: *Robot Dreams*
Assignment from CR: "Nine Billion Names of God"

The Road to "Hell": Utopia and Dystopia and Cultural Anxiety of Power

Nov 2: **Video Clip:** Pink Floyd and making of *The Dark Side of the Moon*
Internet Excerpt: Dylan Goes Electric
Excerpt from Neil Postman: "Amusing Ourselves to Death"
Interpret Image: LP sleeve Gorillaz: *Plastic Beach*
Class Discussion: "Nine Billion Names of God"
Assignment from CR: "Closing Time"/ "Goodbye Blue Sky"/ "Amused to Death"

Pop Goes the World (or what waits for us on the Road): Guitar as Pop Culture Symbol of the Dangers of Technology and the Apocalypse

Nov 4: **Class Discussion:** "Closing Time"
Lyrics: Pink Floyd: "Goodbye Blue Sky"
Lyrics: REM: "It's the End of the World" (time permitting)
Group Discussion/Song Lyric: "Amused To Death"
Assignment Outline Handout: Presentation Information/ writing an abstract; writing prompt – "what we did and why?" MLA citation
Assignment: Outline Handout for unit test

Nov 9: UNIT TEST THREE (FULL CLASS)

Nov 11: Remembrance Day: No class

Technical Ecstasy: Preparations and Presentations

Nov 16: Presentation discussion/ Last chance to clear topic
Mandatory Prep: Group work on Presentations

Nov 18: **Mandatory Prep:** Group work on Presentations

Nov 23: **Group Presentations:** Mandatory Attendance

Nov 25: **Group Presentations:** Mandatory Attendance
Assignment: *The Picture of Dorian Gray*

“This is the end”...of the siècle: The Picture of Dorian Gray

Nov 30: Presentation overflow...
 Abstract and MLA due beginning of class
The Picture of Dorian Gray
Class Discussion
Assignment: *The Picture of Dorian Gray*

Dec 2: *The Picture of Dorian Gray*
Question handout: In-class group work
Assignment: *The Picture of Dorian Gray*

Dec 7: *The Picture of Dorian Gray*
Class Discussion
Assignment: *The Picture of Dorian Gray*

Dec 9: Conclude *The Picture of Dorian Gray*
Question handout: In-class group work
 Information for Final

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 3^d 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](#)