



School of Arts & Science  
 ENGLISH DEPARTMENT  
 ENGL 288 /001  
 Literature & Popular Culture  
 MW 2:30-3:50 Young 219

## The Crossroads Legend in Popular [Guitar] Music and Literature: or, Popular Culture's Dark Romance with the Devil, the Crossroads, and the Road

### COURSE OUTLINE

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

⚡ 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:	<a href="mailto:callint@camosun.ca">callint@camosun.ca</a>	Monday-Friday 9-5	
(f)	Website:	NA		

#### 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).

### 3. List of Assignments

1. **Unit Test One January 30, 2017:** short answers and in-class writing (no make-ups): 20%
2. **Unit Test Two February 27, 2017:** short answers and in-class writing (no make-ups): 20%
3. **Unit Test Three March 20, 2017:** short answers and in-class writing (no make-ups): 20%
4. **Presentation, Abstract, and MLA March 29 and April 3, 2017** (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

#### REQUIRED READINGS:

The course pack provides comprehensive coverage of most of the topics that we will examine. The course pack which contains our readings is available at the Lansdowne bookstore located in the Fisher building. 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.

### 5. Course Content and Schedule

**Please note that the course material and chronology of material are subject to change without notice...**

#### One: Contextualization

Jan 9:           **Introductions**  
**Textual notes:** short stories, lyrics, images, articles, etc.  
**Assignment from CR:** begin Stephen King "The Man in the Black Suit"/ complete Robert Johnson "Crossroad Blues" (handout)/ Cream "Crossroads"/ Tracy Chapman "Crossroads" /"Faust" wiki

#### Two: Crossroads, Devil, Collective Unconscious, and Commodity of Exchange

Jan 11:           **Wiki article:** "The Crossroads" (mythology)  
**Populating the space of the crossroads: Sources**  
Map of the Mississippi Delta and the blues highway: (handout)  
This note's for you: Blues, Spirituals, and the Devil's music  
**Myth, Legend, Metaphor:** Robert Johnson  
**Self-Mythologizing:** narrative, *King of the Delta Blues*, "Crossroad Blues"  
**Before market/ Aftermarket:** two pictures of Robert Johnson (handout)  
**Class discussion with song lyric:** Eric Clapton "Crossroads"  
**Class discussion with song lyric:** Robert Johnson "Crossroad Blues"  
**Class discussion with song lyric:** Tracy Chapman "Crossroads"  
**Assignment:** Stephen King's "The Man in the Black Suit"

### Three: Stranger Danger: The Devil at the crossroads and the collective unconscious

Jan 16: **Lecture/Group Work:** Stephen King's "The Man in the Black Suit"  
**Assignment from CR:** "Deal with the Devil" wiki/ "Friend of the Devil is a Friend of Mine"/ "Runnin' with the Devil"/ "Wanted Dead or Alive" (handout)/ "Man of Peace"/ "Sympathy for the Devil" (if time)

### Four: A Section in Two Parts: the romantic (anti)hero, and the duplicity/ experience of the Devil

Jan 18: Identifying characteristics: "Deal with the Devil" wiki  
McCartney/ Kanye/ Pablo Picasso/ "Mr. Jones"/ "Ballad of a Thin Man"  
**Wearing the Inside Out:** Picasso's *The Old Guitarist* as Outsider  
**Class discussion with song lyric:** "Friend of the Devil..."  
**Class discussion with song lyric:** "Runnin' with the Devil"  
**Class discussion with song lyric:** "Wanted Dead or Alive" (handout)  
**Class discussion with song lyric:** "Man of Peace"  
**Class discussion with song lyric:** "Sympathy for the Devil" (if time)  
**Assignment from CR:** Roald Dahl "The Man from the South"

Jan 23: Finish material from previous class (if necessary)  
**Class discussion:** "The Man from the South"  
**Class questions:** "Man in the Black Suit" and "Man from the South"  
**Assignment from CR:** O'Connor "A Good Man is Hard to Find"/ "A Good Man is Hard to Find" (Sufjan Stevens, handout)

Jan 25: Carry over of material (if necessary)  
**Note song lyric:** "A Good Man is Hard to Find" (Sufjan Stevens, handout)  
**Class Discussion/Questions:** "A Good Man is Hard to Find"  
Information for Unit Test  
**Assignment:** Prepare for Unit Test

Jan 30: UNIT TEST ONE (Full Class/no make-ups)  
**Assignment from CR:** "The Chrysanthemums"

### Five: Female as Home: Gender, the Devil, and Confinement

Feb 1: **All about Eve:** Good housekeeping/ maintaining the enclosed Garden  
**Traditional archetypes:** Home, stability, and the dangers of the road  
**Class discussion/ Group work:** "The Chrysanthemums"  
**Assignment from CR:** Roald Dahl's "Lamb to the Slaughter"/ Nico "Femme Fatale"/ Joan Jett "I Love Rock and Roll" / Beatles "I Saw Her Standing There"/ Handouts

## Six: Careful with that Axe, Eugene: Rejection of Home, the Femme Fatale, and the Temptations of the Road

- Feb 6:       **Wiki article:** *Femme Fatale*  
**Lyric comparison:** “I Love Rock and Roll” / “I Saw Her Standing There”  
**Class Discussion from CR:** “Lamb to the Slaughter”  
**Group Work with song lyric:** “Femme Fatale”  
**Group Work with song lyric:** “A Good Man is Hard to Find” Bessie Smith (time permitting)  
**Assignment from CR:** Begin “Where are you Going, Where have you Been?” and song lyrics (see below)

## Seven: The Crossroads and the Dangers of the Road: Devil as Tempter, the Power of Passive Power, and Coming of Age

- Feb 8:       Continue class discussion (if necessary): “Lamb to the Slaughter”  
**Class discussion with song lyric:** “It’s All Over Now Baby Blue”  
**Group Work:** “Where are you Going, Where have you Been?”
- Feb 13:       **“Holiday! Celebrate!”**
- Feb 15:       **Reading Break!**
- Feb 20:       Finish (if necessary) “Where are You Going, Where Have You Been?”  
**Class discussion:** “Just a Girl”  
**Class discussion:** “Fast Car”
- Feb 22:       **Class discussion with song lyric:** “NIB”  
**Class discussion with song lyric:** “Devil Song”  
**Class discussion with song lyric:** “Serpent at the Gates of Wisdom”  
**Assignment:** Outline Handout for unit test
- Feb 27:       UNIT TEST TWO (Full Class)

## Eight: Recasting the Devil: Popular Culture Symbol of Feminine Power, Masculine Anxiety, and the Supernatural Female

- March 1:     **Wiki article:** *Lilith*  
**Class discussion with song lyric:** “The Man in the Long Black Coat”  
Masculine objectification: Female as Muse/ Female as outsider  
**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:** “Devil with a Blue Dress”  
**Group Work with song lyric:** “Devil Gonna Get You” (handout)  
**Group Work with song lyric:** “New Faces” and masculine anxiety (time permitting)  
**Assignment from CR:** “The Enormous Radio” and song lyrics

### **Nine: Down the Road Apiece: Technology, Domestic Space, Addiction**

March 6: **Group work from CR:** “The Enormous Radio”  
**Group Work with song lyric:** “The Devil’s Radio”  
**Group Work with song lyric:** Retta Brown’s “Tom Gray’s Dream”  
**Assignment handout:** “That Hell-bound Train”

### **Ten: You Better Not Mess with Major Tom: the End of the Road (the 27 club)**

March 8: **Robert Johnson** and the 27 Club...  
**Class discussion:** “That Hell-bound Train”  
**Group Work with song lyric:** “Hellhounds on my Trail”  
**Wiki handout:** Black dog archetype  
**Group Work with song lyric:** “Me and the Devil Blues”  
**Group Work with song lyric:** “Highway to Hell”  
**Group Work with song lyric:** “The Road”

### **Eleven: Pop Goes the World: the road to Hell is paved with good intentions**

March 13: Dealing with the Devil (handout)  
**Class Discussion:** Dylan Goes Electric (handout)  
**Song Lyric:** “Everyday Robots”  
**Song Lyric:** “The Road to Hell” (parts I and II)  
**Song Lyric:** “Welcome to the Machine”  
**Song Lyric:** “Woodstock”

March 15: Carry over of material (if necessary)  
Presentation Information Handout  
How to write an **Abstract**  
**MLA** presentation outline/information  
**Assignment:** Outline Handout for unit test

March 20: UNIT TEST THREE (FULL CLASS)

March 22: **Presentation preparations**

March 27: **Presentation preparations**

March 29: **Group Presentations**

April 3: **Group Presentations**  
**Assignment:** “Robot Dreams”/ “Masters of War” (handout)

**Twelve: No Direction Home: The End of the Road**

April 5: **Presentation carry-over**  
**Group Work with song lyric:** “Masters of War”  
**Class discussion:** “Everyday Robots” and “Robot Dreams”  
**Assignment from CR:** “Amused to Death”

April 10: Excerpt from Neil Postman: “Amusing Ourselves to Death”  
**Group Discussion/Song Lyric:** “Amused To Death”

April 12: Information for the Final Exam

**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](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>

<b>CW</b>	<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.
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**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](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 the College web site in the Policy Section.

[ADDITIONAL COMMENTS AS APPROPRIATE OR AS REQUIRED](#)