



CAMOSUN COLLEGE
School of Arts & Science
Department of English

ENGL-290-001
Special Topics in Literature 1 – Weird Fiction
Fall 2019

COURSE OUTLINE

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

Ω Please note: This outline will not be kept indefinitely. It is recommended students keep this outline for their records, especially to assist in transfer credit to post-secondary institutions.

1. Instructor Information

- (a) Instructor Max Olesen
- (b) Office hours Mondays & Wednesdays, 11:30 am – 12:30 pm
- (c) Location Paul 328
- (d) Phone _____ Alternative: _____
- (e) E-mail olesenm@camosun.bc.ca
- (f) Website _____

2. Intended Learning Outcomes

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

- Upon completion of this course the student will be able to:
1. Analyze literature or other media such as film for elements such as theme, structure and rhetorical devices according to established critical criteria.
 2. Evaluate works for component elements that clearly represent a literary movement, author, medium or style.

When discussing literature, students will be encouraged to develop their own interpretations of the works using a variety of critical methods and resources. Upon completion of this course the student will be able to:

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

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

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

3. Required Materials

Course Pack: Max Olesen, *English 290: Weird Fiction*

Anthology: Editors: Ann and Jeff VanderMeer, *The Weird: A Compendium of Strange and Dark Stories*

Novels: Matt Ruff, *Lovecraft Country*
Victor LaVelle, *The Ballad of Black Tom*

4. Course Content and Schedule

Tuesday and Thursday 10:00-11:20 am, Fisher Building, Room 302

First Day of Class: Tuesday, September 3

Last Day of Class: Thursday, December 5

Final Exam: During Exam Period, December 9-17; specific date **TBA**

Schedule (Subject to change):

Weeks One & Two – Sept. 3, 5, 10 (3 classes): What is the <i>Weird</i>? – Defining Cosmic Horror: “Supernatural Horror in Literature” (13); “Notes on Writing Weird Fiction” (3); “The Unnamable” (6) “Dragon” (3); “The History of the Necronomicon” (2); “The Call of Cthulhu” (25); Weird Influencers: “What Was It?” (9); “The Spook House” (3) = 64 pages total Film/television clips: <i>Prometheus</i> ; <i>True Detective Season One</i>
Weeks Three & Four – Sept. 12, 17, 19, 24 (4 classes): Weird Influencers: “The Damned Thing” (7); “An Inhabitant of Carcosa” (3); “The Nuth would Have Practiced His Art Upon the Gnoles” (2); “Casting the Runes” (11); “The Willows” (25); The King in Yellow Excerpts (60) = 108 pages total
Weeks Five & Six – Sept. 26; Oct. 1, 3, 8 (4 classes): The Rot at the Centre of the Universe: The Great God Pan Excerpts (11); “The Man Who Found Out” (10); “From Beyond” (6); “Nyarlathotep” (3); “The Hounds of Tindalos” (9); “The Long Sheet” (5); “Mimic” (3); “The Howling Man” (8); “The Man in the Black Suit” (12); “Tsathoggua” (33); = 100 pages total Film clips: John Carpenter’s <i>The Thing</i>
Weeks Seven & Eight – Oct. 10, 15, 17, 22, 24 (4 classes): When the Weird Runs in the Family: “Sredni Vashtar” (3); “The Festival” (10); “The Facts Concerning the Late Arthur Jermyn” (8); “The Rats in the Walls” (25); “The Dunwich Horror” (23); “Don’t Look Now” (24); “The Summer People” (7); “The Hungry House” (10); “Family” (8) = 118 pages total
Weeks Nine, Ten & Eleven – Oct. 24, 29, 31; Nov. 5, 7 (5 classes): Fear of the Unknown and Hatred of the Other – Racial Monsters: “The Horror at Red Hook” (17) & <i>The Ballad of Black Tom</i> (149) = 166 pages total
Weeks Eleven, Twelve & Thirteen – Nov. 12, 14, 19, 21 (4 classes): Fear of the Unknown and Hatred of the Other – Racial Monsters: “The Shadow Over Innsmouth” (52) & <i>Lovecraft Country</i> (372) = 424 pages total
Week Thirteen – Nov. 26, 28 (2 classes): The Non-English Weird: “The Vegetable Man” (3); “In the Penal Colony” (14); “The Town of Cats” (7); “The Aleph” (7); “Mister Taylor” (4); “Axolotl” (3); “A Child in the Bush of Ghosts” (6); “Dust Enforcer” (5) = 49 pages total
Week Fourteen – Dec. 3, 5 (2 classes): The New Weird: “The Specialist’s Hat” (9); “A Redress for Andromeda” (6); “The God of Dark Laughter” (10); “Details” (7); “The Town Manager” (6); “The White Hands” (9); “The Forest” (17); Course Wrap-up & General Thoughts = 64 pages total

5. Basis of Student Assessment (Weighting)

(a) **Class Discussion Responses & Questions (Prepared in Advance of Class) – Ongoing (12.5%)**

(b) **Discussion Participation & In-Class Writing – Ongoing (10%) *This includes informed discussion in small group, large group, and even on-on-one communication with instructor.**

- (c) Essay Proposal Presentation 1 – Due Sept. 19 (2.5%)
- (d) Essay 1 (750 words) – Due Oct. 1 (10%)
- (e) Essay Proposal Presentation 2 – Due Oct. 17 (2.5%)
- (f) Essay 2 (1000 words) – Due Nov. 5 (15%)
- (g) Essay Proposal Presentation 3 – Due Nov. 21 (2.5%)
- (h) Essay 3 (1500 words) – Due Dec. 5 (20%)
- (i) Final Exam – During Exam Period, December 9-17; specific date TBA (25%)

Assignment Expectations:

- Requests for extensions will be considered under special circumstances. All such requests must be made a minimum of 72 hours in advance of the due date.
- 10% per day (including weekends) will be deducted from assignments for lateness.
- No electronic submissions are accepted; printed assignments are needed. If you have financial constraints regarding printing, please come to discuss the issue with me personally.
- There are no re-writes of assignments.
- There are no make-ups for exams, unless I am notified of a medical emergency, and supplied with documentation (doctor's/counsellor's note) verifying the fact that you could not make the exam date/time.
- All assignments must be completed and submitted before the last day of class in order to count towards your final grade.
- All out-of-class assignments/essays must follow MLA formatting and documentation guidelines.
- All work submitted under your name must be your own original work, with all research used and all ideas from others cited properly. I take this very seriously, as does the School of Arts & Sciences, and I will follow the college policy in cases of true plagiarism.
- Our assignments are designed to be challenging and to stretch your skills; there are high expectations and grading standards. If you can commit the requisite time and effort to class, aim to achieve your personal best on every assignment, and keep in contact with me about your challenges, you will do well.

Class Environment:

- Our class is a shared environment where we are all learners and collaborators; it is a place where we have fun, and feel free to express ourselves. New knowledge is gained when we learn collaboratively, and feel connected. Respect for each other, and the many divergent views we will encounter in this course, is a requirement for all participants.
- Practice judgement, maturity, politeness, and respect in all interactions and communications with your instructor and your fellow students.
- **Practice Polite Tech Etiquette Please:** No devices or computers, including cell phones, can be used in class, except as required for an instructor-directed activity or assignment (e.g. research or an in-class writing). **Mute your devices. No texting, calls, or social media use during class time.** You will be asked to leave the class if you are doing these activities. You will receive zero participation marks if you text regularly in class.
- **Communication Outside Class:** Check your email and D2L email regularly, as I often send announcements and updates about class via them. I will use the email provided to me via Camlink which is the email you used to register for classes with; if you do not receive an email message from me within the first week, please let me know.
- **Missed Classes:** I post Class Slides on our class's D2L Content page, but this class is an opportunity for face-to-face, interactive learning; participation is required for each and every class for the full class period. If you have career or personal commitments that impinge on our class's time period, I encourage you to take this course at a different time.
- **If you miss four or more classes unexcused and without documentation of reason for absence, you will receive a zero for your Participation mark.** If you miss a class, please contact me, get material from a classmate, and review Class Slides posted to our class D2L Content page.
- **Emergencies:** You are responsible for contacting me via email should you miss class due to an emergency situation. Documentation to verify any emergencies (medical, accident, etc.) will be required the first day you return to class.

6. Grading System

- Standard Grading System (GPA)
- Competency Based Grading System

7. Recommended Materials 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.

Important Dates:

September 3: Most Fall '19 credit programs/courses commence. Students should familiarize themselves with important deadlines. Refer to Deadlines - Fees, Drop and Tuition Refund and Late Payment Fees.

September 17: Fee Deadline Fall '19 Refer to Deadlines - Fees, Add/Drop and Tuition Refund and Late Payment Fees

October 14: Thanksgiving Day; college closed

October 17: ShakeOut - BC provincial preparedness

October 18: Final Examination Schedule for Fall '19 posted

November 11: Remembrance Day; college closed

December 7: Last day of instruction for most Fall '19 courses

December 9-17: Examination period for Fall '19 courses

December 25 - January 1, 2020: Holiday Break; college closed

8. College Supports, Services and Policies



Immediate, Urgent, or Emergency Support

If you or someone you know requires immediate, urgent, or emergency support (e.g. illness, injury, thoughts of suicide, sexual assault, etc.), **SEEK HELP**. Resource contacts @

<http://camosun.ca/about/mental-health/emergency.html> or <http://camosun.ca/services/sexual-violence/get-support.html#urgent>

College Services

Camosun offers a variety of health and academic support services, including counselling, dental, disability resource centre, help centre, learning skills, sexual violence support & education, library, and writing centre. For more information on each of these services, visit the **STUDENT SERVICES** link on the College website at <http://camosun.ca/>

College Policies

Camosun strives to provide clear, transparent, and easily accessible policies that exemplify the college's commitment to life-changing learning. It is the student's responsibility to become familiar with the content of College policies. Policies are available on the College website at <http://camosun.ca/about/policies/>. Education and academic policies include, but are not limited to, Academic Progress, Admission, Course Withdrawals, Standards for Awarding Credentials, Involuntary Health and Safety Leave of Absence, Prior Learning Assessment, Medical/Compassionate Withdrawal, Sexual Violence and Misconduct, Student Ancillary Fees, Student Appeals, Student Conduct, and Student Penalties and Fines.

A. GRADING SYSTEMS <http://camosun.ca/about/policies/index.html>

The following two grading systems are used at Camosun College:

1. 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		1
0-49	F	Minimum level has not been achieved.	0

2. Competency Based Grading System (Non GPA)

This grading system is based on satisfactory acquisition of defined skills or successful completion of the course learning outcomes

Grade	Description
COM	The student has met the goals, criteria, or competencies established for this course, practicum or field placement.

DST	The student has met and exceeded, above and beyond expectation, the goals, criteria, or competencies established for this course, practicum or field placement.
NC	The student has not met the goals, criteria or competencies established for this course, practicum or field placement.

B. 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 at <http://camosun.ca/about/policies/index.html> 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 are designed to have an anticipated enrollment that extends beyond one term. No more than two IP grades will be assigned for the same course.
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.