

Effective Semester: Fall 2025

COURSE INFORMATION

Course Title: Advanced Literary Principles

Course Number: ENGL 200

Credits: 3.0

Total Weeks: 14 (Fall, Spring)
12 (Summer)

Total Hours: 39

Course Level: ☐ First Year ☒ Second Year
☒ New ☐ Revised Course
☐ Replacement Course

Department: English

Department Head: Bruce Lord

Former Course Code(s) and Number(s) (if applicable): N/A

Pre-requisites (If there are no prerequisites, type NONE): ENGL 101 and successful completion of ENGL 103, ENGL 111, or ENGL 121

Co-requisite Statement (List if applicable or type NONE): N/A

Precluded Courses: N/A

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Welcome to English 200: Advanced Literary Principles! This course is aimed at introducing students to essential critical texts in the study of literary theory. Through a varied reading list of novels, poems, short stories, essays, and films, students will familiarize themselves with broader academic and cultural contexts of literature studies. Close reading and essay writing skills, emphasized in the 100 level English courses, will here be applied to a diverse selection of readings intended to broaden and deepen students' discussions of the literature, media, and analyses we consume on a daily basis. Our readings will focus on place, indigeneity, sociocultural challenges—both contemporary and historical, inside and out of Canada—and the various factors that make up our senses of self (be they cultural, social, ethnic, gendered, or personal). The overall goal of our class is to demystify these discussions and give students the confidence to excel at higher levels of discussions of literature.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

Upon successful completion of the course, students will be able to:

- Demonstrate knowledge of a variety of critical and theoretical techniques in the study of English literature: decolonial, Indigenous, gender, psychoanalytic, ecocritical, amongst others.
- Exhibit critical thinking skills and comprehension of the broader history of English literature through in-class assignments, discussions, and group work.
- Apply writing, close reading, critical summary, and creative skills to analysis of literature.
- Evaluate literature through a variety of theoretical lenses.
- Illustrate the competence and self-confidence, through assignments and in-class assessments, to approach higher, more specialized levels of literary studies.
- Create a strong, MLA-formatted research essay exploring literature's role in both shaping and challenging sociocultural narratives.

INSTRUCTION AND GRADING

Instructional (Contact) Hours:

Type	Duration
Lecture	39
Seminars/Tutorials	
Laboratory	
Field Experience	
Other (<i>specify</i>):	
Total	39

Grading System: Letter Grades ☒ Percentage ☐ Pass/Fail ☐ Satisfactory/Unsatisfactory ☐ Other ☐

Specify passing grade: 50%

Evaluation Activities and Weighting (total must equal 100%)

Assignments: 10% <i>Specify number of, variety, and nature of assignments:</i> Response journal - Weekly reflections on key readings	Lab Work: %	Participation: 10% <i>Specify nature of participation:</i> Participation in discussions and in-class work is required.	Project: 20% <i>Specify nature of project:</i> Term Paper – a literary analysis illustrating ability to apply theory creatively
Quizzes/Test: %	Midterm Exam: 20%	Final Exam: 30%	Other: 10% Creative response paper (to a course text choice)

TEXT(S) AND RESOURCE MATERIALS

Provide a full reference for each text and/or resource material and include whether required/not required.

Literature:

- Johns, Jessica. *Bad Cree*. Penguin Random House, 2023. (ISBN 9780593467947)
- Kang, Han. *The Vegetarian*. Translated by Deborah Smith, Hogarth, 2016. (ISBN 9781101906118)
- Phillipe, Grimbert. *Memory*. Simon & Schuster, 2008. (ISBN 1416560009)
- Snyder, Gary. *Turtle Island*. (ISBN 0811205460)

Textbook:

- Habib, M.A. R. *Modern Literary Criticism and Theory: A History*. Blackwell Publishing, 2005. (ISBN 1405176660)

Readings:

- Butler, Judith. *Gender Trouble* (excerpts)
- Chughtai, Ismat. "Lihaf"
- Freud, Sigmund. *The Ego and the Id* (excerpts).
- Gilman, Charlotte Perkins. "The Yellow Wallpaper."
- Homes, A.M. "One Wheel Gone Wrong."
- Hooks, Bell. *Ain't I a Woman?* (excerpts).
- Kimmerer, Robin Wall. *Braiding Sweetgrass* (excerpts).
- King, Thomas. "Borders."
- Márquez, Gabriel García. "The Handsomest Drowned Man in the World."
- Melville, Herman. "Bartleby, the Scrivener"
- Salman, Rushdie. "Imaginary Homelands."
- Spivak, Gayatri. "Can the Subaltern Speak?"
- Walker, Alice. "Everyday Use."

Film Screenings:

- *Nomadland* (dir. Chloé Zhao)
- *The Father* (dir. Florian Zeller)

COURSE TOPICS

List topics and sequence covered.

- Week 1: Introduction to Course & Decolonization
Readings: *A History of Literary Criticism* - "Introduction" by M.A.R. Habib; "Imaginary Homelands" by Salman Rushdie
- Week 2: Decolonization
Readings: *Bad Cree* by Jessica Johns
- Week 3: Indigenous Studies (Decolonization cont'd):
Readings: *Bad Cree* by Jessica Johns; "Borders" by Thomas King

- Week 4: Marxist/Post-Marxist Critique (Decolonization cont'd)
Readings: "The Handsomest Drowned Man in the World" by Gabriel García Márquez
Film Screening: *Nomadland* (dir. Chloé Zhao)
- Week 5: Environmental Thought (Ecocriticism)
Readings: *Turtle Island* by Gary Snyder (poems)
- Week 6: Modern Capitalism & the Environment (Ecocriticism cont'd)
Readings: "One Wheel Gone Wrong" by A.M. Homes; excerpts from *Braiding Sweetgrass* by Robin Wall Kimmerer
- Week 7: Review Class & **Midterm**
Readings: "Postcolonial Criticism" and "Marxist Theory" from *Modern Literary Criticism and Theory*
- Week 8: Gender, Patriarchy, and Rebellion (Gender Studies)
Readings: "The Yellow Wallpaper" by Charlotte Perkins Gilman; *The Vegetarian* by Han Kang (Part 1: The Vegetarian); excerpts from *Gender Trouble* by Judith Butler
- Week 9: Heritage, Class, and Self-definition (Gender Studies cont'd)
Readings: "Everyday Use" by Alice Walker; *The Vegetarian* by Han Kang (Part 2: *The Mongolian Mark*); excerpts *Ain't I a Woman?* by bell hooks
- Week 10: Desire, Sexuality and Transgression (Gender Studies cont'd)
Readings: "Lihaf" by Ismat Chughtai; *The Vegetarian* by Han Kang (Part 3 - *Flaming Trees*); "Can the Subaltern Speak?" by Gayatri Spivak
- Week 11: Freudianism (Psychoanalytic Criticism)
Readings: "Bartleby, the Scrivener" by Herman Melville; excerpts from *The Ego and the Id* by Sigmund Freud
- Week 12: Memory & Thought (Psychoanalytic Criticism cont'd)
Readings: *Memory* by Phillipe Gimbert
- Week 13: The Aging Process (Psychoanalytic Criticism cont'd)
Readings: *Memory* by Phillipe Gimbert
Film Screening: *The Father* (dir. Florian Zeller)
- Week 14: Course Review & **Final Exam**

NOTES

1. Students are required to follow all College policies. Policies are available on the website at: [Coquitlam College Policies](#)
2. To find out how this course transfers, visit the BC Transfer Guide at: [bctransferguide.ca](#)