

**ENGLISH 0012B:
NOVELS AND SHORT STORIES**

**Brescia University College
Winter 2020
Mondays 6:30 – 9:30pm
BR-203**

Instructor Information:

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Office Hours: Mondays 5:30-6:30pm and by appointment

Course Description:

We are all stories. Stories shape us, in their telling and in their hearing. This course aims to deepen the student's appreciation of narrative form, as represented in the novel and short story. The development of close reading skills opens up the intricacies of these narrative techniques, while larger thematic and synthesizing approaches reveal how these works speak deeply to our humanity. C.S. Lewis observed that "we read to know we are not alone." In this course – both in the solitude of our assigned reading and in the social connection of our classroom – we will enjoy the good company of person and page. Focus is placed on developing academic skills required at the university level. Art, film and music will supplement our class discussions.

Required Texts (Ordered to Campus Bookstore)

Jane Eyre by Charlotte Bronte
Secret Daughter by Shilpi Somaya Gowda
40 Short Stories: A Portable Anthology edited by Beverly Lawn

Grade Distribution and Methods of Assessment:

Your total grade for the course is evaluated out of 100% according to the following distribution:

Participation (includes attendance, active learning, one formal class presentation)	20%
Research Paper (approx. 1500 words, demonstrating engagement with research)	30%
Midterm Test (with exam essay component)	20%
Final Exam (with exam essay component)	30%

Learning Objectives:

This course will help students develop and hone all of Brescia's core competencies. Often these competencies overlap or blend; primary competencies are identified, however, as following:

1. Students will be able to write clearly and effectively with increased understanding of university level standards and academic discourse. Students will be able to speak confidently before their peers and present material in an informed and professional manner. (Communication)
2. Students will advance their literacy skills. Students will be able to formulate a logical argument and be able to engage with complex considerations raised by a text as well as additional sources. (Critical Thinking)
3. Students will be able to formulate a thesis and pursue a line of inquiry about a text. Students will be able to identify the presence and use of literary devices, genres and periods. Students will be able to ask sophisticated questions about a text and explore these ideas formally in their writing. (Inquiry and Analysis)
4. Students will be able to identify and examine issues of social justice raised by a literary text. Students will be exposed to various considerations of race and culture, and become adept at recognizing, respecting and then appropriately reconciling tensions therein. (Social Awareness and Engagement)
5. Students will acquire editing and revision skills. Students will be able to respond to criticism and incorporate feedback into the amelioration of their work. Students will work with their peers to lead class discussion, debate and resolution. (Problem Solving)
6. Students will become aware of their own social location and dignity through the act of empathetic as well as informed reading. (Self Awareness and Development)
7. Students will gain confidence and acumen in entering an academic conversation with self and mutual respect. Students will be able to draw upon how the humanities help us discern what it means to be human. (Valuing)

Course Policies:

- All work must be your own original work.** All campus guidelines regarding plagiarism and other forms of academic misconduct will be followed. (We will discuss things like Google in class. See, too, *A Note on Plagiarism* below.)
- Assignments:** All assignments will be carefully explained in class with supporting documentation. Formal assignments, exams and due dates are established well in advance.
- Be prepared.** Please arrive having read the assigned book (or established chapters) or story *in its entirety* for the first day it is listed on the syllabus unless otherwise noted in class. It is your responsibility to bring any questions or concerns about any assignment to my attention before the deadline/exam date. Always bring your text to class, along with a pen and lined paper.
- All work must conform to assignment guidelines.**
- Submission of Work:** *Take full responsibility for your work, the first time around.* Other than drafts for workshops or appointments, I do not accept re-writes or offer extra-credit incentives/work. An important part of handing in your work is actually *handing in your work*. It is your responsibility to edit, print and ensure the receipt of your work *on*

time and in *professional stylistic form*. Hand in all work in class, in person. Do not slip your paper under my office door. Except by prior arrangement due to extenuating circumstances, ***email submissions are not accepted.***

- **Attendance:** Regular attendance is expected, as is prepared and thoughtful engagement. Attendance will be recorded. For every unexcused absence, 1% will be docked from your participation grade (up to 5%). Upon five unexcused absences, you will receive zero for your attendance grade and may be referred to your Academic Advisor. Excused absences include those resulting from documented illness or deemed extenuating circumstances. Please see the University policy on attendance at the end of this document.
- **Late policy:** All formal assignments are due at the beginning of class on the designated date. A penalty of 10% per day for up to three days applies to late work; a grade of zero will apply by the fourth day. Honouring a deadline offers many life skills which complement the academic ones offered by this course. Moreover, negotiating different due dates is unfair to your peers who have managed their time and commitments to make the original deadline. When missing tests and assignments worth 10% or more, students must meet with an academic advisor to provide documentation for accommodation.
- **Please turn off all electronic devices:** With the exception of art, music or film supplementation as provided by the professor, this is an “unplugged” classroom. Use of electronic devices such as laptops, cell phones and the like are prohibited in class without prior consent of the professor. ***To avoid temptation, please put your cell phone away.*** Students are expected to pay full attention to class discussion and lectures, and to use pen and lined paper for class exercises unless otherwise directed. Please bring hard copies of texts to class, unless the in-class use of a digital version or website has been approved by the professor. As a baseball fan, I operate by a “three-strikes-you’re-out” policy: students receive two warnings against being distracted by devices during class. Upon the third infraction, you will be asked to leave the class and you will be docked the missed class as though it were an absence.
- **Responsible Communication:** Life happens, and while I hold high expectations for my students, I also aim to be fair. The more we can practice responsible and proactive communication, the more we can work out viable and just solutions in a way that is fair to your peers and helps ensure a rich learning experience for all. *Enjoy!*

A Note on Plagiarism

Plagiarism occurs when a person falsely presents someone else’s ideas as his/her own work. This misrepresentation constitutes theft. It is unethical, dishonest, and ultimately destructive – it shows disrespect toward your peers, your instructor, your institution, and the intellectual community with which you are in dialogue. But most significantly, it whittles away at your own integrity and self-worth. Earning a degree is an achievement of the whole person – it reflects a development in spiritual, intellectual and ethical maturity. If you are tempted to breach the premise of trust on which our academic conversation and growth are based, you will suffer severe professional as well as personal consequences. Plagiarism will be addressed thoroughly in class; please also consult university resources. If any doubts remain, however, please see me *before* you hand in your work.

Schedule

Monday, January 6th

Introduction to the Course

Distribution of presentations

The Happy Prince by Oscar Wilde (handout in class)

Girl by Jamaica Kinkaid (in textbook, but handout provided first day)

Happy Endings by Margaret Atwood

Monday, January 13th

The Yellow Wallpaper by Charlotte Gilman

Birdsong by Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie

Monday, January 20th

Jane Eyre

Monday, January 27th

Jane Eyre

Monday, February 3rd

Jane Eyre

Monday, February 10th

MIDTERM TEST

Monday, February 17th - NO CLASS – READING WEEK

Monday, February 24th

Everyday Use by Alice Walker

Monday, March 2nd

Secret Daughter by Shilpi Somaya Gowda

Monday, March 9th

Secret Daughter

Monday, March 16th

Preparation of drafts for final paper

Monday, March 23rd

The Lone Ranger and Tonto Fistfight in Heaven by Sherman Alexie
Smoke Signals/film analysis based on Alexie's collection

Monday, March 30th – Last Day of Class

TERM PAPERS DUE

Final exam review

FINAL EXAM – details TBA

2019-20 BRESCIA UNIVERSITY COLLEGE ACADEMIC POLICIES AND REGULATIONS

1. POLICY REGARDING ACADEMIC ACCOMMODATION

The complete policy regarding [Accommodation for Illness - Undergraduate Students](http://www.westerncalendar.uwo.ca/PolicyPages.cfm?Command=showCategory&PolicyCategoryID=1&SelectedCalendar=Live&ArchiveID=#Page_12) can be found at http://www.westerncalendar.uwo.ca/PolicyPages.cfm?Command=showCategory&PolicyCategoryID=1&SelectedCalendar=Live&ArchiveID=#Page_12.

Students who have long-term or chronic medical conditions which may impede their ability to complete academic responsibilities should seek Academic Accommodation through Student Accessibility Services (http://www.westerncalendar.uwo.ca/PolicyPages.cfm?PolicyCategoryID=1&Command=showCategory&SelectedCalendar=Live&ArchiveID=#Page_10).

Personal commitments (e.g., vacation flight bookings, work schedule) which conflict with a scheduled test, exam or course requirement are **not** grounds for academic accommodation.

Students who experience an illness or extenuating circumstance sufficiently severe to temporarily render them unable to meet academic requirements may submit a request for academic consideration through the following routes:

1. Submitting a **Self-Reported Absence** form provided that the conditions for submission are met;
2. For medical absences, submitting a **Student Medical Certificate (SMC)** signed by a licensed medical or mental health practitioner;
3. For non-medical absences, submitting **appropriate documentation** (e.g., obituary, police report, accident report, court order, etc.) to their Academic Advisor. Students are encouraged to contact their Academic Advisor to clarify what documentation is acceptable.

Requests for Academic Consideration Using the Self-Reported Absence Portal

Students who experience an unexpected illness or injury or an extenuating circumstance of 48 hours or less that is sufficiently severe to render them unable to meet academic requirements should self-declare using the online Self-Reported Absence portal. This option should be used in situations where the student expects to resume academic responsibilities within 48 hours. Note that the excused absence includes all

courses and academic requirements within the up to 48 hours, it is not intended to provide an excused absence from a single course while students fulfill their academic responsibilities in other courses during that time.

The following conditions are in place for self-reporting of medical or extenuating circumstances:

1. Students will be allowed **a maximum of two self-reported absences** between September and April and one self-reported absence between May and August;
2. The duration of the absence will be for a maximum of 48 hours from the time the Self-Reported Absence form is completed through the online portal, or from 8:30 am the following morning if the form is submitted after 4:30 pm;
3. The excused absence will terminate prior to the end of the 48 hour period if the student undertakes significant academic responsibilities (writes a test, submits a paper) during that time;
4. Self-reported absences will **not** be allowed for scheduled final examinations; midterm examinations scheduled during the December examination period; or for final lab examinations scheduled during the final week of term;
5. Self-report absences may **not** be used for assessments worth more than 30% of any course;
6. Any absences in excess of 48 hours will require students to present a Student Medical Certificate (SMC), or appropriate documentation;
7. Students **must** communicate with their instructors **no later than 24 hours after the end of the period covered by the Self-Reported Absence form** to clarify how they will fulfil the academic expectations they may have missed during the absence.

Request for Academic Consideration for a Medical Absence

When a student requests academic accommodation (e.g., extension of a deadline, a makeup exam) for work representing 10% or more of the student's overall grade in the course, it is the responsibility of the student to provide acceptable documentation to support a medical or compassionate claim. All such requests for academic accommodation **must** be made through an Academic Advisor and include supporting documentation.

Academic accommodation for illness will be granted only if the documentation indicates that the onset, duration and severity of the illness are such that the student could not reasonably be expected to complete their academic responsibilities. Minor ailments typically treated by over-the-counter medications will not normally be accommodated.

The following conditions apply for students seeking academic accommodation on medical grounds:

1. Students must submit their Student Medical Certificate (SMC) along with a request for relief specifying the nature of the accommodation being requested no later than two business days after the date specified for resuming responsibilities. An SMC can be downloaded from http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/medicalform.pdf ;
2. In cases where there might be an extended absence or serious issue, students should submit their documentation promptly and consult their Academic Advisor for advice during their recovery period;
3. Whenever possible, students who require academic accommodation should provide notification and documentation in advance of due dates, scheduled tests or examinations, and other academic requirements;
4. Students **must** communicate with their instructors **no later than 24 hours** after the end of the period covered by the SMC to clarify how they will fulfil the academic expectations they may have missed during the absence;
5. Appropriate academic accommodation will be determined by the Dean's Office/Academic Advisor in consultation with the course instructor(s). Academic accommodation may include extension of deadlines, waiver of attendance requirements, arranging Special Exams (make-ups), re-weighting course requirements, or granting late withdrawal without academic penalty.

The [full policy on requesting accommodation due to illness](http://www.westerncalendar.uwo.ca/PolicyPages.cfm?Command=showCategory&PolicyCategoryID=1&SelectedCalendar=Live&ArchiveID=#Page_12) can be viewed at:

http://www.westerncalendar.uwo.ca/PolicyPages.cfm?Command=showCategory&PolicyCategoryID=1&SelectedCalendar=Live&ArchiveID=#Page_12

2. ACADEMIC CONCERNS

If you feel that you have a medical or personal challenge that is interfering with your work, contact your instructor and Academic Advisor as soon as possible. Problems may then be documented and possible arrangements to assist you can be discussed at the time of occurrence rather than on a retroactive basis. Retroactive requests for academic accommodation on medical or compassionate grounds are not normally considered.

If you think that you are too far behind to catch up or that your work load is not manageable, you should consult your Academic Advisor. If you consider reducing your workload by dropping one or more courses, this must be done by the appropriate deadlines; please refer to the [Registrar's website](http://brescia.uwo.ca/academics/registrar-services/), <http://www.westerncalendar.uwo.ca/SessionalDates.cfm?SelectedCalendar=Live&ArchiveID=>.

You should consult with the course instructor and the Academic Advisor who can help you consider alternatives to dropping one or more courses. *Note that dropping a course may affect OSAP eligibility and/or Entrance Scholarship eligibility.*

3. ABSENCES

Short Absences: If you miss a class due to a minor illness or other problems, check your course outline for information regarding attendance requirements and make sure you are not missing a test or assignment. Cover any readings and arrange to borrow notes from a classmate. Contact the course instructor if you have any questions.

Extended Absences: If you have an extended absence, you should contact the course instructor and an Academic Advisor. Your course instructor and Academic Advisor can discuss ways for you to catch up on missed work, and arrange academic accommodations if appropriate and warranted.

It is important to note that the Academic Dean may refuse permission to write the final examination in a course if the student has failed to maintain satisfactory academic standing throughout the year or for too frequent absence from the class or laboratory (http://www.westerncalendar.uwo.ca/PolicyPages.cfm?Command=showCategory&PolicyCategoryID=5&SelectedCalendar=Live&ArchiveID=#SubHeading_68).

4. SCHOLASTIC OFFENCES

Scholastic offences are taken seriously and students are directed to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitutes a Scholastic Offence at: http://www.westerncalendar.uwo.ca/PolicyPages.cfm?Command=showCategory&PolicyCategoryID=1&SelectedCalendar=Live&ArchiveID=#Page_20.

Students are responsible for understanding the nature of and avoiding the occurrence of plagiarism and other academic offences. Note that such offences include plagiarism, cheating on an examination, submitting false or fraudulent assignments or credentials, impersonating a candidate, or submitting for credit in any course without the knowledge and approval of the instructor to whom it is submitted, any academic work for which credit has previously been obtained or is being sought in another course in the University or elsewhere. Students are advised to consult the section on Scholastic Discipline for Undergraduate Students in the Academic Calendar.

If you are in doubt about whether what you are doing is inappropriate or not, consult your instructor, the Academic Dean's Office, or the Registrar. A claim that "you didn't know it was wrong" is not accepted as an excuse.

The penalties for a student guilty of a scholastic offence (including plagiarism) include refusal of a passing grade in the assignment, refusal of a passing grade in the course, suspension from the University, and expulsion from the University.

Plagiarism:

Students must write their essays and assignments in their own words. Whenever students take an idea or a passage from another author, they must acknowledge their debt both by using quotation marks where appropriate and by proper referencing such as footnotes or citations. Plagiarism is a major academic offence.

All required papers may be subject to submission for textual similarity review to the commercial plagiarism detection software under license to the University for the detection of plagiarism. All papers submitted for such checking will be included as source documents in the reference database for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of papers subsequently submitted to the system. Use of the service is subject to the licensing agreement, currently between The University of Western Ontario and Turnitin.com (<http://www.turnitin.com>).

Computer-marked Tests/exams:

Computer-marked multiple-choice tests and/or exams may be subject to submission for similarity review by software that will check for unusual coincidences in answer patterns that may indicate cheating. Software currently in use to score computer-marked multiple-choice tests and exams performs a similarity review as part of standard exam analysis.

5. PROCEDURES FOR APPEALING ACADEMIC EVALUATIONS

All appeals of a grade must be directed first to the course instructor. If the student is not satisfied with the decision of the course instructor, a written appeal is to be sent to the School Chair. If the response of the Chair is considered unsatisfactory to the student, they may then submit a written appeal to the Office of the Dean. If the student is not satisfied with the decision of the Dean, they may appeal to the Senate Review Board Academic (SRBA), if there are sufficient grounds for the appeal and if the matter falls within the jurisdiction of the SRBA. For information on academic appeals consult your Academic Advisor or see the Student Academic Appeals – Undergraduate in the Academic Calendar http://www.westerncalendar.uwo.ca/PolicyPages.cfm?Command=showCategory&PolicyCategoryID=1&SelectedCalendar=Live&ArchiveID=#Page_14.

Note that final course marks are not official until the Academic Dean has reviewed and signed the final grade report for the course. If course marks deviate from acceptable and appropriate standards, the Academic Dean may require grades to be adjusted to align them with accepted grading practices.

6. PREREQUISITES

Unless you have either the prerequisites for a course or written special permission from the Dean to enroll in it, you will be removed from the course and it will be deleted from your record. This decision may not be appealed. You will receive no adjustment to your fees in the event that you are dropped from a course for failing to have the necessary prerequisite(s).

7. SUPPORT

Support Services

The Brescia University College Registrar's website, with a link to Academic Advisors, is at <http://brescia.uwo.ca/academics/registrar-services/> . Students can access supports through Brescia's Student Life Centre (<http://brescia.uwo.ca/life/student-life/>) and Learning Skills Services at Western (<https://www.uwo.ca/sdc/learning/>)

Mental Health and Wellness

Students may experience a range of issues that can cause barriers to your learning, such as increased anxiety, feeling overwhelmed, feeling down or lost, difficulty concentrating and/or lack of motivation. Services are available to assist you with addressing these and other concerns you may be experiencing. You can obtain information about how to obtain help for yourself or others through **Mental Health & Wellness at Brescia** (<http://brescia.uwo.ca/life/mental-health-wellness/>) and **Health and Wellness at Western**, http://uwo.ca/health/mental_wellbeing/index.html.

Sexual Violence

All members of the Brescia University College community have a right to work and study in an environment that is free from any form of sexual violence. Brescia University College recognizes that the prevention of, and response to, Sexual Violence is of particular importance in the university environment. Sexual Violence is strictly prohibited and unacceptable and will not be tolerated. Brescia is committed to preventing Sexual Violence and creating a safe space for anyone in the Brescia community who has experienced Sexual Violence.

If you or someone you know has experienced any form of Sexual Violence, you may access resources at <http://brescia.uwo.ca/life/sexual-violence/>.

Portions of this document were taken from the Academic Calendar, the Handbook of Academic and Scholarship Policy and the Academic Handbook of Senate Regulations. This document is a summary of relevant regulations and does not supersede the academic policies and regulations of the Senate of the University of Western Ontario.
