



**ENGLISH 1020E (670)**  
**Understanding Literature Today**  
**Fall/Winter 2025 - 2026**

Instructor: Michelle Hartley  
Email: [mhartley@uwo.ca](mailto:mhartley@uwo.ca)

**Course Information**

**Class Times:** see Course Timetable

**Calendar Description:** By studying a broad range of exciting and important literary works from the past and present, this course will increase your understanding and appreciation not just of the richness and power of the works themselves, but also of the role of literature in reflecting and shaping our perceptions of the world and of ourselves.

**Prerequisite(s):** Grade 12U English or permission of the Department. For part time students who have been admitted without the OSSD, this permission will be granted as a matter of course.

**Anti-requisite(s):** English 1022E, English 1035E.

**Extra Information:** 3 hours.

**Course Weight:** 1.00

**Breadth:** Category B

**Subject Code:** ENGLISH

Notice: Unless you have either the requisites for this course (fulfilment of pre-requisites, no anti-requisite conflicts), or special permission from your Dean to enrol in it, you may be removed from this 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 prerequisites.

## King's University College

Department of English, French, and Writing  
English 1020E/670: Understanding Literature Today  
Course outline for 2025-26

### Course Overview and Important Dates:

English 1020E/670 will be held online starting September 4<sup>th</sup> and running until the end of the 2025 Winter term in April. The midterm and final exam for the course will be held in-person at King's as per the Course Timetable. Online courses require discipline, so weekly online attendance and participation are required. I will attempt to notify students before the last drop date on November 30, 2025 if they are not meeting expectations and are in danger of being debarred from the final exam. The English department does not allow extra-credit assignments to make up for missed assignments or participation, so please check in at least weekly.

Please check the Methods of Evaluation schedule and Course Reading Schedule for more detailed information on individual assignments and course obligations.

### Instructor Contact Information

My email address is [mhartley@uwo.ca](mailto:mhartley@uwo.ca).

### Office Hours:

Office hours will be held remotely using Zoom. Check the homepage on Brightspace for the link and password. Feel free to email me: [mhartley@uwo.ca](mailto:mhartley@uwo.ca) to ask a quick question or set up an alternate time.

I will reply within 24 hours during the week, usually on Monday mornings for any messages that come in Friday after 3:30 PM.

### Course Description:

This course takes you on a journey through the genres, historical periods, and critical approaches to English literature. In our lectures and discussions, you will study major works of poetry, prose, and drama with attention to their use of literary form and the cultural contexts in which they were written. The written assignments for the course will provide you with training in literary analysis, logical and rhetorical argumentation, and strong skills in grammar and composition.

This course is recommended to students who may be considering either a Major or Minor in English Language and Literature, and who are interested in reading poetry, prose, and drama.

Prerequisite: Grade 12U English or permission of the Department.

### Course Learning Outcomes

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

- Identify and analyze basic elements of literature, such as plot, character, point of view, theme, setting, imagery, diction, tone, figures of speech, syntax, and rhythm
- Recognize connections between course texts

- Write an essay about a work (or works) of literature, containing a clear and effective thesis supported by adequate evidence from the original text(s)
- Research critical commentary on literary works
- Evaluate the relevance, reliability, and usefulness of research sources, especially those obtained through the Internet versus the library database
- Integrate outside research materials and references to the original text(s) into an essay through the use of quotations and paraphrases
- Organize and present ideas clearly and effectively in writing
- Document essays using MLA format

For successful completion of the course, students need to read the primary material (see the Course Schedule) listed in the timetable each week in time for class. Accordingly, students should read ahead during weeks with light reading (short lyric poems, etc.) as some primary texts such as longer novels like *Jane Eyre* tend to take far more time. The first term assignments will help to build the necessary skills.

### Mode of Instruction

Lecture material and discussion will be posted asynchronously on OWL-Brightspace:

<https://westernu.brightspace.com/d2l/login>. I will post lecture material weekly on Mondays to encourage your weekly attendance and participation. You should be spending at least 2 hours on course lecture material and readings/notetaking and discussions per week. Students who do not attend online on a regular basis may be debarred from the exam and fail the course.

### Course Materials

Many of the course's primary texts are now available electronically as they are old enough to be in the public domain. However, the required textbooks have more background provided on authors, literary terms, and genres. If you choose to use other versions, your pagination will differ, and I will expect you to use the copy of *The Broadview Introduction to Literature* (concise 2nd edition or ebook) on reserve to familiarize yourself with introductions to genres and terms. All texts will be available at the Western Bookstore and on reserve at Cardinal Carter Library.

*The Broadview Introduction to Literature* 2<sup>nd</sup> edition (ebook \$51.96 or concise 2nd pbk \$69.95)  
 Charlotte Brontë, *Jane Eyre* (Broadview 2<sup>nd</sup> edition \$19.75 or ebook \$9.99)  
 Jean Rhys, *Wide Sargasso Sea* (Penguin pbk \$19.99)

### Methods of Evaluation

Any changes to the evaluation breakdown below will be communicated via announcement and a syllabus update on the OWL syllabus tab.

Essay 1	10%	1000 words	October 10*
Midterm	15%	IN PERSON	November 22**
Annotated Bibliography	5%	500-750 words	February 23*
Essay 2	25%	2000 words	March 20*
Reading Quizzes and Attendance	15%		Weekly
Final Exam	30%	3 hours	In-person TBA

\*Assignments are due at 11:59PM unless otherwise stated. For Essay 1, the Annotated Bibliography, and Essay 2, no late penalty will be imposed for the first 72 hours after the deadline, in case of extenuating circumstances. Students should plan to submit by the deadline. Because the submission deadlines for these assessments already include flexibility, they are not eligible for further academic consideration. Such requests will be denied.

\*\*Requests for Academic Consideration for the Midterm must be accompanied by formal supporting documentation. The make-up will be November 29<sup>th</sup>.

\*\*\*Regular attendance is mandatory in all classes including those online. In cases of excessive absenteeism (e.g. no participation in discussions or more than 4 units of lecture material uncompleted), students may be debarred from taking the final exam and receive 0% for participation.

## Course Schedule

Week	Date	Tentative Weekly Schedule of Topics and Required Texts
1	Sept 8	Introduction to poetry: Auden, "Funeral Blues"; Thomas, "Do Not Go Gentle into that Good Night"; Bishop, "One Art" ( <i>Broadview Introduction to Literature</i> - BIL)
2	Sept 15	Shakespeare, "Sonnet 18," Sonnet 73" and "Sonnet 130" (BIL)
3	Sept 22	Millay, ["I, being born a woman and distressed"] (BIL); Rossetti, "In an Artist's Studio" (Brightspace) and Clarke, "Blank Sonnet" (BIL)
4	Sept 29	Introduction to drama, Shakespeare, <i>Twelfth Night</i> (BIL)
5	Oct 6	<i>Twelfth Night</i> continued – Essay Writing and Citing
6	Oct 13	Donne, "The Flea" and "A Valediction: Forbidding Mourning"
7	Oct 20	Blake, "London" (BIL) and Lampman, "The City of the End of Things"
8	Oct 27	Introduction to prose: Poe, "The Black Cat" (BIL)
		Happy Reading Week
9	Nov 10	Brontë, <i>Jane Eyre</i>
10	Nov 17	Review for Midterm
11	Nov 24	<i>Jane Eyre</i> , continued
12	Dec 1	Browning, "My Last Duchess" (BIL) and Perkins Gilman, "The Yellow Wallpaper" (BIL)
13	Jan 5	Yeats, "Easter 1916" and Joyce, "Araby" (BIL)
14	Jan 12	Mansfield, "The Garden Party"
15	Jan 19	Literary Research
16	Jan 26	Dunbar, "We Wear the Mask"; Hughes, "Harlem (2)" (BIL)
17	Feb 2	Rhys, <i>Wide Sargasso Sea</i>
18	Feb 9	<i>Wide Sargasso Sea</i> , continued
		Winter Reading Week – no class, no assignments due
19	Feb 23	Heaney, "Digging," "The Grabaulle Man" (BIL)
20	Mar 2	Atwood, "Happy Endings" (BIL) and Allen, "One poem town" (BIL)

21	Mar 9	Dumont, "Not Just a Platform for My Dance" and "The White Judges" (BIL)
22	Mar 16	Robinson, "Terminal Avenue" and Simpson, "Big Water" (BIL)
23	Mar 23	Wilde, <i>The Importance of Being Earnest</i>
24	Mar 30	Exam Review

## Academic Integrity

Scholastic offences are taken seriously and students are directed to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitutes a Scholastic Offence, at the following Web site: [http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic\\_policies/appeals/scholastic\\_discipline\\_undergrad.pdf](http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/scholastic_discipline_undergrad.pdf) (See also Appendix A below).

**Students must have passed and uploaded Western's Academic Integrity Certificate**  
Before their assignments will be considered for this course.

### Policy on AI (e.g. Chat GPT) Use:

Use of Chat GPT or other AI services *is prohibited* in all assessments, including essays, tests, and examinations. Unauthorized use of AI will be subject to academic discipline.



## KING'S UNIVERSITY COLLEGE

### GENERAL COURSE POLICIES

### 2025-2026

#### **1. Academic Accommodations, Consideration for Absences**

##### **Academic Accommodation (Accessibility)**

Accessibility Services works to ensure that academic programs are accessible to all students, and supports students who may have a condition related to, but not limited to, vision, hearing, mobility, different ways of learning, mental health, chronic illnesses, chronic pain, autism spectrum disorder, ADD/ADHD, and temporary conditions (beyond short-term academic consideration). Accessibility Services provides recommendations for accommodation based on medical documentation or psychological and cognitive assessment. The accommodation policy can be found here [Academic Accommodation for Students with Disabilities](#). Information on Accessibility Services at King's can be found [here](#).

##### **Academic Consideration for Student Absence**

If a student is unable to meet a course requirement due to substantial but temporary extenuating circumstances (medical or compassionate), they should follow the procedures below.

In some cases, where instructors have built flexibility into their assessments, this flexibility will already address consideration needs.

Requests for academic consideration should be directed to the Academic Advising Office of your faculty/college of registration. Requests must be made as soon as possible and no later than 48 hours after the missed assessment.

As a rule, documentation is required for academic consideration. For academic consideration requests on medical grounds, the Student Medical Certificate is available at [https://www.kings.uwo.ca/kings/assets/File/currentStudents/courses\\_enrollment/exams\\_and\\_tests/SMC-Feb-2025.pdf](https://www.kings.uwo.ca/kings/assets/File/currentStudents/courses_enrollment/exams_and_tests/SMC-Feb-2025.pdf).

Students are permitted one academic consideration request without supporting documentation per term per course.

Instructors may designate one assessment per half-course weight as requiring formal supporting documentation. Please refer to the course outline for each course.

For further information, please see:

[https://uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic\\_policies/appeals/academic\\_consideration\\_Sep24.pdf](https://uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/academic_consideration_Sep24.pdf)

##### **Absences from Final Examinations**

If you miss the Final Exam, contact the Academic Advising Office of your faculty/college of registration as soon as you are able to do so. They will assess your eligibility to write the Special Examination (the name given by the University to a makeup Final Exam).

You may also be eligible to write the Special Exam if you are in a “Multiple Exam Situation” (e.g., more than 2 exams in 23-hour period, or more than 3 exams in a 47-hour period).

If a student fails to write a scheduled Special Examination, the date of the next Special Examination (if granted) normally will be the scheduled date for the final exam the next time this course is offered. The maximum course load for that term will be reduced by the credit of the course(s) for which the final examination has been deferred. See the Academic Calendar for details (under [Special Examinations](#)).

## Religious Accommodation

Students should consult the University's list of recognized religious holidays, and should give notice in writing to the instructor and Academic Advising Office if a course requirement will be affected by a religious holiday/observance. Notice must be given as early as possible, and no later than two weeks prior to an examination, and one week prior to a midterm test date. It is the responsibility of such students to inform themselves concerning the work done in classes from which they are absent and to take appropriate action.

## 2. Support Services

Accessibility, Counselling and Student Development at King’s University College: <https://www.kings.uwo.ca/current-students/student-services/>

Students experiencing emotional or mental health distress can access services at King’s University College: <http://www.kings.uwo.ca/current-students/campus-services/student-support-services/personal-counselling/>

Good2talk is a good online and phone 24/7 resource for students and is available in English, Mandarin, and French: <https://good2talk.ca>, 1-866-925-5454

MentalHealth@Western provides a complete list of options about how to obtain help: [https://www.uwo.ca/health/mental\\_wellbeing/](https://www.uwo.ca/health/mental_wellbeing/)

Academic Support Services at King’s University College: <https://www.kings.uwo.ca/current-students/academic-resources/>

### GBSV Support:

King’s is committed to reducing incidents of gender-based and sexual violence and providing compassionate support to anyone who has gone through these traumatic events. If you have experienced sexual or gender-based violence (either recently or in the past), you will find information about support services for survivors, including emergency contacts at: <https://www.kings.uwo.ca/about-kings/safe-campus/gender-and-sexual-violence/>

You can reach someone supports at Kings by emailing [Care@kings.uwo.ca](mailto:Care@kings.uwo.ca) or calling 519-930-4640 to reach a social worker who can offer help.

You can also reach Western’s Gender-Based Violence & Survivor Support Case Manager by [email](#) or by calling 519-661-3568.

Further supports can be found on this website: <https://www.kings.uwo.ca/about-kings/safe-campus/gender-and-sexual-violence/>

See also [https://www.uwo.ca/health/student\\_support/survivor\\_support/get-help.html](https://www.uwo.ca/health/student_support/survivor_support/get-help.html)

University Students’ Council offers many valuable support services for students, including the health insurance plan: <http://westernusc.ca/services/>

### 3. Statement on Use of Electronic Devices

**Use of Electronic Devices:** Unless explicitly stated otherwise, you are not allowed to have a cell phone, or any other electronic device, with you during tests or examinations. Unauthorized possession of such a device during a test or examination constitutes an academic offence.

**Use of Laptops, Tablets, and Smartphones in the Classroom:** King's University College at Western University acknowledges the integration of new technologies and learning methods into the curriculum. The use of electronic devices such as laptop computers, tablets, or smartphones can contribute to student engagement and effective learning. At the same time, King's recognizes that instructors and students share jointly the responsibility to establish and maintain a respectful classroom environment conducive to learning.

The use of electronic devices by students during lectures, seminars, labs, etc., shall be for matters related to the course at hand only. Students found to be using electronic devices for purposes not directly related to the class may be subject to sanctions under the Student Code of Conduct; see <https://www.kings.uwo.ca/current-students/student-affairs/code-of-student-conduct1/>

Inappropriate use of electronics (e.g., laptops, tablets, smartphones) during lectures, seminars, labs, etc., creates a significant disruption. As a consequence, instructors may choose to limit the use of electronic devices in these settings. In addition, in order to provide a safe classroom environment, students attending in-person class sessions are strongly advised to operate laptops with batteries rather than power cords.

### 4. Statement on Academic Offences

King's is committed to academic integrity. Scholastic offences are taken seriously and students are directed to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitutes a Scholastic Offence, is posted at [http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic\\_policies/appeals/scholastic\\_discipline\\_undergrad.pdf](http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/scholastic_discipline_undergrad.pdf)

It is expected that students will submit work that is truly their own, completed without external assistance (human or artificial) except as explicitly permitted by the course instructor. Check with your instructor on what tools, including generative AI (ChatGPT, translation tools, grammar-checking tools) are permitted in the course. Because a tool is permitted in one course, that does not mean it is permitted in other courses.

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; see [https://elearningtoolkit.uwo.ca/tools/Originality\\_Reports\\_-\\_TurnItIn.html](https://elearningtoolkit.uwo.ca/tools/Originality_Reports_-_TurnItIn.html).

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.

### 5. Copyright of Course Material

Lectures and course materials, including PowerPoint presentations, tests, outlines, and similar materials are protected by copyright. Faculty members are the exclusive owner of copyright in those materials they create. Students may take notes and make copies for their own use. Students may not allow others to reproduce or distribute lecture notes and course materials publicly (whether or not a fee is charged) without the express written consent of a faculty member. Unauthorized sharing of class content is subject to academic discipline.

Similarly, students own copyright in their own original papers and exam essays. If a faculty member wishes to post a student's answers or papers on the course website, they should ask for the student's written permission.

### 6. Use of Recordings

Participants in this course are not permitted to record the sessions, except where recording is an approved accommodation and/or the participant has the prior written permission of the instructor. Unauthorized recording and/or sharing of class content is subject to academic discipline.

## **7. Policy on Attendance**

Any student who, in the opinion of the instructor, is absent too frequently from class or laboratory periods in any course, will be reported to the Dean of the Faculty offering the course, after due warning has been given. On the recommendation of the department concerned, and with the permission of the Dean of that Faculty, the student will be debarred from taking the regular examination in the course.