



English 3209F (670)  
Fall 2025  
Topics In Theory

**Course Information:**

**Calendar Description:** This course offers advanced study in a narrowly defined area of theory and criticism. Specific content will vary from year to year depending on the instructor. Consult the Department for offerings.

**2025/26 Description:** This course will examine selected literature about seasons and cycles. Through close reading, students will gain an appreciation about how seasonality informs our thinking about literary form in relation to themes such as attention and social observance; nature and the more-than-human; and weather and global climate. Authors we may consider include Shakespeare, Keats, Brontë, and Dickens as well as some more contemporary and lesser-known ones.

**Prerequisite(s):** At least 60% in 1.0 of English 1020-1999 or permission of the Department.

**Anti-requisite(s):**

**Extra Information:** 3 hours

**Course Weight:**0.50      **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 enroll 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 pre-requisites.

**English 3209F (670)**  
**2025-26**

King's University College at Western University

**Instructor:** Dr. K. Lysack (she/her)

<https://www.kings.uwo.ca/academics/english/english-faculty/>

**Office hours:** by appointment [klysack@uwo.ca](mailto:klysack@uwo.ca)

**Course description:** This course will examine selected literature about seasons and cycles. Through close reading, students will gain an appreciation about how seasonality informs our thinking about literary form in relation to themes such as attention and social observance; nature and the more-than-human; and weather and global climate. Authors we may consider include Shakespeare, Keats, Brontë, and Dickens as well as some more contemporary and lesser-known ones.

**For information: Learning Outcomes of the King's English Program:**

- (1) cultivate independent inquiry tailored to individual strengths and differences, giving diverse students the flexibility to succeed in their own ways.
- (2) demonstrate a critical command of key formal and generic categories, making distinctions within major historical periods of literature, and evaluating the social and cultural issues of the past in dialogue with the present.
- (3) conduct close reading and discourse analysis of primary texts, even while reflecting on the formation and expansion of literary canons in English and the larger stakes that inform this evolution.
- (4) perform research using both print and digital resources, developing information literacy and inclusive citation practices, and incorporating this research into one's own analyses in a critical way.
- (5) scrutinize texts in historical, cultural, and linguistic contexts, evaluating the assumptions and limitations of relevant scholarly methodologies and creating sophisticated arguments that cross disciplinary boundaries, while recognizing the chief conceptual and theoretical assumptions and/or limitations of each critical methodology.
- (6) consider a diverse range of ethical stances and positionalities, such as decolonization, anti-racism, environmental justice, gender and sexual identities, and class in the study of literature, recognizing that our discipline has the potential both to perpetuate existing structures or to imagine and create other worlds.
- (7) collaborate in group settings in a manner that is intellectually courageous, responsible, and supportive, establishing an original voice that is in conversation both with a larger community of thinkers and with one's own lived experience.
- (8) improve reading comprehension, sustain concentration, and nurture the value of pleasure, all in order to thrive in an increasingly distracted world.
- (9) communicate effectively, producing persuasive and well-researched writing, formulating questions, and articulating ideas clearly and effectively, in ways that are not only academically rigorous but which might also be transferrable to a professional work environment.

**Course delivery format and Technology requirement:** This is a fully online, fully asynchronous course that uses King’s learning platform, OWL Brightspace. It will require that students have an internet connection in order to access the course materials and to submit the course assignments. There are no “live” (no synchronous) components to this course.

**Prerequisite(s):** none

**Antirequisite(s):** none

**Textbooks** (available from Western Bookstore <https://bookstore.uwo.ca/textbooks-and-course-materials>)

Brontë, *Wuthering Heights* (Broadview) \$20.15

Dickens, *A Christmas Carol* (Broadview) \$17.85

Watt-Cloutier, *The Right to Be Cold* (Penguin) \$22.00

The remaining readings for the course are provided on the course OWL site.

## COURSE EVALUATION

**Fall Term Passage Analysis** (750-1000 words)

20%

Due date option 1: November 7

Due date option 2: November 21

**Year-Long Reading Diary** (6 monthly entries of about 250-300 each=2000-2400 words total)

20%

Due: March 20

**Research Essay** (1850-2000 words)

25%

Due date option 1: March 16

Due date option 2: March 30

**Final Exam**

35%

due April TBA [https://registrar.uwo.ca/academics/examinations/exam\\_schedule.html](https://registrar.uwo.ca/academics/examinations/exam_schedule.html)

## OTHER COURSE INFORMATION

**Copyright:** The materials in this course are the professor’s intellectual property and are protected by copyright. The course materials may not be distributed, shared in any public domain, or sold by a student or other third party.

**E-mail Policy:** I am happy to respond to questions about the course (about the readings, lecture

notes, assignments, etc.). Please allow me a day or two to reply on weekdays. Please note that I am not available to respond to e-mail sent during evenings or weekends. (If you e-mail during the evening, you will generally receive an answer some time the following weekday; if you e-mail on the weekend, I will usually respond on Monday.) When you send e-mail, do use your official Western e-mail account.

**Technology Assistance:** If you have questions about OWL (how the course online system works, how to submit essays through OWL, or any sort of technical assistance), submit a request for help (a "ticket") by going to this link: <https://www.kings.uwo.ca/its/service/> Here is some more information about how to access OWL or IT support:

<https://www.kings.uwo.ca/its/services/help-desk/>

**Late Penalty and Last Day to Submit:** In keeping with many other courses in the English Program at King's, late assignments are penalized 1% per day, including weekends. *Essays must be submitted within a week of the deadline; normally, no essays will be accepted after the seventh day* (unless the student has been granted Academic Consideration by the Academic Dean's Office). Also, *normally no assignments will be accepted after the last day of classes in April* (again, unless the student has been granted Academic Consideration). You may, of course, submit assignments early if you wish.

**Use of Chat GPT or other AI services, including translation and grammar-checking tools, is prohibited** in all assessments and assignments for this course, including essays, tests, and examinations. Unauthorized use of AI will be subject to academic discipline.

**Weekly Reading Schedule:** Descriptions of the course assignments, along with a complete week-by-week Reading Schedule, is provided for students on the course OWL site.

# 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 you 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.