



English 1028G (570)  
Winter 2026  
The Storyteller's Art II: Topics in Narrative

**Course Information:**

**Calendar Description:** This course explores a particular theme, mode, or genre of storytelling. Consult the Department of English for details of current offerings. Instruction is by lecture and tutorials; emphasis on developing strong analytical and writing skills.

**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 1024E, English 1036E.

**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 1028 G:  
The Storyteller's Art II Topics in Narrative:  
Climate Change Fiction**

**Professor:** Dr. Jeremy Colangelo

**Professor Email:** [jcolang2@uwo.ca](mailto:jcolang2@uwo.ca)

**Office Hours:** Online (date/time TBA); see course website for Zoom URL

**Class Time:** Mon and Wed, 10:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

**Calendar Description**

Like everything in life, we need metaphors to conceptualize climate change. But what metaphors are most effective in bringing the immediacy and scope of the climate emergency to readers? What new explanatory models and narrative styles are needed to translate scientific fact into relatable human experience? This course will consider the development of climate change fiction, from a variety of formal and cultural perspectives, to question the status of storytelling at the end of the Anthropocene.

**Antirequisites**

English 1024E, English 1028G (2017-18), English 1028G (2016-17), English 1028G (2015-16), English 1028G (2018-2019), English 1036E.

**Prerequisites**

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.

**Learning Outcomes**

Students who complete this course will learn:

- The history of representing climate change in fiction
- How works of literature relate and connect to scientific advances
- How different forms and styles of writing arise to describe new environmental realities
- Connections between the environment, literature, and other important issues like political change and human rights
- Critical thinking and close reading skills

**AI Policy**

I reserve the right to assign a grade of ZERO to any assignment found to have incorporated any text derived from an LLM AI or similar technology. The purpose of the assignments in this course is to train your thinking and research skills, to challenge you so that you can grow. Using an AI to write your paper, then, is sort of like paying someone else to go to the gym for you and then wondering why you never get any stronger. Don't use them.

**Text List**

*All texts not listed here will be available either in class or online*

- John Steinbeck, *The Grapes of Wrath* (\$25.99)

- Samuel Beckett, *Endgame and Act Without Words* (\$26.50)
- J.G. Ballard, *The Drowned World* (19.99)
- Octavia Butler, *The Parable of the Sower* (\$25.99)
- Rita Indiana, *Tentacle* (\$24.95)
- Cormac McCarthy, *The Road* (28.55)

### Grades and Evaluation

*All assignments are due at 11:59 p.m. on the Friday of the week specified*

- In-class assignments (weeks 2-11) = 10% (cumulatively)
- Close reading assignment (week 4) = 15%
- Essay proposal (week 7) = 15%
- Research essay (week 12) = 30%
- Final exam (TBA) = 30%

### Assignments

*All assignments are to be cited according to the most recent edition of the MLA handbook*

In-Class Assignments: Each Wednesday class on weeks 2 through 11 the last 45 minutes to an hour will be dedicated to in-class assignments, conducted in groups of three (3) or four (4), which reenforce the content of the previous week's lectures, and which are designed to train your skills in crafting arguments, writing thesis statements, and close reading – all skills you will need for your final essay and exam. Each assignment will be graded pass/fail and will be worth one grade point each.

Close Reading Assignment: Students will be given several passages from *The Grapes of Wrath* to choose from. They will select ONE (1) of those passages and then write a **500-800 word** close reading of that passage. The close reading needs to describe what the text is saying and how the text is saying it, backed up with quotes and paraphrases from the text in question. Note that the reading must focus *exclusively* on the passage provided: the point of this assignment is to help you develop your ability to parse meaning out of a passage of literature.

Essay Proposal: Students will write a **400-600 word** summary of the essay they plan to write for their final paper. This proposal must include a clear thesis statement which has been set apart from the rest of the text, either by bolding or underlining it, and must also describe how you plan to argue for this thesis. Finally, the proposal must include three MLA citations for peer-reviewed sources which are relevant to the argument and which have been published in the preceding ten years (i.e. during 2015 or after). These citations are not included as part of the word count.

Research Essay: Students will write a **1,000-1,500 word** research essay comparing TWO (2) course texts. Students may use any text assigned in this course, except for *The Grapes of Wrath* and "For a Coming Extinction." The essay must include a thesis statement, which it argues for with evidence from the texts, as well as citations of three peer-reviewed sources published during or after 2015. The thesis statement and sources are allowed to be different from those specified in your proposal.

Final Exam: Details to be announced later in the course.

## Weekly Schedule

This course presumes that students will complete all assigned readings prior to the start of the relevant class. All assignments are due at 11:59 p.m. on the Friday of the specified week.

### Week 1 – Jan 5

- Monday: Course introductions
- Wednesday: Lecture and discussion of W.S. Merwin, “For a Coming Extinction” (<https://www.poetryfoundation.org/poems/57936/for-a-coming-extinction-56d23be1c33a8>)
- Note: Wednesday’s lecture will be pre-recorded, since I will be at a conference

### Week 2 – Jan 12

- Monday: Steinbeck, *The Grapes of Wrath*
- Wednesday: Steinbeck continued
- Note: Monday’s lecture will be pre-recorded, since I will be travelling home from the conference

### Week 3 – Jan 19

- Monday: Steinbeck continued
- Wednesday: Steinbeck continued

### Week 4 – Jan 26

- Monday: Beckett, *Endgame*
- Wednesday: Beckett continued
- Assignment Due: Close reading assignment

### Week 5 – Feb 2

- Monday: Ballard, *The Drowned World*
- Wednesday: Ballard continued

### Week 6 – Feb 9

- Monday: Butler, *Parable of the Sower*
- Wednesday: Butler continued

## READING WEEK: FEBRUARY 14-22! BE FREE!

### Week 7 – Feb 23

- Monday: Butler continued
- Wednesday: Butler continued
- Assignment Due: Essay proposal

### Week 8 – March 2

- Monday: Screening: Miyazaki, *Nausicaa and the Valley of the Wind*
- Wednesday: Lecture on Miyazaki

**Week 9 – March 9**

- Monday: McCarthy, *The Road*
- Wednesday: McCarthy continued

**Week 10 – March 16**

- Monday: McCarthy continued
- Wednesday: McCarthy continued

**Week 11 – March 23**

- Monday: Indiana, *Tentacle*
- Wednesday: Indiana continued

**Week 12 – March 30**

- Monday: Indiana continued
- Wednesday: Indiana and exam review
- Assignment Due: Research Essay

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>.

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.