



ENGLISH 1020E (670)
Understanding Literature Today
Fall/Winter 2026 - 2027

Instructor: Michelle Hartley
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Course Information

Mode of Instruction: Online asynchronous

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.

Antirequisite(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 2026-27

Course Overview and Important Dates:

English 1020E/670 will be held online starting September 9th and running until the end of the 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. On-line courses require discipline, so weekly online attendance and participation are required. I will attempt to notify students before the last drop date of November 30th, if they are not meeting expectations and are in danger of being debarred from the final exam. The Department of English, French and Writing does not allow extra-credit assignments to make up for missed assignments or participation, so please check in at least weekly. Take part in Discussions and take notes from lectures to process material and be ready to write in-person exams and analytical assignments.

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.

Office Hours:

Office hours will be held remotely using Zoom. Check the homepage and Calendar on Brightspace for the link and password. Feel free to email me: 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 with proper MLA documentation
- Organize and present ideas clearly and effectively in writing
- Document essays using MLA format including page numbers in citations

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 Wednesdays to encourage your weekly attendance and participation. You should be spending at least 3 hours on course lecture material, notetaking and discussions per week in addition to doing the course reading. 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. **It is your responsibility to ensure you have the full and complete work we are studying. Internet pdfs are not reliable and may be abbreviated or the incorrect edition.** Your version of the work should also be the equivalent of a pdf with page numbers for longer works. When in doubt, buy the course text.

The Broadview Introduction to Literature 2nd edition (ebook \$51.96 or concise 2nd pbk \$69.95)

Charlotte Brontë, *Jane Eyre* (Broadview 2nd edition \$19.75 or ebook \$9.99)

Jean Rhys, *Wide Sargasso Sea* (Harpercollins 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 19*
Midterm	15%	IN PERSON	November 20**
Annotated Bibliography	5%	500-750 words	January 29*
Essay 2	25%	2000 words	March 12*
Discussion	15%	Weekly	Best 7/8 Wks x 3
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. 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 27th.

***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.

Please note, Friday Make-Up Exams may only be written with instructor's consent.

Course Schedule

Week	Date	Tentative Weekly Schedule of Topics and Required Texts
1	Sept 9	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 16	Shakespeare, "Sonnet 18," "Sonnet 73" and "Sonnet 130" (BIL)
3	Sept 23	Millay, ["I, being born a woman and distressed"] (BIL); Rossetti, "In an Artist's Studio" (Brightspace) and Clarke, "Blank Sonnet" (BIL)
4	Sept 30	Introduction to drama, Shakespeare, <i>Twelfth Night</i> (BIL online)
5	Oct 7	<i>Twelfth Night</i> continued – Essay Writing and Citing
		Happy Thanksgiving and Reading Week
6	Oct 21	Donne, "The Flea" and "A Valediction: Forbidding Mourning"
7	Oct 28	Blake, "London" (BIL) and Lampman, "The City of the End of Things"
8	Nov 4	Introduction to prose: Poe, "The Black Cat" (BIL)
9	Nov 11	Brontë, <i>Jane Eyre</i>
10	Nov 18	<i>Jane Eyre</i> , continued
11	Nov 25	Browning, "My Last Duchess" (BIL) and Tennyson, "The Lady of Shalott" (BIL)
12	Dec 2	Wilde, <i>The Importance of Being Earnest</i> (BIL online)
13	Jan 6	Perkins Gilman, "The Yellow Wallpaper" (BIL)
14	Jan 13	Yeats, "Easter 1916" and Research
15	Jan 20	Modernism and ekphrasis: Williams, "Landscape with the Fall of Icarus" and Auden, "Musée des Beaux Arts"
16	Jan 27	Mansfield, "The Garden Party" and Faulkner, "A Rose for Emily" (BIL)
17	Feb 3	Dunbar, "We Wear the Mask"; Hughes, "Harlem (2)" (BIL)
18	Feb 10	Heaney, "Digging," "The Grabaulle Man"
		Winter Reading Week – no class, no assignments due
19	Feb 24	Rhys, <i>Wide Sargasso Sea</i>

20	Mar 3	<i>Wide Sargasso Sea</i> , continued
21	Mar 10	Writing with Research Reminders and Allen, "One poem town" (BIL)
22	Mar 17	Dumont, "Not Just a Platform for My Dance" and "The White Judges" (BIL)
23	Mar 24	Robinson, "Terminal Avenue" and Simpson, "Big Water" (BIL)
24	Mar 31	LeGuin, "The Ones Who Walk Away from Omelas" and Atwood, "Happy Endings" (BIL)
	Apr 7	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 (See also Appendix A below).

Students must have passed the most recent version (2025) of Western's Academic Integrity tutorial and uploaded their Certificate before their written assignments will be considered for this course.

Policy on Generative AI Use:

Within this course, use of generative artificial intelligence (AI) tools (such as ChatGPT, Claude, Gemini, co-pilot, translation tools, and grammar-checking tools such as Grammarly) is not permitted for written work submitted for evaluation including Discussion posts, Essays, Annotated Bibliographies, tests and exams. Unauthorized use of AI will be subject to academic discipline.

**KING'S UNIVERSITY COLLEGE
GENERAL COURSE POLICIES
2026-27**

1. Academic Accommodations (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](#).

2. Academic Consideration for Student Absences

Students must be approved to write a makeup exam or for an extension of the assignment deadline. If you need to miss an exam or the deadline for the assignment, please follow these instructions.

There are two ways to seek academic consideration:

(i) Academic consideration based on medical or compassionate grounds

If a student is unable to meet a course requirement due to substantial but temporary extenuating circumstances (medical or compassionate grounds), they should contact the Academic Advising Office. As a rule, documentation is required for academic consideration.

For academic consideration requests on medical grounds, the Student Medical Certificate (SMC) is the appropriate documentation. The SMC is available at <https://registrar.uwo.ca/academics/pdfs/student-medical-certificate.pdf>

- King's students: The Academic Advising Office website is located in DLH 104. The Academic Advising website is <https://mykings.ca/intranet/app/#/academics/academic-advising>.
- If your home faculty is Huron or at Western, please submit your documentation to your faculty's academic counselling office.
- Requests must be made as soon as possible and no later than 48 hours after the missed assessment.

You may submit requests for academic consideration through the **Student Absence Portal**, linked on this website: <https://mykings.ca/intranet/app/#/academics/academic-advising/academic-consideration-requests-and-student-absence-portal>

(ii) Academic consideration through an undocumented absence

Students are permitted one academic consideration request without supporting documentation per term per half-course (0.5) weight.

- Note that instructors may designate one assessment per half-course weight as requiring formal supporting documentation. Please refer to the course outline to confirm this assessment.
- If instructors have built flexibility into their assessments, this flexibility will already address consideration needs. (For example, if students need to submit X of Y assignments, this flexibility already provides consideration.)
- Undocumented absences can not be used as the basis for academic consideration for December or April exams.

For further information on the academic consideration policy, please see https://uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/academic_consideration_Sep24.pdf

c) Absences from Final Exams

If you miss the Final Exam, **contact your Academic Advising Office** 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 (i.e., you are scheduled to write 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](#)).

d) Religious Accommodations

Students should consult the University’s list of recognized religious holidays, and should give notice in writing to the instructor and their 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.

3. Support Services

Accessibility, Counselling and Student Development at King’s University College:
<https://mykings.ca/intranet/app/#/student-supports-and-services/accessibility-services>

Students experiencing emotional or mental health distress can access services at King’s University College: <https://kings.uwo.ca/campus-life/student-supports/>

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

Western’s Mental Health Services site provides a complete list of options on how to obtain help: <https://www.uwo.ca/health/mental-health/index.html>

Academic Support Services at King's University College: <https://kings.uwo.ca/academics/academic-supports/>

4. Statement on Gender-Based Sexual Violence

King's and Western are committed to reducing incidents of gender-based sexual violence (GBSV) and providing compassionate support to anyone who is going through or has gone through these traumatic events. If you are experiencing or have experienced GBSV (either recently or in the past), you will find information about support services for survivors, including emergency contacts at the following website: [Mental Health and Wellness at King's](#).

You can reach supports at King's by emailing 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 (health@uwo.ca) or by calling 519-661-3568. Additional support services can be found <https://www.uwo.ca/health/gbsv/support/index.html>

5. 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://kings.uwo.ca/sites/2025/assets/files/campus/Kings_Code_of_Student_Conduct.pdf

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.

6. 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 https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/scholastic_offences.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 to check which tools, including generative AI (ChatGPT, translation tools, grammar-checking tools) are permitted in each course.** Note that although some courses may permit the use of such tools, it does not mean use of such tools 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.

7. 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.

8. 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.

9. 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.