

English 146: The Literature of Our Era

English 146 Section

Instructor:

Office:

Office Hours:

Office Phone:

Email:

Textbooks: *Academic Writing Essentials*. (University of Victoria, Second Edition, Second Version, 2017)

The Broadview Introduction to Literature: Short Fiction eds. Chalykoff et al.

The Valley by Joan MacLeod

The Break by Katherena Vermette

Course description

This course offers a comparative study of literary works from the 20th and 21st centuries. Special attention is paid to how writers have adapted styles and techniques to represent our own experiences and the challenges of our age. Our section in particular will focus on themes of Identity, Human Rights, and Social Justice. Lectures, discussions, and essay writing workshops combine to develop students' abilities to write and speak about literature, and to make academic arguments in any discipline.

ENGL 146 Learning Outcomes:

The successful student should emerge from ENGL 146 with the following skills:

i) Skills of Literary Analysis

- the ability to understand and engage in close reading practices
- the ability to identify and discuss the function of some of the more common literary devices (which might include metaphor, simile, imagery, symbols, allegory, rhyme scheme, alliteration, assonance, meter, enjambment)
- the ability to identify different literary genres and to comment upon their key differences
- the ability to identify and communicate literary themes (and to recognize that literary works do not have *a* theme)
- the ability to identify and discuss differing modes of narration
- the ability to identify key ways literature addresses changes in human thought and experience—historical, cultural and/or social

ii) Writing Skills

- the ability to identify and produce the key components of a university essay (introductions, conclusions and thesis statements; topic sentences and paragraphs; evidence and analysis)

- a greater self-consciousness regarding both what constitutes clear writing and how different forms of writing bring differing expectations regarding style and grammar
- the ability to integrate secondary sources, produce an MLA-style Works Cited list and to use parenthetical references

Assignments:

- 1) Three Short Writing Exercises (Due Sept. 25, Oct. 2, Oct. 12, 15%)
- 2) Mid Term Exam (in class, Oct. 23, 20%)
- 3) Term Essay, MLA Style (1250+ words, due in class Dec. 4, 35%)
- 4) Grammar quiz (Nov. 2, 5%)
- 5) Final Exam (Date TBA, 25%)

Assignments should be handed in at the start of class on the day that they are due.

Note that the English 146 final exam is an exit exam. You must pass the exam to pass the course.

English 146 Attendance policy

According to the [UVic calendar](#), students who neglect their academic work, including assignments, may be refused permission to write the final examination in a course.

All English 146 instructors will take attendance each class. If a student misses more than six (2 x a week) or nine (3 x a week) classes, that student may be barred from writing the final exam. If your attendance becomes a concern (i.e. you miss more than a week of classes), you will be notified in writing by your instructor. Note that missing the final exam will mean a grade of N for the course.

Students who have extensive absences due to illness or family emergency should speak with their instructor about applying for academic concession. For information about the concession process, please see the registrar's website (<https://www.uvic.ca/registrar/students/policies/appeals/index.php>).

The Request for Academic Concession form is available here:
<https://www.uvic.ca/registrar/assets/docs/record-forms/rac.pdf>.

Peer Review: The peer review is a teaching technique designed to improve students' writing through feedback from classmates. Work-shopping ideas and papers in pairs should help to develop a writer's sense of audience. Our peer-review will require that you bring to class a copy of your work in progress. This will enable one of your peers to provide useful feedback regarding your paper's organization, argument, logic, content etc. Peer reviews succeed when writers receive constructive criticism from their peers and it is expected that you act respectfully during them. Failure to attend peer reviews properly prepared will be reflected in your final grade. There will be a peer review for the term paper on November 30.

Late Policy: A student who plans to hand in an assignment late must make an arrangement with me beforehand. Late assignments will be docked one letter grade (e.g. from B+ to B) and will only be

accepted up to a week after the due date. Formal exams must be completed on the designated day. If you are ill on the day of the midterm, please contact me **before the exam**.

Missing Assignments: The written assignments constitute the minimum requirements of the course; therefore, if any are missing or unexcused by the end of the semester, the grade assigned will be an “N.” At a minimum, students must complete the midterm, term paper, and final exam.

Library Page: There is a website specifically devoted to English 146 students at UVic. You may turn to it for help and guidance in relation to some of our assignments:

<http://libguides.uvic.ca/ENGL146>

Plagiarism: If you present work that you have not written as if it were your own, it is plagiarism. If you use facts that are not common knowledge, particular opinions that are not your own, or paraphrases of other writers’ work you must acknowledge the source of your information. If you do not it is plagiarism. A paper that contains plagiarism will receive 0%.

Grading Scheme:

A+ 90-100	B+ 77-79	C+ 65-69	D 50-59
A 85-89	B 73-76	C 60-64	F 0-49
A- 80-84	B- 70-72		

Date	Readings/Assignments
Sept. 5	Introduction to Course
Sept. 7	Diagnostic Writing ; Holst “The Zebra Storyteller” (text on Course Spaces)
Sept. 11	Introduction to Fiction; Carver “Cathedral”
Sept. 12	Carver “Cathedral”
Sept. 14	Paragraph Unity and Coherence
Sept. 18	Achebe “Dead Men’s Path”
Sept. 19	MLA Style; Integrating Quotations; Assignment One Draft Due
Sept. 21	Thien “Simple Recipes”
Sept. 25	Assignment One Due Thien “Simple Recipes”; Literary Terms and Their Definitions
Sept. 26	Revision & Revising Writing
Sept. 28	Kerr “Biographical Fragments of the Life of Julian Prince” (link on Course Spaces)
Oct. 2	Assignment Two Due Shire “Home” and “Conversations about Home (at the Deportation Centre)” (Course Spaces)
Oct. 3	Library Skills Day; Summary
Oct. 5	Gilman “The Yellow Wallpaper”

Date	Readings/Assignments
Oct. 9	Gilman "The Yellow Wallpaper"
Oct. 10	Rich "Aunt Jennifer's Tigers"; Harwood "In the Park" (Course Spaces)
Oct. 12	Assignment Three Due Christie "The Extra"
Oct. 16	Drama: MacLeod <i>The Valley</i>
Oct. 17	MacLeod <i>The Valley</i>
Oct. 19	MacLeod <i>The Valley</i> ; Writing Under Pressure; in class essay structure
Oct. 23	Mid Term Exam
Oct. 24	Gadsby "Nanette" (Netflix)
Oct. 26	Gadsby "Nanette"; Dumont "Not Just a Platform for My Dance" (Course Spaces)
Oct. 30	Scofield "Not All Halfbreed Mothers" and "Wrong Image" (Course Spaces)
Oct. 31	Grammar Day
Nov. 2	Grammar Quiz; Introductions, Thesis Statements and Conclusions
Nov. 6	King "A Short History of Indians in Canada"; Simpson "Big Water"
Nov. 7	King & Simpson, continued
Nov. 9	Essay Structure; Sample 146 Essay
	Reading Break
Nov. 16	Using research to write about literature; Vermette "Half as Much" (Course Spaces)
Nov. 20	Our Novel: Vermette, <i>The Break</i>
Nov. 21	<i>The Break</i>
Nov. 23	<i>The Break</i>
Nov. 27	<i>The Break</i>
Nov. 23	<i>The Break</i>
Nov.30	Peer Review Day
Dec. 4	Term Paper Due; Finish <i>The Break</i>
Dec. 5	Final Exam Preparation