

Huron University College
English I027F 550 – The Storyteller’s Art I: Intro to Narrative
2022-2023

Dr. G. Donaldson
Course Title: Escape from Freedom

Class: M 14:30 - 15:20 W 15:30 - 17:10 – Room HUC-W6

Office: HUC A302

Office Hours: by appointment

Email: gdonalds@uwo.ca

Tel. 519-438-7224 x 238

Course Description:

The course examines the literary explorations of the place where two sets of ideas meet, psychoanalysis and existentialism.

Civilisation is based on order and so on laws that seek the common good in a stable, secure setting. Accordingly, civilisation requires that we defer gratification. Our instincts, however, are indifferent to order because they are imperious and impatient and so seek immediate satisfaction. Thus, the civilised human being is conflicted and often frustrated, caught between a rational longing for the benefits of civilisation and the chaotic raptures of instinctual gratification.

Civilisation also confers freedom: the sort of freedom that is a ‘freedom from’ such things as mob rule, random violence and tyranny. In so doing, however, civilisation gives the individual responsibility for her or his identity, the ‘freedom to’ be the self that one chooses. In many cases, such responsibility is frightening, even terrifying, and so the individual flees from it into some version of authoritarian rules, behaviours, ways of thinking, and belief systems that are imposed on her or him, not chosen.

The course focuses on texts that explore humankind’s conflicted condition in the freedoms created by civilisation.

Course Learning Objectives:

Successful students who complete the course will have:

- a basic understanding of Freudian arguments about the relationship between civilisation and frustration
- a basic understanding about existentialist accounts of freedom
- an improved capacity for careful, critical thinking supported by well-organized evidence
- an understanding of the course texts and an ability to see them in a developing discussion of one aspect of the human condition

Description of Class Method:

The course will have a lecture-discussion format. Students should come to class with their textbooks, having read the work scheduled for that day, and should be prepared to participate in class discussion. You should expect to be asked directly to comment on issues under discussion. Students are expected to turn off their cell phones and other electronic devices during class. All classes will include opportunity for student response and there will be no formal “tutorial” classes.

Attendance: Huron University College's attendance policy states:

1. "A student may be debarred from writing the final examination for failure to maintain satisfactory academic standing throughout the year.
2. 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. The Dean of the Faculty offering the course will communicate that decision to the Dean of the Faculty of registration.

In order to “maintain satisfactory academic standing” you should not be absent from class more than four times without written documentation. If you miss three classes without documentation, I shall write to you warning you of the peril in which you have put yourself. After five undocumented absences, you will receive another note from me telling you that you have been reported to the dean who may at that point debar you from the final examination.

Syllabus:

September

Monday, 12th.

Introduction

Wednesday, 14th.

Course Introduction

Monday, 19th.

Sigmund Freud, *Civilisation and its Discontents*

Wednesday, 21st

Sigmund Freud, *Civilisation and its Discontents*

Monday, 26th.

Sigmund Freud, *Civilisation and its Discontents*

Wednesday, 28th.

Erich Fromm, *Escape from Freedom*

October

Monday, 3rd.

Erich Fromm, *Escape from Freedom*

Wednesday, 5th.

Erich Fromm, *Escape from Freedom*

Monday, 10th.

THANKSGIVING

Wednesday, 12th.

Robert Louis Stevenson, *The Strange Case of Dr.*

Jekyll and Mr. Hyde

Monday, 17th.

Robert Louis Stevenson, *The Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and*

Mr. Hyde

Wednesday, 19th.

Robert Louis Stevenson, *The Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and*

Mr. Hyde

Monday, 24th.

Robert Louis Stevenson, *The Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and*

Mr. Hyde

Wednesday, 26th.

MID TERM TEST

Monday, 31st.

FALL READING WEEK

November

Wednesday, 2nd.

FALL READING WEEK

Monday, 7th.

William Golding, *Lord of the Flies*

Wednesday, 9th.

William Golding, *Lord of the Flies*

Monday, 14th.

William Golding, *Lord of the Flies*

Wednesday, 16th.

Samuel Beckett, *Waiting for Godot*

Monday, 21st Samuel Beckett, *Waiting for Godot*
Wednesday, 23rd. Samuel Beckett, *Waiting for Godot*

Monday, 28th. Samuel Beckett, *Waiting for Godot*
Wednesday, 30th. Joseph Conrad, *Heart of Darkness*

December

Monday, 5th. Joseph Conrad, *Heart of Darkness*
Wednesday, 7th Joseph Conrad, *Heart of Darkness*

December 9th Study Day – Optional Review

Texts:

Samuel Beckett, *Waiting for Godot*
Joseph Conrad, *Heart of Darkness*
Sigmund Freud, *Civilisation and its Discontents*
Erich Fromm, *Escape from Freedom*
William Golding, *Lord of the Flies*
Robert Louis Stevenson, *The Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde*

Examinations and Assignments:

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|----------------------------|--|
| In Class Tests | 10%* |
| Short Essay | 10% (Due: October 3 rd .) |
| Mid Term Exam | 20% (October 26 th .) |
| Attendance & Participation | 10% |
| Thesis Statement | 5% (Due: November 21 st .) |
| Research Essay | 20% (Due: November 30 th .) |
| Final Exam | 25% TBA |

*There will be five in class tests spread randomly throughout the term. Dates will not be announced ahead of time. Each is worth 2%. These tests do no more than ask you basic factual information about the course texts. For example, you might

be asked who marries whom at the end of the book, or who disappears from the plot part way through the narrative, or what happens in the plot after the explosion, and so on. If you have read the text, you'll have no trouble answering the questions. Dates will not be announced ahead of time. No make-ups.

You must submit a thesis statement for your essay to me no later than Wednesday, November 21st. (Late submissions will not be accepted and so you will receive a grade of zero for your thesis statement.) This statement should be the opening paragraph, or opening paragraphs, of your essay.

N.B. Participation marks are awarded according to the regularity with which you attend class, the frequency of your contributions to class discussion and the quality of those contributions. If your attendance is poor and you make few contributions to class discussion, you are awarding yourself a failing grade for participation. If you attend regularly and regularly have informed, perceptive observations about the text in question, you are awarding yourself a good participation mark.

Late Submissions:

Essays are due on the date specified above in class at the start of the lecture. If I have begun to lecture, then your essay is late. Late essays will be penalized 3% *per diem* (including weekends). Essays submitted more than seven (7) days after the deadline will not be accepted and will receive a grade of zero. To be considered for relief from these penalties students require a letter from a physician stating that you were ill on the day in question. Late essays must be dropped off in the drop box outside A 116. No other form of submission will be accepted for late essays.

Assignments will be returned within 3 weeks of submission. Assignments received by the due date will be graded and receive comments. Assignments received after the due date will receive a grade, minus late penalties, and no comments.

STUDENTS MUST PASS BOTH THE TERM WORK AND THE FINAL EXAMINATION TO PASS THE COURSE.



Appendix to Course Outlines: Academic Policies & Regulations Fall/Winter 2022

Pandemic Contingency

Huron will continue to follow the guidance of public health and government officials. It is anticipated that there will be no further disruptions to in-person instruction. This is subject to change.

Student Code of Conduct

Membership in the community of Huron University College and Western University implies acceptance by every student of the principle of respect for the rights, responsibilities, dignity and well-being of others and a readiness to support an environment conducive to the intellectual and personal growth of all who study, work and live within it. Upon registration, students assume the responsibilities that such registration entails. While in the physical or online classroom, students are expected to behave in a manner that supports the learning environment of others. Please review the Student Code of Conduct at:

<https://huronatwestern.ca/sites/default/files/Res%20Life/Student%20Code%20of%20Conduct%20-%20Revised%20September%202019.pdf>.

Prerequisite and Antirequisite Information

Students are responsible for ensuring that they have successfully completed all course prerequisites and that they have not completed any course antirequisites. Unless you have either the requisites for this course or written 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 prerequisites.

Attendance Regulations for Examinations

A student is entitled to be examined in courses in which registration is maintained, subject to the following limitations:

- 1) A student may be debarred from writing the final examination for failure to maintain satisfactory academic standing throughout the year.
- 2) 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. The Dean of the Faculty offering the course will communicate that decision to the Dean of the Faculty of registration.

Review the policy on Attendance Regulations for Examinations here: [Academic Calendar - Western University \(uwo.ca\)](#)

Statement on Academic Offences

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 website: [Academic Calendar - Western University \(uwo.ca\)](http://www.uwo.ca/academic_calendar) . The appeals process is also outlined in this policy as well as more generally at the following website: https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/appealsundergrad.pdf.

Turnitin.com

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. Use of the service is subject to the licensing agreement, currently between The University of Western Ontario and Turnitin.com (<http://www.turnitin.com>).

Statement on Use of Electronic Devices

It is not appropriate to use electronic devices (such as, but not limited to, laptops, tablets, cell phones) in the classroom for non-classroom activities. Such activity is disruptive and distracting to other students and to the instructor, and can inhibit learning. Students are expected to respect the classroom environment and to refrain from inappropriate use of technology and other electronic devices in class.

Statement on Use of Personal Response Systems (“Clickers”)

Personal Response Systems (“clickers”) may be used in some classes. If clickers are to be used in a class, it is the responsibility of the student to ensure that the device is activated and functional. Students must see their instructor if they have any concerns about whether the clicker is malfunctioning. Students must use only their own clicker. If clicker records are used to compute a portion of the course grade:

- the use of somebody else’s clicker in class constitutes a scholastic offence
- the possession of a clicker belonging to another student will be interpreted as an attempt to commit a scholastic offence.

Academic Consideration for Missed Work

All students pursuing academic consideration, regardless of type, must contact their instructors no less than 24 hours following the end of the period of absence to clarify how they will be expected to fulfill the academic responsibilities missed during their absence. **Students are reminded that they should consider carefully the implications of postponing tests or midterm exams or delaying submission of work, and are encouraged to make appropriate decisions based on their specific circumstances.**

Students who have conditions for which academic accommodation is appropriate, such as disabilities or ongoing or chronic health conditions, should work with Accessible Education Services to determine appropriate forms of accommodation. Further details concerning policies and procedures may be found at: <http://academicsupport.uwo.ca/>.

Policy on Academic Consideration for a Medical/ Non-Medical Absence

- (a) Consideration on **Medical Grounds** for assignments worth *less than 10%* of final grade: **Consult Instructor Directly and Contact Academic Advising**

When seeking consideration on **medical grounds** for assignments worth *less than 10%* of the final course grade, the student should contact the instructor directly. The student need only share broad outlines of the medical situation. The instructor **may** require the student to submit documentation to the academic advisors, in which case she or he will advise the student and inform the academic advisors to expect documentation. If documentation is requested, the student will need to complete and submit the [Student Medical Certificate](#). The instructor may not collect medical documentation. The advisors will contact the instructor when the medical documentation is received, and will outline the severity and duration of the medical challenge as expressed on the Student Medical Certificate and in any other supporting documentation. The student will be informed that the instructor has been notified of the presence of medical documentation, and will be instructed to work as quickly as possible with the instructor on an agreement for accommodation.

b) Medical Grounds for assignments worth 10% or more of final grade: Go Directly to Academic Advising

University Senate policy, which can be found at [Academic Calendar - Western University \(uwo.ca\)](#) requires that all student requests for accommodation on medical grounds for assignments worth 10% or more of the final grade be made directly to the academic advising office of the home faculty (for Huron students, the “home faculty” is Huron), with supporting documentation in the form (minimally) of the Senate-approved Student Medical Certificate found at: https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/medicalform.pdf.

The documentation is submitted in confidence and will not be shown to instructors. The advisors will contact the instructor when the medical documentation is received, and will outline the severity and duration of the medical challenge as expressed on the Student Medical Certificate and in any other supporting documentation. The student will be informed that the instructor has been notified of the presence of medical documentation, and will be instructed to work as quickly as possible with the instructor on an agreement for accommodation. The instructor will not normally deny accommodation where appropriate medical documentation is in place and where the duration it describes aligns with the due date(s) of assignment(s). Before denying a request for accommodation on medical grounds, the instructor will consult with the Dean. The instructor’s decision is appealable to the Dean.

c) Consideration on Non-Medical Grounds: Consult Huron Support Services/Academic Advising, or email huronsss@uwo.ca

Students seeking academic consideration for a **non-medical** absence (e.g. varsity sports, religious, compassionate, or bereavement) will be required to provide appropriate documentation. All consideration requests must include a completed [Consideration Request Form](#). Late penalties may apply at the discretion of the instructor.

Please review the full policy on Academic Consideration for medical and non-medical absence at: [accommodation_medical.pdf \(uwo.ca\)](#). Consult [Huron Academic Advising](#) at huronsss@uwo.ca for any further questions or information.

Support Services

For advice on course selections, degree requirements, and for assistance with requests for medical accommodation, students should email an Academic Advisor in Huron’s Student Support Services at

huronsss@uwo.ca. An outline of the range of services offered is found on the Huron website at: <https://huronatwestern.ca/student-life/student-services/>.

Department Chairs, Program Directors and Coordinators are also able to answer questions about individual programs. Contact information can be found on the Huron website at: <https://huronatwestern.ca/contact/faculty-staff-directory/>.

If you think that you are too far behind to catch up or that your workload is not manageable, you should consult your Academic Advisor. If you are considering reducing your workload by dropping one or more courses, this must be done by the appropriate deadlines. Please refer to the Advising website, <https://huronatwestern.ca/student-life/student-services/academic-advising/> or review the list of official Sessional Dates on the Academic Calendar, available here: <http://www.westerncalendar.uwo.ca/SessionalDates.cfm>.

You should consult with the course instructor and the Academic Advisor who can help you consider alternatives to dropping one or more courses. Note that dropping a course may affect OSAP and/or Scholarship/Bursary eligibility.

Huron Student Support Services: <https://huronatwestern.ca/student-life/student-services/> Office of the Registrar: <https://registrar.uwo.ca/>
Student Quick Reference Guide: <https://huronatwestern.ca/student-life/student-services/#1> Academic Support & Engagement: <http://academicsupport.uwo.ca/>
Huron University College Student Council: <https://huronatwestern.ca/student-life/beyond-classroom/hucsc/>
Western USC: <http://westernusc.ca/your-services/#studentservices>

Wellness and Health Supports at Huron and Western

University students may encounter setbacks from time to time that can impact academic performance. Huron offers a variety of services that are here to support your success and wellbeing. All Huron staff and faculty have received training on responding to disclosures of Gender-Based Sexual Violence (GBSV); students should know that the Community Safety Office is a resource for survivors, providing support and, if desired, guidance while referring them to the further supports that they may require. Please visit <https://huronatwestern.ca/student-life-campus/student-services/wellness-safety> for more information or contact staff directly:

Wellness Services:

huronwellness@huron.uwo.ca

Community Safety Office:

safety@huron.uwo.ca

Additional supports for Health and Wellness may be found and accessed at Western through, <https://www.uwo.ca/health/>.

Western Calendar - Policy Pages -

[Academic Calendar - Western University \(uwo.ca\)](#)