

Books and Friendship

ENGL 100-001: READING AND WRITING ABOUT LITERATURE
UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA | Term 1 Winter 2017-2018

La nuit étoilée (1889). Oil. Vincent Van Gogh. New York: The Museum of Modern Art, 2004.



Contact Info

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Vital Info

- Course meets: MWF from 9-9:50 in BUCH-B308
- My office hours: M 3-4, W 12-1 and by appointment

Course Description

This literature-and-writing course studies texts that transform themselves through semantic and symbolic play, and situates them in various material, social, and cultural contexts. The course meets the Faculty of Arts writing requirement as an alternative to WRDS 150.

Aristotle says, “without friends no one would choose to live, though they had all other goods.” Friendship claims to exist uniquely upon a principle of equality, in an economy of even exchange. It promises a private intimacy free from masquerade and convention; only a friend knows and loves your “true portrait,” proposes Montaigne. But what would a cultural history of friendship show? Is modern friendship something new? Could you have a friend briefly? Can friendship be erotic or romantic? This course thinks about “two going together”: remarkable friendships in fiction and in life. Some readings, Angela Carter’s *Nights at the Circus*, a few philosophy excerpts and critical readings, selected modern short stories and poems. The course will also extend your abilities to pull together and analyze research sources, to organize and support sound and interesting arguments, and to revise and edit for clarity and tone. My own research is in 20th and 21st-century Anglophone literatures from North America, South Asia, Britain and Ireland, and the reading list largely reflects that set of fields.

Book List

These are the editions I have ordered at the UBC Bookstore and that I will use myself. You may use other editions if you so choose, but you will face some difficulties keeping up with discussions because of the different pagination, etc. I did keep student economies in mind as much as possible when selecting these.

1. Samuel Beckett’s *Waiting for Godot* (Grove Press, 978-0802144423)
2. Virginia Woolf’s *Jacob’s Room* (Norton, 978-0393926323)
3. Angela Carter’s *Nights at the Circus* (Vintage, 978-0099388616)
4. Other texts and materials as supplied on the Canvas course site or distributed in class.

What You Will Do

In this course, you will read and analyze a range of writing which will give you the opportunity to identify, compare, explain and discuss various aspects and issues of literary criticism, cultural theory, and social history.

Requirements consist of class participation, a portfolio which includes 4 papers (two 2-3 pp and two 4-6 pp), and a final exam. (All ENGL 100 classes schedule four papers by departmental agreement.) There are many ways to participate in the course, some required and some optional, such as answering questions, speaking during group discussions, contributing to online discussion forums, and participating in writing and research activities. We will follow the Department of English attendance policy, which you may read at:

<http://english.ubc.ca/resources/resources-for-students/#attendance>.

10% Participation

60% Portfolio (four papers, as above: the shorter papers are 10% each, and the longer, 20% each)

30% Final examination, concentrating on essay writing, passage identification and analysis

All of the major assignments are required, i.e., in order to pass the course, you must submit work in each of these categories. Your assignments will be available on Canvas, and will include a detailed rubric so that you know in advance how they will be marked. I will be available in office hours or by appointment for individual conferences about your assignments or other course-related matters as you may wish.

The course adheres to the university's strict rule against plagiarism. *If you represent the words, productions or ideas of anyone else as your own, you become subject to the disciplinary processes of the university concerning plagiarism, and may fail the course or be expelled from the university.* If you have any questions about what counts as plagiarism, please ask me (**before** you submit the assignment).

Course Schedule

Weekly writing topic: Analysis and Criticism.

Sep 6 – Course Introduction. “After Twenty Years.” O. Henry [handout]

Sep 8 – *The Epic of Gilgamesh*. “David and Jonathan.”

Weekly writing topic: Evidence.

Sep 11 – Aristotle, *Nichomachean Ethics*, Book VIII. Yeats on Oscar Wilde [handout]

Sep 13 – Seneca, Cicero

Sep 15 – *Waiting for Godot*

Weekly writing topic: Research.

Sep 18 – *Waiting for Godot*

Sep 20 – *Waiting for Godot*

- **Paper #1 due (2-3 pp.)**

Sep 22 – *Waiting for Godot*

Weekly writing topic: Citation and Secondary Sources.

Sep 25 – *Waiting for Godot*

Sep 27 – Bacon, Montaigne

Sep 29 – Johnson, de Maupassant « Deux Amis »

Weekly writing topic: Mechanics.

Oct 2 – Wilde, “The Happy Prince.” “The Devoted Friend.”

Oct 4 – Poems by Emily Dickinson, W.B. Yeats, Amy Lowell.

- **Paper #2 due (2-3 pp. in length)**

Oct 6 – Hobbes, Emerson

Weekly writing topic: Style, Period, Context.

Oct 9 - **No class: Thanksgiving**

Oct 11 – *Jacob's Room*

Oct 13 – *Jacob's Room*

Weekly writing topic: Method.

Oct 16 – *Jacob's Room*

Oct 18 – *Jacob's Room*

Oct 20 – *Jacob's Room*

Weekly writing topic: Structure.

Oct 23 – *Jacob's Room*

Oct 25 – *Jacob's Room*

Oct 27 – *Jacob's Room*

Weekly writing topic: Argumentative Logic and Fallacy.

Oct 30 – James Joyce, “Two Gallants”

Nov 1 – “Strange Meeting”

- **Paper #3 due (4-5 pp.)**

Nov 3 – *Nights at the Circus*

Weekly writing topic: The Rhetoric of Fiction.

Nov 6 – *Nights at the Circus*

Nov 8 – *Nights at the Circus*

Nov 10 – **Instructor away at conference-expect a substitute or online assignment**

Weekly writing topic: Multiple points of view.

Nov 13 – **No class:** Stat Holiday for **Remembrance Day**

Nov 15 – *Nights at the Circus*

Nov 17 – *Nights at the Circus*

Weekly writing topic: The writing process (recap).

Nov 20 – *Nights at the Circus*

Nov 22 – Gertrude Stein “Miss Furr and Miss Skeene.”

-**Optional: draft due of Paper #4 (4-6 pp.) if you want feedback before the final draft is due.**

Nov 24 – I.B. Singer, “Zeitl and Rickel“

Weekly writing topic: Assessment and Criticism.

Nov 27 – Frank O’Connor, “Guests of the Nation.”

Nov 29 – Frank O’Connor, “Guests of the Nation.”

- **Final Portfolios due: all four papers in final draft form with changes tracked.**

Dec 1 – Course wrap-up.

Exam period Dec 5-20-- **Final examination, TBA**

Please Also Know

Our classroom space is intended to be welcoming, inclusive, and interactive, and I request that you self-monitor your own actions for civility (including off-topic phone or computer use). Readings, discussions, and lecture materials may reference mature themes, violence, sexuality, or conflictual subject matter. If you feel you do not wish to read one of the assigned texts because it may significantly distress you, please see me well in advance of the assigned reading’s due date to request a substitute reading assignment; if we cannot agree on an appropriate substitution, you may be obliged to follow the original schedule of readings to complete the course.

There is a student Writing Centre with coaches available in the Chapman Learning Commons in Barber: please see <http://learningcommons.ubc.ca/tutoring-studying/writing/> for more information. Anyone with a documented disability is gently encouraged to contact the Access and Diversity Office in Brock Hall, 1203- 1874 East Mall (tel. 604.822.5844) for accommodations and support services. Other helpful programs are the academic services described at <http://students.ubc.ca/success>, and UBC Counselling Services tel. 604.822.3811 or, after hours, for anyone in distress, the Vancouver Crisis Line, tel. 800.784.2433. I am a resource person with UBC’s Positive Space Campaign. As its website announces, “the Positive Space Campaign is an initiative intended to help make UBC more receptive to and welcoming of its lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans* (transgender, transsexual, trans-identified), two-spirit, queer, questioning, intersex and asexual (LGBT*TQIA+) communities, individuals and issues of sexual and gender diversity on campus.” If you would like more information about this campaign, or to be put in touch with campus resources, please feel free to talk to me, or to contact the Equity and Inclusion Office in Brock Hall, tel. 604.822.6353.