



School of Liberal Arts

English 101

Introduction to the Study of Literature

Fall 2025

3 Credits

Course Outline

INSTRUCTOR	Ben Charland, BFA, MA	OFFICE HOURS	By request, in-person or online
OFFICE	N/A	CLASSROOM	TBD
E-MAIL	benoit.charland@yukonu.ca	CLASS TIME	Tues/Thurs, 2:30-3:50pm
TELEPHONE	N/A	CRN	10075
Liberal Arts office: Ayamdigut Campus A2501, liberalarts@yukonu.ca, 867-668-8770			

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course introduces students to literary genres including short fiction, poetry, drama, and the novel. Students learn the fundamentals of university-level literary study and explore major themes suggested by the selected texts.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

There are no university-level prerequisites for this course.

EQUIVALENCY OR TRANSFERABILITY

For information about course transferability please refer to the BC Transfer Guide at <https://www.bctransferguide.ca/> or contact the School of Liberal Arts office at (867) 668-8770.

Students are reminded that it is always the receiving institution that determines whether a course is acceptable as an applicable, equivalent course or if it may be transferred to their program for credit. Find further information at: <https://www.yukonu.ca/admissions/transfer-credit>

LEARNING OUTCOMES

Upon successful completion of the course, you will be able to:

- recognize the basic conventions of the four main genres of literature (short fiction, poetry, the novel, and drama)
- perform post-secondary level analysis of literary texts, including analysis related to issues of class, gender, race, ethnicity, and sexual orientation
- apply standard literary terminology in your discussions of works of literature
- recognize literary devices and motifs, and explain how these contribute to a literary work
- present ideas in well-organized, thoughtful, and polished essays, and do postsecondary level research into literary subjects

COURSE FORMAT

Delivery format

This course is delivered on campus, in person. You are expected to attend class and may be required to complete assignments and/or activities online or individually. There may be no facility for including students at a distance.

Expectations & Workload

If you read the material, show up to class, and participate in our discussions, I will do everything I can to help you succeed.

R - Read. Literature is literally about reading. There is no way around that.

E - Engage. Think about what you read. Look things up. Investigate. Explore.

A - Attend. Come to class. Be open to the unique thoughts and experiences of others.

D - Discuss. Contribute to our discussions and offer your own perspective.

In addition to regular classes, you can expect to devote an average of 1-2 hours per week of reading, plus an additional 1-2 hours per week for research, essay writing, and presentation prep. This average workload incorporates the time required to read the novel (about 10-12 hours total), but you should be prepared for some weeks to be busier than others.

These averages are estimates, and time required for successful course completion will vary.

EVALUATION

Students must receive a passing grade for each component to pass the course.

Engagement and Participation — 35%

The heart of this course is discussion. You will only be graded on your personal engagement with the material and your effort in sharing it with the class. Specifically, I will note each student's willingness to engage in class, and may assign weekly journal writings through Moodle to assess responses to classroom discussions.

Essay and Presentation — 30%

Research and essay-writing are key parts of this course's learning outcomes. Your research essay should be on a relevant subject matter that speaks to you. **All research topics must be approved by Sunday September 28.** Your research essay will be worth 15% of your total grade.

You will present your essay to the class. Each presentation should take 5-10 minutes and include an elaboration of the core components of your essay, followed by questions from the instructor and class. You may not simply read your essay out loud. Your presentation will be worth 15% of your total grade.

DUE DATE: 11:59pm, Sunday October 26

Unless an extension is granted, late submissions will immediately receive a 10% penalty to the final grade. For each additional day that a submission is late, a 3% penalty will be applied. When the total penalty reaches over 50% (15 days), submissions will not be accepted and the assignment will receive a final grade of 0. Unsubmitted essays cannot be presented to the class.

Exam — 35%

The exam will require you to answer a small number of questions with in-depth responses. You will be asked about various literary works and concepts that we have discussed in class. The exam's final question will be about the course's assigned novel, *The Break*, and will require a fulsome, multi-paragraph response (a short essay). The exam is not meant to be arduous. You will have three hours to complete the exam, but most students should be able to finish it in less than an hour.

You will not be permitted to bring any electronic devices, books or notes to the exam, so you are encouraged to have a strong grasp of 1) the novel's themes, characters, and key moments, and 2) our class's discussions throughout the course.

EXAM DATE: TBD

Engagement and Participation	35 %
In-class contribution to discussion and learning	
Essay and Presentation	30 %
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Research Essay 15 % In-class presentation of Research Essay 15 % 	
Exam	35 %
In-depth written responses to a small number of questions.	
TOTAL	100%

TEXTBOOKS & LEARNING MATERIALS

You are required to read the novel, *The Break* by Katherena Vermette, by **November 18**. It is recommended you read it well beforehand, especially if you are loaning a copy. There are multiple options for you to acquire or borrow this book:

- Multiple copies are available for purchase at the YukonU bookstore.
- Multiple copies are available to loan from the YukonU Library. Link: <https://yukonuniversitylibrary.on.worldcat.org/oclc/1038024338>

- Multiple copies, including ebook and audiobook, are available to loan from the Whitehorse Public Library. Link: <https://yukon.aspendiscovery.org/Record/88221>
- You may purchase the book or audiobook on your own from a source such as [Amazon.ca](https://www.amazon.ca).

All other course materials are provided on Moodle.

COURSE WITHDRAWAL INFORMATION

Students may officially withdraw from a course or program without academic penalty up until **October 31** (when two-thirds of the course contact hours have been completed). Specific withdrawal dates vary, and students should become familiar with the withdrawal dates of their program. See withdrawal information at www.yukonu.ca/admissions/money-matters

Refer to the YukonU website for important dates: www.yukonu.ca/admissions/important-dates

Refunds may be available. See the Refund policy and procedures at www.yukonu.ca/admissions/money-matters

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

Students are expected to contribute toward a positive and supportive environment and are required to conduct themselves in a responsible manner. Academic misconduct includes all forms of academic dishonesty such as cheating, plagiarism, fabrication, fraud, deceit, using the work of others without their permission, aiding other students in committing academic offences, misrepresenting academic assignments prepared by others as one's own, or any other forms of academic dishonesty including falsification of any information on any Yukon University document.

Students who submit work that bears clear signs that they did not write it themselves, including work that has been written partially or in full by AI tools, will be given a grade of 0 and will not be allowed to make another attempt.

Please refer to Academic Regulations & Procedures (updated bi-annually) for further details about academic standing, and student rights and responsibilities: www.yukonu.ca/policies/academic-regulations

ACCESSIBILITY AND ACADEMIC ACCOMMODATION

Yukon University is committed to providing a positive, supportive, and barrier-free academic environment for all its students. Students experiencing barriers to full participation due to a visible or hidden disability (including hearing, vision, mobility, learning disability, mental health, chronic or temporary medical condition), should contact Accessibility Services for resources or to arrange academic accommodations: access@yukonu.ca. [Text updated 16 November 2022]

TOPIC OUTLINE

Specific readings for each week will be assigned throughout the course.

Week – Dates	Topic	Notes
1 – September 4	Introduction	
2 – September 9-11	Literary Concepts	
3 – September 16-18	The Short Story, Part 1	
4 – September 23-25	The Short Story, Part 2	Essay Topic Due: Sept. 28
5 – September 30 – October 2	The Poem, Part 1	
6 – October 7-9	The Poem, Part 2	
READING WEEK		
7 – October 21-23	The Play, Part 1	Essay Due: Oct. 26
8 – October 28-30	The Play, Part 2	Withdrawal date: Oct. 31
9 – November 4-6	Oral Traditions, Graphic Novels, Games, Interactive Media, Film & TV	
10 – November 13	The Novel, Part 1	Essay Presentations 1-4
11 – November 18-20	The Novel, Part 2	Essay Presentations 5-10
12 – November 25-27	The Novel, Part 3	Essay Presentations 11-16
13 – December 2-4	Conclusions, Next Steps	Essay Presentations 16-23
14 – December 9	Exam Prep	Essay Presentations 24-25
EXAM – TBD	Location: TBD	