

ARTS & SCIENCE 3A06 / LITERATURE (2020-21) revised Dec. 2020

Professor: Dr. Jean Wilson, LRW-3038 (905-525-9140, x24656) (wilsonj@mcmaster.ca)

Office Hours: Mon. 10:30-11:30am (Lit only; Zoom), Thurs. 10:30-11:30am (General; Zoom) or by appointment

Class Times and Location: Wed. 9:30-11:20am and Fri. 9:30-10:20am; course is offered synchronously (Zoom)

TAs: Jess Gut gutj1@mcmaster.ca; Justine Becker beckej1@mcmaster.ca; Nicole Strader stradern@mcmaster.ca

Description and Course Objectives:

Lit is in many respects an inquiry course: envisioned as both a jumping-off point and a grounding in the interactive process of literary study, it is designed to facilitate individual and collective engagement, questioning, and learning; the making of fresh, meaningful, original connections (including those between literature and life, thought and action, myriad different stories); and the development of skills in critical and imaginative thinking, interpretation, and communication. The course approaches literature as a unique means of facing social and personal challenges—as a remarkably renewable resource for tackling real-world problems. Students are encouraged to engage in open-minded, careful, energetic reading of literary works in various forms; to work thoughtfully together with all class participants; and, in regularly exercising their own critical and creative power, to claim for themselves the relevance and the value of literary engagement as a practice of knowledge.

Required Texts (available through the *Campus Store website*; **please obtain the edition specified**):

Homer, *The Odyssey*, trans. Robert Fitzgerald (Raincoast 9780374525743)

Thomas King, “Trap Lines” (ccw)

Margaret Atwood, *Bluebeard’s Egg* (3 stories; see schedule) (McClelland & Stewart 9780771008627)

Jeff Ho, *Antigone: 方* (ccw)

Homer, *The Iliad*, trans. Robert Fagles (selections) (Penguin Random House Canada 9780140275360)

Christa Wolf, *Cassandra*, trans. Jan van Heurck (the novel, pp. 3-138) (Raincoast 9780374519049)

Dante, *Inferno*, trans. Allen Mandelbaum (selections) (Penguin Random House Canada 9780553213393)

Cervantes, *Don Quixote*, trans. John Rutherford (selections) (Penguin Random House Canada 9780140449099)

Heinrich von Kleist, “The Marquise of O--,” trans. D. Luke and N. Reeves (ccw)

Margot Schroeder, “I’m Doing Fine,” trans. S. L. Cocalis (ccw)

Mary Shelley, *Frankenstein* (Penguin Random House Canada 9780451532244)

Bertolt Brecht, *Life of Galileo*, trans. John Willett (Indico LLC 9780413763808)

Franz Kafka, “The Metamorphosis” (ccw)

Barbara Gowdy, “Disneyland” (ccw)

Joy Kogawa, *Obasan* (Penguin Random House Canada 9780735233706)

Toni Morrison, *Beloved* (Penguin Random House Canada 9781400033416)

Gabriel García Márquez, *One Hundred Years of Solitude*, trans. G. Rabassa (selections) (Harper 9780060883287)

The custom courseware (ccw), available in print and digital versions, also contains brief theoretical excerpts from Northrop Frye, Jeanette Winterson, Timothy Findley, Margaret Atwood, and Christa Wolf.

*optional: Fedor Dostoevsky, *Crime and Punishment*, trans. Nicholas Slater (Oxford 9780198709718) (see me if you’re interested in an independent study option: ARTSSCI 4MN1)

Assignments:

Class Participation (see notes 1&6, below)	15%
Two Reflections (one each term, see notes 2&5, below)	10%
Term 1 Essay (2000-2150 words) (due Thurs. 10 Dec. 2020; see notes 3&5, below)	25%
Team Inquiry (term 2, see notes 4&5, below)	5%
Term 2 Essay (2000-2150 words) (due Wed. 14 Apr. 2021; see notes 3&5, below)	25%
Final Examination in April 2021 (2.5 hours; see note 5, below)	20%

- 1) You are expected to attend each Wed. and Fri. class and to have completed the required reading beforehand so that you can contribute regularly and meaningfully to class discussion. The participation grade will reflect what you do to make the class the best it can be. Strive for open-minded engagement that is grounded in careful reading, active listening, thoughtful speaking, and creative responsiveness to the views of others.

- 2) Reflections provide an opportunity to respond to the course readings without the pressures of a graded assignment. You will receive the full 10% for writing and submitting on time one reflection each term (2 pages, single-spaced) and, in the allotted class, reading and commenting on the reflections of others. Penalties each term are: 2% for lateness; 2.5% for missing the class; 5% (zero on the assignment) if a reflection is not submitted. This exercise asks you to open up the texts for one another and to share your insights and discoveries. Reflections are due via A2L Wed. 7 Oct. 9:00am & read in class Fri. 9 Oct. (term 1); Thurs. 11 Feb. 9:00am & read in class Fri. 12 Feb. (term 2). *Further details will be provided in a handout of instructions and suggested topics. Plans for additional Reflections reading/sharing outside of class time will be announced ASAP.*

- 3) In the essays, I look for the development of your own critical and creative voice, and, specifically, for originality, careful textual analysis, critical insight, a well-developed argument, and good writing. Details will be provided in a handout of instructions and suggested topics. Essays are due via A2L Thurs. 10 Dec. 11:59pm (term 1) & Wed. 14 Apr. 11:59pm (term 2). Penalty for late submission is 3% per day, including days of the weekend.

- 4) This assignment (marked by the TAs) asks you to assist in informing the tutorial (which the TA will facilitate, as usual) on the literary work for which you have signed up. Normally, all team members will receive the same grade, and we expect you will do well if you attend to the following: After the Wed. class, your team will arrange to meet for an hour (on Zoom) to continue the discussion. Share with one another what spoke to you in the text and in our discussion of it in the Wed. class; how you've so far made sense of / "translated" the material in your own context(s); what connections you see with other texts we have studied. Then briefly talk as a group about what questions you now have for further discussion and perhaps what passages you'd highlight as the basis for such discussion in the Fri. tutorial hour. Email a short (750 word) summary of your 1-hour team discussion and your suggested questions (and passages) for further discussion to me and the TA (the person who sends it must also copy all other members of the inquiry team) by 2:00pm on the Thurs.—the day before the Fri. tutorial—to help inform that tutorial, in which you are expected to be, as always, lively participants.

- 5) It is expected that the reflections, the essays, and the team inquiries will be on different topics and treat different works (or take different works as the focus). The final exam is on the entire year's work. The TAs are available for essay consultation, but I am the sole marker of the essays and the exam.

- 6) Literary works attend to the full range of human experience, and, as such, often contain sensitive themes. If in your reading or in class discussions you are feeling triggered or overwhelmed, please don't hesitate to take a break from the reading or the Zoom class and/or to see me if you'd like to discuss the matter.

TERM 1 SCHEDULE **denotes tutorials (TA initials in parentheses; they rotate amongst the 3 tutorial groups)*

Wed. 9 Sept.	Introduction (read "Approaching Literature" in ccw)
Fri. 11 Sept.	Homer, <i>Odyssey</i> , books 1-4
Wed. 16 Sept.	Homer, <i>Odyssey</i> , books 5-12
*Fri. 18 Sept.	Homer, <i>Odyssey</i> , Group A (JG), Group B (JB), Group C (NS)
Wed. 23 Sept.	Homer, <i>Odyssey</i> , books 13-24
*Fri. 25 Sept.	Thomas King, "Trap Lines" A (JB), B (NS), C (JG)
Wed. 30 Sept.	Margaret Atwood, "Basic Victim Positions" (ccw); "Significant Moments in the Life of my Mother"; "Loulou; or, the Domestic Life of the Language"

*Fri. 2 Oct. Atwood, "Bluebeard's Egg" A (NS), B (JG), C (JB)
 Wed. 7 Oct. Jeff Ho, *Antigone*: 方 (ccw); C. Wolf, "Speaking of Büchner" (ccw) **Reflections due 9am**
 *Fri. 9 Oct. **Reflections Class** A (JG), B (JB), C (NS)
 MID-TERM RECESS: NO CLASSES

Wed. 21 Oct. Homer, *Iliad*, books 1, 6, 9, 16, 18
 *Fri. 23 Oct. Homer, *Iliad* A (JB), B (NS), C (JG)
 Wed. 28 Oct. Homer, *Iliad*, books 22, 24 / brief intro to Christa Wolf, *Cassandra* (novel, pp. 3-138)
 *Fri. 30 Oct. Wolf, *Cassandra* A (NS), B (JG), C (JB)
 Wed. 4 Nov. Wolf, *Cassandra*
 *Fri. 6 Nov. Wolf, *Cassandra* A (JG), B (JB), C (NS)
 Wed. 11 Nov. Dante, *Inferno*, cantos 1-5, 9-10
 *Fri. 13 Nov. Dante, *Inferno* A (JB), B (NS), C (JG)
 Wed. 18 Nov. Dante, *Inferno*, cantos 15, 26-34
 *Fri. 20 Nov. Dante, *Inferno* A (NS), B (JG), C (JB)
 Wed. 25 Nov. Cervantes, *Don Quixote* (1.1-14)
 *Fri. 27 Nov. Cervantes, *Don Quixote* A (JG), B (JB), C (NS)
 Wed. 2 Dec. Cervantes, *Don Quixote* (1.18, 22, 52; 2.3, 12-17)
 *Fri. 4 Dec. Cervantes, *Don Quixote* A (JB), B (NS), C (JG)
 Wed. 9 Dec. Cervantes, *Don Quixote* (2.64-65, 72-74) **Thurs. 10 Dec. Essays due by 11:59pm (A2L)**

TERM 2 SCHEDULE *Groups A, B, and C **newly constituted** (TAs continue to rotate)

Wed. 13 Jan. Heinrich von Kleist, "The Marquise of O..."
 Fri. 15 Jan. Margot Schroeder, "I'm Doing Fine"
 Wed. 20 Jan. Mary Shelley, *Frankenstein*
 *Fri. 22 Jan. Shelley, *Frankenstein* A (JG), B (JB), C (NS)
 Wed. 27 Jan. Brecht, *Life of Galileo*
 *Fri. 29 Jan. Brecht, *Life of Galileo* A (JB), B (NS), C (JG)
 Wed. 3 Feb. Franz Kafka, "The Metamorphosis"
 *Fri. 5 Feb. Kafka, "The Metamorphosis" A (NS), B (JG), C (JB)
 Wed. 10 Feb. Barbara Gowdy, "Disneyland"
Thurs. 11 Feb. Reflections due 9:00am
 *Fri. 12 Feb. **Reflections Class (optional additional hour til 11:30am)** A (JG), B (JB), C (NS)

MID-TERM RECESS: NO CLASSES

Wed. 24 Feb. Joy Kogawa, *Obasan*
 *Fri. 26 Feb. Kogawa, *Obasan* (team inquiry) A (JB), B (NS), C (JG)
 Wed. 3 Mar. Toni Morrison, *Beloved*
 *Fri. 5 Mar. Morrison, *Beloved* A (NS), B (JG), C (JB)
 Wed. 10 Mar. Morrison, *Beloved*
 *Fri. 12 Mar. Morrison, *Beloved* A (JG), B (JB), C (NS)
 Wed. 17 Mar. Gabriel García Márquez, *One Hundred Years of Solitude*
 *Fri. 19 Mar. García Márquez, *One Hundred Years of Solitude* (team inquiry) A (JB), B (NS), C (JG)
 Wed. 24 Mar. García Márquez, *One Hundred Years of Solitude*
 *Fri. 26 Mar. García Márquez, *One Hundred Years of Solitude* (team inquiry) A (NS), B (JG), C (JB)
 Wed. 31 Mar. Literature, Wisdom (as per OHYS's WC), Polytropism, and the Pandemic

Fri. 2 Apr. NO CLASSES

Wed. 7 & Fri. 9 Apr. Review
Wed. 14 Apr. No class. **Essays due by 11:59pm (A2L)**
April (exact date TBA: registrar-scheduled) Final Exam (A2L)

MCMASTER UNIVERSITY POLICY STATEMENTS

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

You are expected to exhibit honesty and use ethical behaviour in all aspects of the learning process. Academic credentials you earn are rooted in principles of honesty and academic integrity. **It is your responsibility to understand what constitutes academic dishonesty.** Academic dishonesty is to knowingly act or fail to act in a way that results or could result in unearned academic credit or advantage. This behaviour can result in serious consequences—e.g., the grade of zero on an assignment, loss of credit with a notation on the transcript (notation reads: “Grade of F assigned for academic dishonesty”), and/or suspension or expulsion from the university. For information on the various types of academic dishonesty please refer to the [Academic Integrity Policy](https://secretariat.mcmaster.ca/university-policies-procedures-guidelines/), located at <https://secretariat.mcmaster.ca/university-policies-procedures-guidelines/>

The following illustrates only three forms of academic dishonesty: 1) Plagiarism—e.g., the submission of work that is not one’s own or for which other credit has been obtained. 2) Improper collaboration in group work. 3) Copying or using unauthorized aids in tests and examinations.

AUTHENTICITY / PLAGIARISM DETECTION

Some courses may use a web-based service (Turnitin.com) to reveal authenticity and ownership of student submitted work. For courses using such software, students will be expected to submit their work electronically either directly to Turnitin.com or via an online learning platform (e.g. A2L, etc.) using plagiarism detection (a service supported by Turnitin.com) so it can be checked for academic dishonesty. Students who do not wish their work to be submitted through the plagiarism detection software must inform the Instructor before the assignment is due. No penalty will be assigned to a student who does not submit work to the plagiarism detection software. **All submitted work is subject to normal verification that standards of academic integrity have been upheld** (e.g., online search, other software, etc.). For more details about McMaster’s use of Turnitin.com please go to www.mcmaster.ca/academicintegrity.

COURSES WITH AN ONLINE ELEMENT

Some courses may use online elements (e.g. e-mail, Avenue to Learn (A2L), LearnLink, web pages, capa, Moodle, ThinkingCap, etc.). Students should be aware that, when they access the electronic components of a course using these elements, private information such as first and last names, user names for the McMaster e-mail accounts, and program affiliation may become apparent to all other students in the same course. The available information is dependent on the technology used. Continuation in a course that uses online elements will be deemed consent to this disclosure. If you have any questions or concerns about such disclosure, please discuss this with the course instructor.

ONLINE PROCTORING

Some courses may use online proctoring software for tests and exams. This software may require students to turn on their video camera, present identification, monitor and record their computer activities, and/or lock/restrict their browser or other applications/software during tests or exams. This software may be required to be installed before the test/exam begins.

CONDUCT EXPECTATIONS

As a McMaster student, you have the right to experience, and the responsibility to demonstrate, respectful and dignified interactions within all our living, learning and working communities. These expectations are described in the [Code of Student Rights & Responsibilities](#) (the “Code”). All students share the responsibility of maintaining a positive environment for the academic and personal growth of all McMaster community members, **whether in person or online**. It is essential that students be mindful of their interactions online, as the Code remains in

effect in virtual learning environments. The Code applies to any interactions that adversely affect, disrupt, or interfere with reasonable participation in University activities. Student disruptions or behaviours that interfere with university functions on online platforms (e.g. use of A2L, WebEx or Zoom for delivery), will be taken very seriously and will be investigated. Outcomes may include restriction or removal of the involved students' access to these platforms.

ACADEMIC ACCOMMODATION OF STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

Students with disabilities who require academic accommodation must contact [Student Accessibility Services \(SAS\)](#) at 905-525-9140 ext. 28652 or sas@mcmaster.ca to make arrangements with a Program Coordinator. For further information, consult McMaster University's [Academic Accommodation of Students with Disabilities](#) policy.

REQUESTS FOR RELIEF FOR MISSED ACADEMIC TERM WORK

McMaster Student Absence Form (MSAF): In the event of an absence for medical or other reasons, students should review and follow the Academic Regulation in the Undergraduate Calendar "Requests for Relief for Missed Academic Term Work."

ACADEMIC ACCOMMODATION FOR RELIGIOUS, INDIGENOUS OR SPIRITUAL OBSERVANCES (RISO)

Students requiring academic accommodation based on religious, indigenous or spiritual observances should follow the procedures set out in the [RISO](#) policy. Students should submit their request to their Faculty Office **normally within 10 working days** of the beginning of term in which they anticipate a need for accommodation or to the Registrar's Office prior to their examinations. Students should also contact their instructors as soon as possible to make alternative arrangements for classes, assignments, and tests.

COPYRIGHT AND RECORDING

Students are advised that lectures, demonstrations, performances, and any other course material provided by an instructor include copyright protected works. The Copyright Act and copyright law protect every original literary, dramatic, musical and artistic work, **including lectures** by University instructors. The recording of lectures, tutorials, or other methods of instruction may occur during a course. Recording may be done either by the instructor for the purpose of authorized distribution or by a student for the purpose of personal study. Students should be aware that their voice and/or image may be recorded by others during the class. Please speak with the instructor if this is a concern for you.

EXTREME CIRCUMSTANCES

The University reserves the right to change the dates and deadlines for any or all courses in extreme circumstances (e.g., severe weather, labour disruptions, etc.). Changes will be communicated through regular McMaster communication channels, such as McMaster Daily News, A2L and/or McMaster email.

ARTS & SCIENCE COURSE NOTES

- 1) Some of the statements above refer to a "Faculty Office"; please note that the Arts & Science Program Office serves in this capacity.
- 2) It is the responsibility of students to check their McMaster email regularly. Announcements will be made in class, via A2L, and/or via the course email distribution list <d-as3A06>.