

**Faculty of Liberal and Professional Studies
English Department**

Course: FLAPS/EN 4070 6. OA – Literature and Other Arts

Term: F/W 2018-2019

Course Instructor

Professor Diana Cooper-Clark
Ext. 33488
Atkinson 725
dcclark@yorku.ca
Office consultation: By appointment

Time of Course

Tuesday 11:30-2:30

Expanded Course Description

EN4070 explores the synthesis of the arts that informs and expands the literary context. The course investigates synesthesia, an ordering and dis-ordering of aesthetic and critical perceptions about the interrelationship of the senses and the arts as well as the social and aesthetic ideas that inform them. What transformations occur when one cultural reproduction influences other mediums? The course looks at the ways in which painting, music, film, and videos are embodied and altered in the structure and content of literature and/or provides an additional language for poetry, theatre and the novel. How is Ralph Ellison's *Invisible Man* a 'blues' novel? What is the synergy between Oscar Wilde's play, *Salome*, and the re-creation of the play in Aubrey Beardsley's artwork, and Richard Straus's opera, *Salome*? How do Mozart and jazz take form and shape in Hermann Hesse's novel, *Steppenwolf*? How does Stephen Daldry's film, *The Hours*, reflect and change Michael Cunningham's novel of the same name? How important is bebop, blues and jazz to Jack Kerouac's 'beat' novel, *On the Road* or calypso to Earl Lovelace's novel, *The Dragon Can't Dance*? What is the interplay between D.G. Rossetti's poems and paintings and that of the poetry of Paul Verlaine and Stéphane Mallarmé with the music of Debussy and the impressionist painters? In addition, the course looks at the questions raised by synesthesia concerning genres, blended genres, and hierarchy in the arts among other issues. Is music the most "perfect" of all the art forms, as Walter Pater said, in its ability to meld form and content? Does the act of integrating art forms violate or expand the possibilities of each?

Organization of the Course

The course incorporates a 'formal' lecture and tutorial format that encourages students to ask questions and contribute their ideas on the topic. The class will include images of paintings, film and videos as well as music, depending on the subject matter. The required readings and other class materials are central to the course. Attendance in class is crucial. Lectures and readings will provide necessary information, but an equally important aim of the course is to offer an occasion for learning to ask questions and express ideas clearly both at an oral and a written level. At the written level, effective thinking is clear and cohesive thought, and clear thinking relates closely to effective writing. Writing is a craft: with tools, with methods, with standards of excellence. Like any craft, it involves a process, and one can specify procedures. There is no **one** way of writing an excellent essay. One method is to first choose a central thesis, then organize the paper, write the first draft, revise the drafts, complete the final copy making sure that ideas are coherent and perceptive and that the technical details of grammar, spelling etc. are correct. On the oral level, the requirements of a seminar presentation and class participation develop confidence for public communication and the ability to articulate and develop ideas beyond the written page. The in-class test assesses students' abilities to remember what has been taught and demonstrate that she/he has understood the arts and ideas of EN4070.

Course Learning Objectives

Brief Statement of Purpose:

The purpose of the course is to develop the students' abilities to hold apparently paradoxical ideas and cultural reproductions in the mind and provide a cohesive response to the differing creative mediums as they incorporate, embody, or defy ideas about synesthesia. Students will develop their abilities to negotiate the blending of genres and art forms, synthesize patterns, and analyze connections between seemingly disparate arts and ideas.

Grading, Assignment Submission, Lateness Penalties and Missed Tests

Grading: The grading scheme for the course conforms to the 9-point grading system used in undergraduate programs at York (e.g. A+ = 9, A = 8, B+ = 7, C+ = 5 etc.). Assignments and tests will bear either a letter grade designation **or** a corresponding number grade (e.g. A+ = 90 -100, A = 80 – 89, B+ = 75 – 79 etc.) For a full description of York's grading system see the York University Undergraduate Calendar – http://calendars.registrar.yorku.ca/pdfs/ug2004cal/calug04_5_acadinfo.pdf

Assignment Submission: Proper academic performance depends on students doing their work not only well, but on time. Accordingly, assignments for this course must be received on the due date specified for the assignment. Assignments are to be handed in at the end of class or brought to my office on the due date.

Lateness Penalty: Assignments received later than the due date will be penalized by the loss of one-half letter grade per day that the assignment is late. Exceptions to the lateness penalty for valid reasons such as illness, compassionate grounds etc. will be considered by the Course Director but will require supporting documentation (e.g. doctor's letter).

Missed Tests: Students with a documented reason for missing a course test, such as illness, compassionate grounds etc. which is confirmed by supporting documentation (e.g. doctor's letter) may request accommodation from the Course Instructor. This accommodation would be writing a make-up test on a mutually agreed upon date. Further extensions or accommodation will require students to submit a formal petition to the Faculty.

Important Course Information for Students

All students are expected to familiarize themselves with the following information, available on the Senate Committee on Curriculum & Academic Standards webpage (see Reports, initiatives, Documents):

http://www.yorku.ca/secretariat/senate_cte_main_pages/ccas.htm

- York's Academic Honesty Policy and Procedures/Academic Integrity Website
- Ethics Review Process for research involving human participants
- Course requirement accommodation for students with disabilities, including physical, medical, systemic, learning and psychiatric disabilities
- Student Conduct Standards
- Religious Observance Accommodation

Brief list of specific learning objectives of the course

The specific objectives of the course are that students will be able to:

- demonstrate the ability to apply theory to literature in the context of synesthesia
- develop their critical skills in the written and oral format
- critically examine the blurring of genres and synthesizing multiple perspectives that is an important component in the discipline of English

Course Texts/Readings

Additional readings may be recommended during the course.

The following books and course kit are readings for the course.

Oscar Wilde, *Salome* (Dover Art Book) ISBN 978-0-486-21830-4

Hermann Hesse, *Steppenwolf* (Picador/Henry Holt & Co.) ISBN 978-0-312-27867-0

E. Doctorow, *Ragtime* (A Plume Book) ISBN 978-0-8129-7818-6

André Breton, *Nadja* (Grove Press) ISBN 978-0-8021-5026-4

Ralph Ellison, *Invisible Man* (Vintage) ISBN 978-0-679-73276-1

Jack Kerouac, *On the Road* (Penguin Books) ISBN 978-0-14-004259-7
Michael Cunningham, *The Hours* (Picador/Farrar, Straus & Giroux) ISBN 0-312-24302-2
Earl Lovelace, *The Dragon Can't Dance* (Longman) ISBN 978-0-571-19317-2
J.R.R. Tolkien, *The Lord of the Ring: The Fellowship of the Ring* (HarperCollins)
ISBN 978-0-261-10235-4

Course Kit: Some works of William Wordsworth, Dante Gabriel Rossetti, William Morris, Stéphane Mallarmé, Paul Verlaine, Allen Ginsberg.

Evaluation

The final grade for the EN4070 will be based on the following items weighted as indicated.

One 1500-word paper (25%)
One 1700-word paper (30%)
One class presentation (15%)
One in-class test (15%)
Class Participation (15%)

Email Policy

With the exception of weekends, illness or other catastrophic happenings, the Course Instructor will try to respond to emails within 24 hours, 48 hours at the most. If students require help with their written work, please send only the introduction and/or central thesis. If the work is longer than a paragraph, please make an appointment.