

## Department of Humanities and Social Sciences

### COURSE OUTLINE – Winter 2023

#### EN1201 (C3): Composition and Rhetoric – 3 (3-0-0) 45 Hours for 15 Weeks

Northwestern Polytechnic acknowledges that our campuses are located on Treaty 8 territory, the ancestral and present-day home to many diverse First Nations, Metis, and Inuit people. We are grateful to work, live and learn on the traditional territory of Duncan's First Nation, Horse Lake First Nation and Sturgeon Lake Cree Nation, who are the original caretakers of this land.

We acknowledge the history of this land and we are thankful for the opportunity to walk together in friendship, where we will encourage and promote positive change for present and future generations.

**INSTRUCTOR:** Dr. Anna Lapointe                      **PHONE:** 780-539-2992  
**OFFICE:** C420    **E-MAIL:** alapointe@nwpolytech.ca  
**OFFICE HOURS:** Tuesdays 1:30-2:30 (in person and on zoom) or by appointment

**CALENDAR DESCRIPTION:** This course will help students become more sophisticated users and producers of written texts. Instruction will include basic academic essay writing skills and the various rhetorical approaches used when addressing specific audiences. The main goals of the course are to help students integrate reading and writing and to become familiar with the conventions of college- (and university-) level writing. This includes producing coherent, logical texts that are relatively free of surface errors. To achieve these goals, the course encourages students to think critically, to read closely and analytically, and to compose responses to a variety of texts, both written and visual.

**PREREQUISITE:** Successful completion of Alberta English 30 (or equivalent of grade 12 English). This course will fulfill 3 credits of requirements for most programs that specify 6 credits of first year or Junior English. Normally, no more than 6 credits of first year English or equivalent may be taken for credit.

#### REQUIRED TEXTS:

- Chambers, Becky. *Record of a Spaceborn Few*. (Hodder & Stoughton)
- Losh, Elizabeth, et al. *Understanding Rhetoric*. 3<sup>rd</sup> edition. (MacMillan)
- Orwell, George. *Nineteen Eighty-Four*. (HarperCollins)

All other readings and the writing guide are posted to MyClass. Students are responsible for ensuring that they can access these files.

**DELIVERY MODE:** Lecture/discussion

**COURSE OBJECTIVES:** Students will critically assess and respond to texts; evaluate and utilize scholarly data resources; and produce clear, structured writing, with an emphasis on academic essays.

**LEARNING OUTCOMES:**

At the end of this course, students will be able to:

- Identify and describe rhetorical techniques used in a variety of texts
- Critically analyze texts with reference to symbolic language, rhetorical approaches, structure, and patterns of language
- Make connections between different texts in terms of both specific content and thematic patterns
- Write academic literary analysis essays using literary texts as primary sources

**TRANSFERABILITY:**

Please consult the Alberta Transfer Guide for more information. You may check to ensure the transferability of this course at the Alberta Transfer Guide main page <http://www.transferalberta.ca>.

**\*\* Grade of D or D+ may not be acceptable for transfer to other post-secondary institutions. Students are cautioned that it is their responsibility to contact the receiving institutions to ensure transferability**

**EVALUATIONS:**

Assignments will be assessed according to university-level standards of writing, including (but not limited to) spelling, grammar, compositional coherence, and critical thinking. Grading standards will rise in the course of the term. Essay assessments will be given as letter grades.

Documentation project	5%
Essay 1	10%
Essay 2	15%
Essay 3	25%
Quizzes	10% (averaged)
Attendance & Participation	5%
Final Exam	30%

**GRADING CRITERIA:**

Please note that most universities will not accept your course for transfer credit **IF** your grade is **less than C-**.

Alpha Grade	4-point Equivalent	Percentage Guidelines	Alpha Grade	4-point Equivalent	Percentage Guidelines
A+	4.0	90-100	C+	2.3	67-69
A	4.0	85-89	C	2.0	63-66

A-	3.7	80-84		C-	1.7	60-62
B+	3.3	77-79		D+	1.3	55-59
B	3.0	73-76		D	1.0	50-54
B-	2.7	70-72		F	0.0	00-49

### **COURSE SCHEDULE/TENTATIVE TIMELINE:**

Readings must be completed **before** the class in which they are taken up. Please ensure you have the day's text available to you in class (either on paper or electronically). This schedule is subject to change.

Alterations will be posted on MyClass. Throughout the schedule, "Losh" refers to the textbook *Understanding Rhetoric* by Elizabeth Losh et al. (Chapters in Losh are referred to as "Issue.")

Jan 4 – Welcome to the Class/Introduction

Jan 6 – intro to academic essay-writing (read writing guide chapter 2, and Losh introduction)

Jan 11 – documentation (read writing guide chapter 7, and Losh 219-259)

Jan 13 – documentation continued (read writing guide chapter 9); **last day to add/drop**

Jan 18 – presenting evidence in an essay (read writing guide chapter 3)

Jan 25 – strategic reading (read Losh Issue 2); **documentation project due**

Feb 1 – Alan G. Johnson – "Patriarchy, The System"

Feb 3 – **essay 1 written in class**

Feb 8 – creating arguments (read Losh Issue 4)

Feb 10 – introduction to science fiction and fantasy

Feb 15 – George Orwell – *1984*

Feb 17 – George Orwell – *1984*

Week of Feb 20: No Classes – Reading Week!

March 1 – George Orwell – *1984*

March 3 – George Orwell – *1984*

March 8 – revising your writing (read Losh Issue 7 and writing guide chapter 6)

March 10 – Cixin Liu – "The Poetry Cloud"; **essay 2 due**

March 15 – Ursula K. Le Guin – "The Ones Who Walk Away from Omelas"

March 17 – flex day/writing instruction

March 22 – N.K. Jemisin – "The Ones Who Stay and Fight" **last day to withdraw**

March 24 – Becky Chambers – *Record of a Spaceborn Few*

March 29 – Becky Chambers – *Record of a Spaceborn Few*

March 31 – Becky Chambers – *Record of a Spaceborn Few*

April 5 – Becky Chambers – *Record of a Spaceborn Few*

April 7 – flex day; **essay 3 due**

April 12 – review for final exam (exam outline will be given on this date)

Final exam date TBA. Please ensure you are available for the entire exam period.

### STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES:

- **Attendance:** Students are expected to attend class during class times. Attending class and engaging with classmates, discussion topics, and related activities is worth 5% of your final grade. Each class missed to an unexcused absence will result in a significant deduction to the participation grade.
  - If your absence is for a legitimate reason (internet disruption, illness, family crisis), **let the instructor know by e-mail**. In your e-mail, please indicate your course number and section. Please send a new e-mail for each class missed for a legitimate reason, or clearly state which days will be missed. E-mailed notices of absence do not automatically “roll over” for future missed dates.
  
- **Participation & Engagement:** You are expected to comment, respond to questions, interact with classmates, and otherwise contribute to the class dialogue. Questions are welcomed and encouraged. If you're wondering about something, most likely several classmates are as well, only they're afraid to speak up, so ask!
  - In order to participate effectively, **you should have the day's reading completed before class begins**. This will allow you to comment, answer questions, and ask questions of your own.
  - The goal of this class is to create a safe environment in which we examine both texts and our own ideas about them. Discomfort can be part of the learning process. However, if the discomfort starts to turn to distress, please take care of yourself. You can withdraw from an activity or discussion if necessary.
  
- **Missed Material:** Students are responsible for all missed material, including material missed due to legitimate/excused absences. Slideshows are posted to MyClass, and further information can be obtained from classmates. If, **after** you have reviewed the class materials, you have questions, please contact me and I'll be pleased to help.

### STATEMENT ON PLAGIARISM AND CHEATING:

Cheating and plagiarism will not be tolerated and there will be penalties. For a more precise definition of plagiarism and its consequences, refer to the Student Conduct section of the Northwestern Polytechnic Calendar at <https://www.nwpolytech.ca/programs/calendar/> or the Student Rights and Responsibilities policy which can be found at <https://www.nwpolytech.ca/about/administration/policies/index.html>.

\*\*Note: all Academic and Administrative policies are available on the same page.

## Additional Information:

- **Quizzes:** Quizzes are not scheduled at the beginning of term. They will be announced 1-2 classes beforehand, and the announcement will be posted on MyClass. Students will have 5 days to complete a quiz after it is “opened” on MyClass. Beyond that point, only students with extenuating circumstances (illness, family crisis) will be allowed to write “missed” quizzes. Missed quizzes are given a grade of 0%.
  - If students complete all quizzes, their lowest grade will be removed from the final average. If students have missed a quiz, that 0% will be removed instead.
- **Assignment Submission:** Assignments are due at 4:00pm Alberta time on the due date. At 4:01pm, they become late, so you might as well take a few hours and polish your work to offset the penalty.
  - Assignments must be submitted to the MyClass dropbox. Assignments must be typed, in pdf format, and double-spaced. Improperly submitted work will not be accepted. If the dropbox for some reason will not give you access, e-mail your completed assignment to the instructor to prove that you have completed it, then submit on MyClass when the issue has been resolved.
- **Late Papers:** Late papers are penalized at the rate of 1% per day, to a maximum deduction of 15%. Late papers will be accepted until Wednesday, April 12, 2023, at 4:00pm Alberta time. Starting at 4:01pm on that day, no more late assignments will be accepted, and the missing assignments will receive grades of 0%.
- **Extensions: Students must contact the instructor directly regarding extensions.** I grant extensions for the following reasons: technological failure (may be used only once), sick children/family crisis, illness or injury of student (with doctor’s note), alien abduction (documentation required). Extensions are not open-ended; rather, we will agree on a new deadline, after which late penalties apply.
  - **Extensions are not given because of workload.** Due dates across classes tend to come in clusters. Plan ahead and be prepared to deal with the schedule.
- **Office Hours:** My office hours are listed on the first page of this course outline.
  - You don’t need an appointment to meet with me during office hours. I meet with students in the order that they show up.
  - This is your time, as much as class is. Please don’t feel you’re imposing.
  - Office hours are cancelled if the instructor is sick. But I’ll post an announcement to that effect, and re-schedule when I’m better.

- If you make an appointment to meet with me outside of regular office hours, please actually attend that meeting, or notify me that you won't be able to make it, so I'm not left humming to myself.
- **Pre-Assessments:** Students often request that I “look over” an assignment and offer feedback before the assignment is due. I regret that I cannot do this, simply because of the time commitment involved, and the number of students I teach.
  - However, I am always pleased to review your thesis statement, and even to review several drafts of it. Please send your thesis statement for feedback by email, pasted into the body of the e-mail.
  - Thesis statements are not reviewed in person, because I need time to consider and give you the best feedback I can. E-mail them to me for best results!
- **Preferred Names & Pronouns:** At the course's outset, my list of students' names is based on the register. If you would prefer to be called something else, please let me know, and I will adjust my list accordingly, and use your preferred name from that point on. You should feel free to use your preferred given name on all essays and submitted assignments, as well as on your Zoom. (If your preferred surname varies from the name under which you are registered, I may need occasional reminders.)
  - If you want to tell me your pronouns, you should feel free to do so. I will respect your pronouns.
  - All students are expected to respect their classmates' preferred names and pronouns.
- **Crisis Management:** I'm not a monster, but I'm not psychic, either. If something goes wrong in your life, I won't automatically know. If you let me know, I will work with you to help you keep up/catch up in the course. You are human, and entropy affects us all: crises happen. I will happily work with you to ensure they don't derail your academic career.
- **Important Note:** How you do in the class has no effect on how much I like and respect you. If you submit an assignment late, I will not be ashamed of you or look on you with disgust. If your work is imperfect, it's a sign that there are things you need to learn/I need to help you with; it is not a sign that you are a bad, lazy, or unworthy person.