



DEPARTMENT OF ARTS & EDUCATION

COURSE OUTLINE – Fall 2021

**EN 1220 (B2): Texts and Contexts: Literature, Medicine, and the Body –
3 (3-0-0) 45 Hours for 15 Weeks**

Grande Prairie Regional College respectfully acknowledges that we are located on Treaty 8 territory, the traditional homeland and gathering place for many diverse Indigenous peoples. We are honoured to be on the ancestral lands of the Cree, Dene/Beaver and Métis, whose histories, languages, and cultures continue to influence our vibrant community. We are grateful to have the opportunity to work, learn, and live on this land.

INSTRUCTOR: Dr. Anna Lapointe **PHONE:** 780-978-2133
OFFICE: C420 **E-MAIL:** alapointe@gprc.ab.ca
OFFICE HOURS: Tuesdays and Thursdays 1:30-3:00pm, or by appointment

CALENDAR DESCRIPTION: This course will explore a specific issue (to be determined by the instructor) using a variety of genres and media. Instruction will include essay writing skills.

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:

- Atwood, Margaret. *The Handmaid's Tale*.
- Kushner, Tony. *Angels in America*.
- Ondaatje, Michael. *The English Patient*.

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

DELIVERY MODES: Lecture/Discussion

COURSE OBJECTIVES: Students will read and critically analyze a variety of literary texts, and articulate their conclusions in clear, structured writing, with an emphasis on academic essay forms.

LEARNING OUTCOMES: By the end of this course, students will be able to:

- Articulate in outline key ideas about the medicalized body in the 20th century
- Critically analyze texts with reference to symbolic language, 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:

Athabasca University, MacEwan University, University of Alberta, University of Calgary, University of Lethbridge

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:

Quizzes (5 quizzes, top 4 grades used, averaged)	10% (total)
Essay 1	15%
Essay 2	25%
Response papers	15% (3 x 5% each)
Attendance and Participation	5%
Final Exam	30%

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. Assessments of all assignments except quizzes will be given as letter grades.

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.

Sept 7 – introduction; reading poetry; Emily Dickinson “I heard a Fly buzz – when I died – (591)”

Sept 14 – Dylan Thomas “Before I Knocked”; Stevie Smith “Not Waving but Drowning”; Sylvia Plath “Fever 103”; Allan Ginsberg “The Lion for Real”; Joyce Sutphen “Living in the Body”; Phyllis Webb two poems

Sept 21 – essay writing instruction; Margaret Atwood “Hairball”

Sept 28 – Leslie Jamison “Devil’s Bait”; Louisa May Alcott *Hospital Sketches* (excerpt)

Oct 5 – essay writing instruction; Alice Munro “Friend of My Youth”; response 1 due

No classes the week of Oct 11-15 (fall break)

Oct 19 – Margaret Atwood, *The Handmaid’s Tale*

Oct 26 – Margaret Atwood, *The Handmaid’s Tale*; essay 1 due

Nov 2 – Michael Ondaatje, *The English Patient*; response 2 due

Nov 9 – essay writing instruction; Michael Ondaatje, *The English Patient*

Nov 16 – Michael Ondaatje, *The English Patient*

Nov 23 – Tony Kushner, *Angels in America*; response 3 due

Nov 30 – Tony Kushner, *Angels in America*; essay 2 due

Dec 7 – finish Kushner; review for exam

Final exam date to be announced. Please ensure that 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.
 - 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. If **after** you have gone through these materials you have questions, please contact me and I'll be pleased to clarify.
- **Quizzes:** Quizzes are not scheduled at the beginning of term. They will be announced 1-2 days 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 6:00pm Alberta time on the due date. At 6:01pm, they become late, so you might as well take a few hours and polish your work to offset the penalty.
 - Assignments must be submitted via MyClass to the relevant assignment dropbox. Assignments must be in pdf format. Improperly submitted work will not be accepted, and will be subject to late penalties. 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 10% (one letter grade). Late papers will be accepted until December 9, 2021, at 6:00pm 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. The default format for office hours this term is Zoom. During the time of office hours, I will sit in the Zoom office hours room (<https://gprc.zoom.us/j/3323252345> -- this link is also on the MyClass page under "Office Hours") and meet with students one-on-one as they arrive.
 - You don't need an appointment to meet with me during office hours. I meet with students in the order that they show up.

- Students logging in will initially be placed in a “waiting room” and admitted to the meeting once the current student has finished.
 - This is your time, as much as class is. Please don’t feel you’re imposing.
 - Office hours 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 on the Internet.
- **Electronics in the Classroom:** I permit the use of electronic devices (laptop computers, tablets, and phones) in the classroom for note-taking and document-access purposes. **Please turn off all sound-generating functions.**
 - If you do not choose to print the readings posted on MyClass (if you do, bring them to class!), please ensure that you can access these documents electronically during class. I cannot reliably determine whether students are using their devices for class-related purposes. If you choose to use your device for non-class purposes (such as texting and social media), please be aware that those activities actually damage the learning experience of those around you. Thus, if you absolutely must text in class, please sit in the back so as to distract as few of your classmates as possible.
 - If your phone rings in class, the instructor may dance wildly to your ringtone. Be warned.
 - **Pre-Assessments:** Students often request that I “look over” an assignment before it is due and offer feedback at that point. 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.
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 - **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 used your preferred name from that point on. You should feel free to use your preferred given name on all essays and submitted assignments. (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.
 - If your details change in the course of the term, please let me know and I will adjust my records and the way that I address you.
 - **Children, Animals, & Zoom Etiquette:** Some of you may be parenting as you take this class. Please let me know, so that I can make a note of it. (Children create their own complications, and I will create flexibility for parents as needed.)
 - While on Zoom, if you’re not speaking, please mute your microphone.

- If your children are in the room with you on Zoom, that's fine, though you should be aware that the course will deal with adult language and topics.
 - If your pets appear on Zoom, your instructor would like to see and admire them.
 - Please wear clothes while on Zoom.
 - If your child-care arrangements fail and you would still like to attend class in person, you are welcome to bring your child with you to class, as long as the child is reasonably quiet. (Reasonably. Some noise is inevitable, and that's okay.) If the child becomes disruptive or distressed and you need to leave, you will not be penalized for your absence, and I will review any missed material with you later. (Children may not be brought to final exams.)
 - Exclusively breast-fed children are welcome in the classroom as often as necessary.
 - Please do not bring your pets to in-person class, as the instructor is too easily distracted to cope with their delightful presences.
- **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.

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 College Calendar at <http://www.gprc.ab.ca/programs/calendar/> or the College Policy on Student Misconduct: Plagiarism and Cheating at <https://www.gprc.ab.ca/about/administration/policies>

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