

# ENGL 1423 CIN4: Writing and Reading Critically 2

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## Syllabus - web page

### Course Overview

This course will introduce you to studying literature at the university level. We will read poetry, drama, and fiction, and consider forms like the sonnet, the fairy tale, satire, and the contemporary novel. The main aim of this course is to guide students towards developing close reading and analysis skills. We will explore what it means to read and write critically, to engage with a literary text, and to form interpretations. This course will challenge you to think with complexity, to read with a literary eye, and to formulate persuasive arguments about literature. This course will also take you through a few key historical literary movements and ask you to consider how literary forms and ideas travel and transform across the centuries.

### Instructor

Michelle Damour moved to Nova Scotia from Alberta in 2000 to attend Dalhousie University where she obtained a B.A. in English. Later she attended Acadia University and earned her M.A., writing a thesis that explored reconciliation and how the discourses we consume and create (through media, written history, government policies, and familial and personal narratives) shape our identities. Since then she has been as writer, researcher, and editor, working on in an array of modes and genres from writing research reports to radio scripts, researching insurance schemas in Sub-Saharan Africa to finding the best barbecues for your backyard, and editing memoirs to government manuals. She has been teaching English 1413 and 1423 at Acadia University since 2016.

**As you make your way through the course, if you have any questions, please feel free to email me at the address provided below.**



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### Course Materials

*The Complete Short Stories*, Oscar Wilde ISBN: 9780199535064

*Machinal*, Sophie Treadwell ISBN: 9781854592118

*Spring*, Ali Smith ISBN: 9780670070053

Poetry selections and other short stories will be available on Acorn.

See the [student handbook](#) for ordering information.

## Evaluation

Close Reading Assignments (3)	15%
Critical Essay #1	20%
Critical Essay #2	30%
Final Exam	35%

### Close Reading Assignments

You will be given a question and then asked to choose a particular word or short quotation from the relevant literature to explore. These are short writing assignments. They can be casual and discussion-like in tone. You're not being explicitly marked on your grammar or writing (although bad grammar and writing can detract from your ability to clearly articulate your ideas). You will be marked on your insights and your engagement with the piece of literature. They are not marked as strictly as the formal assignments (the two critical essays and the final exam), so take the chance to play around with ideas. These assignments are meant to be short. Do not bother wasting time, energy, and word count on discussing broad ideas or giving an introduction to the text (unless you've been asked to). Instead, jump right in and answer the question at hand.

There are three Close Reading Assignments that are worth 5% each.

I highly recommend you complete these as you go through the course. Doing so will help you develop your writing over time and allow you to implement feedback.

### Critical Essays

You will be asked to write two critical essays for this class. All essays should consist of a strong introductory paragraph, thesis statement, and well-structured supporting argument. The first essay is shorter (4-5 pages) and meant to help you develop your essay writing skills. The second essay is slightly longer (5-6 pages) and will give you the opportunity to apply what you learned through the first experience. Topics and further instructions are provided.

### Final Exam

The final exam will consist of short-answer, long-answer, and essay-style questions.

### Submissions

The assignments are delivered to the instructor via assignment drop-boxes. **All submissions must be made in a Word Document or a pdf.** The name of the document must contain: your first name, last name, the course number, and the assignment:

For example: Michelle Damour ENGL1423 Essay 1.docx

*The last assignment should be received at least 4 weeks prior to the date you wish to write the exam. This will allow adequate processing time for the request, and for setting the exam.*

### Email

Feel free to email me at any time with questions and concerns. I make every effort to respond to emails within 24 hours, but this is not always possible. Please allow for up to a few days to get a response.

## **\*\*Changes to the Final Exam due to the COVID-19 Restrictions\*\***

Due to the COVID-19 situation, the final exam will be a **TAKE HOME EXAM**. This exam will ask you to look back over the course and explain the most important/thought-provoking lessons. Unlike the other assignments in this course, this assignment will have a **due date**. This due date will be determined by the student but approved by the professor.

If you are writing your exam in the Spring or Summer of 2021, please disregard the information about proctored exams below (however, the deadline for graduating students remain). Once you have submitted Critical Essay #2, email the professor for the take home exam instructions and to set up a due date. The due date should be 1-4 weeks after the submission of your last assignment (although requests a due date 4+ weeks after the submission of the last assignment will be considered). **The due date cannot be less than one week after the submission of the final assignment.**

Graduating Students Note: If you are graduating in the Spring, you must submit your Take Home Exam by April 15th. If you are graduating in the Fall, you must submit your Take Home Exam by September 15th.

## Course Schedule

You have 6 months to complete this course. You may set your own schedule, but if you intend to complete the course in less than 3 months, you should let me know so that we can arrange a schedule.

**Please do not leave all of your course work until a few weeks before your completion date.** Although I will make every effort to accommodate your schedule within reason, I need time to grade assignments and mark exams. Unless we have arranged a schedule in advance, I am able to grade one assignment per week.

## Exam

How to apply: Complete the Application for Examination (<https://openacadiaexams.acadiau.ca>)

### Proctored at Acadia

- The final exam in an online course must be passed to successfully pass the course unless otherwise stated in the assessment section of the course syllabus. There are no rewrites or supplemental examinations at Acadia University.
- Examination requests must be received one month prior to the date you wish to write your examination.
- Course requirements must be completed to the satisfaction of your instructor.
- Graduating Students Note: If you are graduating in Spring Convocation you must write by April 15th. If you are graduating in the Fall you must write by September 15th.

### Proctored at Another Location

If it isn't practical to take your exam at Acadia, off-campus exams can be written at another university or college. Arrangements for an examination may be made through the Registrar's Office or the Continuing Education office of most universities and colleges. If it is not possible to write your exam at an approved institution, please contact us for assistance.

- All fees associated with examinations written at other locations are your responsibility.
- Some courses may require specific software or internet accessibility at the off-campus examination location.

## Student Handbook

You are responsible for becoming familiar with the contents of the Student Handbook. It contains important information about scheduling examinations (if applicable), applying for extensions, withdrawing from your course, ordering books, and computer and library services available to you. If you have questions about the policies outlined in the handbook (<https://courseware.acadiau.ca/openacadia/studenthandbook.html>), contact:

### Open Acadia

- 21 University Avenue (Rhodes Hall)
- Wolfville, NS B4P 2R6
- Phone: 1-800-565-6568
- Fax: 1-902-585-1068
- Email: [openacadia@acadiau.ca](mailto:openacadia@acadiau.ca)

## Academic Integrity

Academic integrity demands responsible use of the work of other scholars. It is compromised by academic dishonesty such as cheating and plagiarism. A student who is uncertain whether or not a course of action might constitute cheating or plagiarism should seek in advance the advice of the instructor involved.

- Cheating is copying or the use of unauthorized aids or the intentional falsification or invention of information in any academic exercise
- Plagiarism is the act of presenting the ideas or words of another as one's own. Students are required to acknowledge and document the sources of ideas that they use in their written work.
- Self plagiarism is also a form of plagiarism. It is the presentation of the same work in more than one course without the permission of the instructors involved.
- A student who knowingly helps another to commit an act of academic dishonesty is equally guilty.
- Penalties are levied in relation to the degree of the relevant infraction. They range from requiring the student to re-do the piece of work, through failure on that piece of work, to failure in the course, and to dismissal from the university.

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