

Fall/Winter 2021-2022

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| AP/ EN 3440 6.0A (Y) | Introduction to Contemporary Literature |
| Course Director: | Professor Marcus Boon Atkinson Building, 722 Ext. 40675 mboon@yorku.ca www.marcusboon.com |
| Time: | Asynchronous (no scheduled meeting times) |
| Delivery Format: | ONLINE – (asynchronous delivery) – There is no set course meeting time. Students may engage with course content/materials 24/7. |
| Description: | <p>In this course, we will explore the relationship between contemporary literature and technology -- and the forms of life that have emerged around various new technologies since WW II.</p> <p>In the first semester we'll read a series of classic contemporary prose and poetic works, and explore the ways in which we can read them as allegories of a life immersed in technology. We will examine such topics as alienation, homelessness and exile; the figure of the storyteller in a time of fragmentary or distracted consciousness; fiction and reality in a post-truth era; technology and the human; intimacy, anonymity and disclosure; capitalism and its effects on identity and language. Authors will include Kathy Acker, Anne Boyer, Octavia Butler, Philip K. Dick, Bob Kaufman, Yoko Ono, Gil Scott-Heron, Amos Tutuola and Tao Lin.</p> <p>In the second semester, we will take a more direct approach, exploring the forms that literature takes today on the actual internet, for example looking at fan fiction, Twitter and Instagram, crowdsourced fiction and more. Authors will include Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie, Byung-Chul Han, Teju Cole, Lydia Davis, Rupi Kaur, George Orwell, Sally Rooney, Kristen Roupenian and Yung Hae Chang Heavy Industries. While maintaining a firm focus on the problem of writing, and the specific powers and problems of the written word, we will develop ways of understanding and navigating the complex and diverse worlds that literature is a part of today.</p> <p>The core objective of the course is to get you to think critically and creatively about what literature is today, at a time when writing and reading are increasingly mediated by digital and other technologies. Conversely we will read literary works to think about the strange realities that we inhabit today -- especially in</p> |

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| | <p>our current post-COVID condition. Class assignments will encourage creative as well as critical writing.</p> <p>This is an asynchronous class that will be hosted on Moodle, and you can choose when you engage with course materials and content week by week.</p> |
| Category: | C |
| Historical Requirement: | N/A |
| Requirements: | <p>Weekly forum comments on a discussion topic related to the week's readings. 20% per semester =s 40%</p> <p>2000 word research paper or creative writing assignment on an assigned topic. 15% per semester =s 30%</p> <p>End of semester exam. 15% per semester =s 30%.</p> |
| Reading List: | <p>Kathy Acker, <i>Blood and Guts in High School</i></p> <p>Chimanada Ngozi Adichie, <i>Americanah</i></p> <p>Anne Boyer, <i>Garments Against Women</i></p> <p>Octavia Butler, <i>Parable of the Sower</i></p> <p>Teju Cole, "Seven Short Stories About Drones"</p> <p>Lydia Davis, Selected short stories</p> <p>Philip K. Dick, <i>Bladerunner, or Do Androids Dream of Electric Sheep</i></p> <p>Drake, "Hotline Bling"</p> <p>John Hersey, <i>Hiroshima</i></p> <p>Bob Kaufman, "O-Jazz-O War Memoir: Jazz, Don't Listen To It At Your Own Risk"</p> <p>Rupi Kaur, Instagram account</p> <p>Tao Lin, <i>Shoplifting from American Apparel</i></p> <p>Gautam Malkani, <i>Londonstani</i></p> <p>Sophia al Maria, <i>The Gaze of Sci-Fi Wahabi</i></p> <p>Yoko Ono, <i>Grapefruit</i></p> <p>George Orwell, <i>1984</i></p> <p>Sally Rooney, <i>Conversations with Friends</i></p> <p>Kristen Roupenian, "Cat Person"</p> <p>Amos Tutuola, <i>My Life in the Bush of Ghosts</i></p> |

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| | Young-Hae Chang Heavy Industries, "Samsung" Kate Zambreno, <i>Heroines</i> |
| Open To: | Years 3, 4 |