

SU 2025

AP/EN 1006 3.00 A (SU)	A Writer's Introduction to Literary Forms
Course Director:	Prof. Peter Paolucci paolucci@yorku.ca
Time:	N/A – There are no scheduled meetings for this course.
Delivery Format:	✓ ONLINE (Asynchronous)
Description:	<p>This course explores the complicated relationships between form, genre, subgenre, and content. Form can refer to "the shape and structure of a literary work as opposed to its substance or what it is about" (<i>The Penguin Dictionary of Literary Terms and Literary Theory</i>). Form can also be shaped by other factors such as lexis, register, syntax, structure, arrangement/sequencing, character development, purpose, audience, and even media and hypertext.</p> <p>Our purpose in the course is to help writers (and all students) improve their awareness of how form can shape the interplay between change and conformity. Literary texts must, to a certain extent, conform to conventions and tropes of genre while simultaneously disrupting those expectations; too much conformity renders a text unremarkable and clichéd, but too much innovation can also make it unrecognizable. How much innovation can you introduce before a sonnet is no longer recognizable as a sonnet or until a poem is no longer recognizable as a poem?</p> <p>Form has its own history, intertextuality, and established conventions which writers can engage, adopt, or reject. The process has been ongoing for a very long time, but more recently, Hypertext and Web 2.0 have contributed greatly to the disruption of all pre-Internet literary forms by offering new creative possibilities such as ergodic texts, gaming narratives and oral forms of expression drawn from non-industrial cultures like story-telling and folk songs.</p> <p>Beyond all this, we'll be investigating the impact AI is having on the creative aspects of literary form. It is here where the most perplexing challenge appears—the idea of canonicity—that is, the collective body of works we call "literature." Can AI-generated text (or criticism) even be understood as literature?</p> <p>Let's explore!</p>
Category:	N/A
Historical Requirement:	N/A

Requirements:	<p>Two short papers of 5-7 pages in length: choice of theoretical or applied (creative) option</p> <p>(x 20% each)</p> <p>40%</p>	<p>Project: Ergotic texts or AI. Choose a theoretical or applied (creative) option</p> <p>30%</p>	<p>Participation</p> <p>Regularly scheduled online activities</p> <p>(30%)</p>
Reading List:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Selections of poetry (especially sonnets), prose readings, and short excerpts from theorists like Aarseth, Charney, Eskelinen, Shklovsky, Eichenbaum, Jakobson, Jung, and Carroll. Our primary "working texts include" a historical survey of the sonnet, two long narratives (<i>Sir Gawain and the Green Knight</i> and <i>The Rime of the Ancient Mariner</i>), and various other "texts" in different formats and media. All these materials will be provided in eClass. 2. Required purchases: None. All readings will be provided either in eClass or will be found in reserve in the library. 		
Open To:	Students in any year level.		