



COURSE OUTLINE – Fall 2026

EN1210(A2): Literature in Historical Perspective – 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. Heather Joyce	PHONE:	780-539-2977
OFFICE:	C418	E-MAIL:	hjoyce@nwpolytech.ca
OFFICE HOURS:	Mondays 3:00-4:00 and by appointment		

CALENDAR DESCRIPTION: This course will introduce post-secondary students to English studies and the historical contexts that shape literature. Generally, a specific historical period will be covered and the development of various genres will be examined. Instruction will include essay writing skills. Because the course content will vary among instructors, it is strongly recommended that students consult an academic advisor or the Department of Arts and Education for more specific descriptions regarding the course focus.

PREREQUISITE(S): English 30-1, EN0130, or equivalent

COREQUISITE(S): None

REQUIRED MATERIALS:

McEwan, Ian. *The Cockroach*.
Osborne, John. *Look Back in Anger*.
Smith, Ali. *Spring*.

Additional readings will be posted on myClass (D2L). It is your responsibility to ensure that you are able to access and read these works in advance of the class in which they will be discussed.

DELIVERY MODE(S): This course is delivered on campus. Students are required to attend lectures, participate in class discussions, and complete the assessments listed below.

LEARNING OUTCOMES: After taking this course, successful students will be able to

- explain how writers respond to the changing cultural and political landscapes of post-war Britain, demonstrating knowledge of key historical events
- identify key traits of major genres
- define and use critical vocabulary suited to the discussion of English literature
- analyze texts through close reading
- express ideas clearly and respond critically to written works through writing
- describe the constituent parts of an effective essay (thesis statement, topic sentence, etc.) and reproduce those elements in their own writings.

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.alberta.ca>

**** For courses with alpha (letter) grading, a 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:

Reading Quizzes (unannounced) – 10%

Historical and Literary Context and Interpretation Quizzes (announced) – 20%

Tasks (unannounced) – 10%

In-class Writing Assignment – 15%

In-class Essay – 20%

Final Exam – 25%

GRADING CRITERIA:

Please note that most institutions 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	95-100	C+	2.3	67-69
A	4.0	85-94	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:

September 2 (W): Introduction

September 7 (M): Labour Day (No Classes)

September 9 (W): "I Hear You Say So" (Elizabeth Bowen)

September 14 (M): *Look Back in Anger* (John Osborne), Act I (1-36)

September 16 (W): *Look Back in Anger* (John Osborne), Act II (37-77)

September 21 (M): *Look Back in Anger* (John Osborne), Act III (78-103)

September 23 (W): *Pentecost* (Stewart Parker), Act I (1037-1051)

September 28 (M): *Pentecost* (Stewart Parker), Act II (1051-1063)

Historical and Literary Context Quiz

September 30 (W): National Day for Truth and Reconciliation (No Classes)

October 5 (M): *Pentecost* (Stewart Parker)

October 7 (W): In-class Writing Assignment

October 12 (M): Thanksgiving (No Classes)

October 14 (W): "New Craas Massakah"

"Di Great Inshreckshan"

"New Word Hawdah" (Linton Kwesi Johnson)

October 19 (M): "My Son the Fanatic" (Hanif Kureishi)

October 21 (W): "In Winter the Sky" (Jon McGregor)

October 26 (M): "if a book is locked there's probably a good reason for that, don't you think" (Helen Oyeyemi)

October 28 (W): "God's Doorbell" (Naomi Alderman)

November 2 (M): TBA

Historical and Literary Context Quiz

November 4 (W): TBA

November 9–13: Fall Break (No Classes)

November 16 (M): In-Class Essay

November 18 (W): *The Cockroach* (Ian McEwan), Parts One and Two

November 23 (M): *The Cockroach* (Ian McEwan), Parts Three and Four

November 25 (W): *Spring* (Ali Smith), Part One (1–115)

November 30 (M): *Spring* (Ali Smith), Part Two (117–220)

December 2 (W): *Spring* (Ali Smith), Part Three (221–337)

Historical and Literary Context Quiz

December 7 (M): *Spring* (Ali Smith)

December 9 (W): Review

December 12–19: Final Exam Period

A detailed schedule of readings is available on myClass (D2L).

Reading quizzes and tasks will be unannounced. The final exam will take place during the final exam period.

STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES:

1. This course will be delivered on campus. Course components (e.g., quizzes, tasks, in-class writing assignments, etc.) require onsite attendance.

2. Quizzes, tasks, and the in-class writing assignments will be completed during class. Missed assessments can be completed only in extenuating circumstances. The instructor should be notified by e-mail of impending absences prior to the beginning of class. Students may need to provide documentation. Missed assessments must be made up within two weeks of the missed class (unless the instructor agrees that extenuating circumstances preclude that possibility).

3. Students must attend the full class in order to receive a grade for tasks and quizzes that take fewer than 80 minutes to complete.
4. Students must complete scheduled quizzes, the in-class writing assignments, and the final exam during the allotted times. Alternative dates will be considered only in extenuating circumstances. Documentation may be required
5. Students are not permitted to use any electronic devices when completing in-class assessments. Class assessments will be closed book unless otherwise specified.
6. Students are required to check the myClass (D2L) site for this course before each class to stay informed.
7. The myClass (D2L) site for this course contains everything students need to be successful. Students should resist the temptation to go outside of the course to consult literary guides, other websites, etc. Assignments **MUST** be completed using the versions of works I provide or the editions I assign. Assignments completed using alternate versions of the works will not be graded.
8. **Students are not permitted to use any AI resources (including but not limited to ChatGPT, Grammarly's AI tools, etc.) when completing in-class and out-of-class assignments for this course. All of the work you submit also MUST be your own.** We will discuss academic integrity in class, covering both what constitutes academic misconduct at NWP and the research and citation practices that can help students ensure they avoid charges of academic dishonesty and the associated penalties. Please note students are required to accept the Turnitin user agreement when submitting assignments via myClass.
9. Students are not permitted to record lectures using any means (including AI glasses, etc.) unless granted permission by Accessibility Services. Students with this accommodation are required to speak to the instructor prior to making any recordings.
10. You are welcome to contact me via e-mail to ask questions, etc. I will respond to most e-mails within 48 hours (depending on the volume of e-mails I receive). If you have a complicated question or are seeking specific assignment advice (i.e. if you would like me to read drafts, make suggestions regarding essay structure, etc.), you should drop in during my regular office hours or contact me via e-mail and ask to meet outside of those hours.

STATEMENT ON ACADEMIC MISCONDUCT:

Academic Misconduct will not be tolerated. For a more precise definition of academic misconduct and its consequences, refer to the Student Rights and Responsibilities policy available at <https://www.nwpolytech.ca/about/polytechnic-leadership/policies-directory>.

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