NORTHWESTERN POLYTECHNIC

DEPARTMENT Humanities and Social Sciences

COURSE OUTLINE - Fall 2026

EN1210(B2): 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. Craig Smith	**PHONE:**	780-539-2894
OFFICE:	F211	**E-MAIL:**	crsmith@nwpolytech.ca
OFFICE HOURS:	By appointment (https://libcal.nwpolytech.ca/appointments?u=45623)		

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 Humanities and Social Sciences 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*
Shamsie, Kamila – *Home Fire*

Other class readings will be posted to MyClass (D2L). It is your responsibility to ensure that you are able to access and read these documents well in advance of the class in which they will be

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discussed. You are free to use alternative editions of the texts; however, you must use the provided or assigned versions of texts when submitting written work for marks.

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://ww.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:

Participation – 10%
Reading Quizzes – 5%
Recap Tasks (2 in total, 2-3 pages each) – 15%
Midterm Test – 15%
In-class Essay – 15%
Final Essay (5 pages) – 15%
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-.**

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Grading Chart

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 3	Introduction to the course
September 8	Elizabeth Bowen, "The Demon Lover"
September 10	Philip Larkin, "Church Going" and "This Be the Verse"
September 15	John Osborne, *Look Back in Anger*
September 17	Osborne, *Look Back in Anger*
September 22	Osborne, *Look Back in Anger*
September 24	Angela Carter, "The Company of Wolves"
September 29	Carol Ann Duffy, "Eurydice" and "Anne Hathaway"
October 1	Writing and documentation
October 6	Hanif Kureishi, "My Son the Fanatic"
October 8	Linton Kwesi Johnson, "If I Woz a Tap-Natch Poet"
October 13	**Midterm Test**
October 15	Leila Aboulela, "The Museum"
October 20	Colm Tóibín, "The Pearl Fishers"
October 22	Eavan Boland, "Mise Eire"; Seamus Heaney, from *The Cure at Troy*
October 27	Kamila Shamsie, *Home Fire*
October 29	Shamsie, *Home Fire*
November 3	Shamsie, *Home Fire*

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November 5	**In-Class Essay**
November 10	**Reading Week (No Classes)**
November 12	**Reading Week (No Classes)**
November 17	Franz Kafka, "Metamorphosis"
November 19	Ian McEwan, *The Cockroach*
November 24	McEwan, *The Cockroach*
November 26	Mark Haddon, "The Boys Who Left Home to Learn Fear"
December 1	Tessa Hadley, "The Stain"; **Final Essay Due**
December 3	Jennifer Nansubuga Makumbi, "Christmas Is Coming"
December 8	**Exam Review**

A detailed schedule of readings is also available on myClass (D2L). If there are changes to the tentative schedule you find here, those changes will be announced and elaborated on in the detailed scheduled posted to myClass (D2L).

STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES:

1. All written work must be completed using a cloud-based word processor, such as Google Docs or Microsoft Word Online, that retains version histories. Submitted work must be uploaded as a PDF to myClass (D2L) **AND** submitted as a hard copy. I reserve the right to request access to the version histories of all submitted work. Students should retain notes, draft work, and other evidence of their writing process. I also reserve the right to schedule an oral debrief on any written work students submit for marks.

2. Written assignments are to be submitted *on time*. Late assignments will incur a penalty of **5%** per day, with weekends counting as two.

3. While students are able to find and read other editions of the assigned texts, any work that is submitted for marks must use either the editions of the books sold by the campus bookstore or the versions of the stories and poems I post to myClass. I will not accept written work that uses alternative versions or editions of the assigned readings.

4. Extensions will not be granted for written assignments except in extenuating circumstances. Documentation will be required.

5. This course places a premium on academic integrity. In practice, this means that students are responsible for citing any materials that they use in their written work for

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this course. Additionally, students may not use AI resources in their written work for this course. This prohibition includes resources such as ChatGPT, the generative AI function in Grammarly, and in other related resources.

6. My expectation is that students who are healthy will attend **all** classes. Students who are ill or need to be absent for other legitimate reasons should contact and inform me. Excused absences will have no impact on a student's grade; however, unexcused absences will negatively affect the participation component of a student's grade and could result in a failing grade for that component of a student's final mark.

7. Students are required to check MyClass before each class to stay informed concerning the schedule of readings as well as course updates and announcements.

8. 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 (e.g., if you would like me to read drafts, make suggestions regarding structure, help you assess your overall standing in the course at any point in the semester etc.), you should make an appointment to meet with me.

9. Cellphones should be out of sight during class time. Students who are repeatedly on their cellphones during class will receive failing grades for participation.

10. The dates for the midterm and the in-class essay are set for **October 13** and **November 5**, respectively. This information can also be found on the more detailed schedule of readings and assignments available above and on the myClass page for this course. The midterm and the in-class essay **will not** be rescheduled except in extenuating circumstances. Documentation **will be required** for any student wishing to complete work on an alternate date.

11. The final exam for this class will be scheduled by the registrar and will take place in December. The exam **will not** be rescheduled except in extenuating circumstances. Documentation **will be required** for any student wishing to write the final exam on an alternate date

12. 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.

STATEMENT ON ACADEMIC MISCONDUCT:

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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.

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