



## DEPARTMENT OF ARTS AND EDUCATION

### COURSE OUTLINE – WINTER 2013

#### EN 4101 AT – MASTER AUTHOR SERIES: MARGARET ATWOOD

**TUESDAYS & THURSDAYS, 11:30 – 12:50**

**INSTRUCTOR:** Dr. Anna Lapointe      **PHONE:** 780-539-2992  
**OFFICE:** C420      **E-MAIL:** alapointe@gprc.ab.ca

**OFFICE HOURS:** Monday 1:30-3pm & Friday 12:30-2pm, or by appointment

**PREREQUISITE:** 6 credits of first-year English

**REQUIRED TEXTS:** (All required texts are written by Margaret Atwood.)

- The Edible Woman (McClelland & Stewart)
- The Handmaid's Tale (Seal, 1998)
- The Robber Bride (McClelland & Stewart, 1998) (Note: this is the same edition that was used for EN 3180: Women's Literary Tradition, in the fall term of 2012)
- Oryx and Crake (Seal, 2004)
- The Penelopiad (Vintage, 2006)
- MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers, 7th edition (**recommended but not required**)

Some additional short readings will be posted on Moodle. There is no charge for Moodle-posted materials.

**CALENDAR DESCRIPTION:** A variable-content seminar on major authors such as Dickens, Faulkner, Hemingway, Joyce, Laurence, Austen, and the Brontes. Students may take different writer-versions of this course.

**COURSE DESCRIPTION:** Put on your bug spray, arm yourself with a cordless drill, and brace yourself against chimerical wildlife! This semester's course is centred on the distinguished Canadian writer Margaret Atwood! Readings include several novels, as well as samples of her poetry, short fiction, critical work, and children's literature. We will focus particularly on the ways in which Atwood's work both shapes and challenges "Canadian Literature."

Please note that although the only prerequisite for this class is 6 credits of junior English, it is nonetheless a fourth-year-equivalent course. This means that students are expected to show strong critical and writing abilities and self-direction in research, and are expected to contribute substantially and meaningfully to class discussions.

**CREDIT/CONTACT HOURS:** 3 (3-0-0) 45 hours UT

**DELIVERY MODE(S):** Seminar discussion

**TRANSFERABILITY:**

University of Alberta \*

University of Calgary \*

University of Lethbridge

Athabasca University

Augustana Faculty, University of Alberta \*

Concordia University College

King's University College

\* An asterisk (\*) beside any transfer institution indicates important transfer information. Consult the Alberta Transfer Guide.

**Providing you undertake a different author each time, you may take EN4101 for credit as often as you wish.**

**\*\* 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**

### **GRADING CRITERIA:**

Grading of written assignments assesses students' compositional skill and sophistication, critical analysis of material, and secondary research skills. Grading of in-class discussion assesses students' grasp of the material and willingness to make substantial and meaningful contributions. All assessments will be given as letter grades.

<b>GRANDE PRAIRIE REGIONAL COLLEGE</b>			
<b>GRADING CONVERSION CHART</b>			
<b>Alpha Grade</b>	<b>4-point Equivalent</b>	<b>Percentage Guidelines</b>	<b>Designation</b>
<b>A<sup>+</sup></b>	<b>4.0</b>	<b>90 – 100</b>	<b>EXCELLENT</b>
<b>A</b>	<b>4.0</b>	<b>85 – 89</b>	
<b>A<sup>-</sup></b>	<b>3.7</b>	<b>80 – 84</b>	<b>FIRST CLASS STANDING</b>
<b>B<sup>+</sup></b>	<b>3.3</b>	<b>77 – 79</b>	
<b>B</b>	<b>3.0</b>	<b>73 – 76</b>	<b>GOOD</b>
<b>B<sup>-</sup></b>	<b>2.7</b>	<b>70 – 72</b>	
<b>C<sup>+</sup></b>	<b>2.3</b>	<b>67 – 69</b>	<b>SATISFACTORY</b>
<b>C</b>	<b>2.0</b>	<b>63 – 66</b>	
<b>C<sup>-</sup></b>	<b>1.7</b>	<b>60 – 62</b>	
<b>D<sup>+</sup></b>	<b>1.3</b>	<b>55 – 59</b>	<b>MINIMAL PASS</b>
<b>D</b>	<b>1.0</b>	<b>50 – 54</b>	
<b>F</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0 – 49</b>	<b>FAIL</b>
<b>WF</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>FAIL, withdrawal after the deadline</b>

## EVALUATIONS:

In-class presentation #1 (10-15 minutes)	10%
Presentation paper #1 (6-8 pages)	10%
In-class presentation #2 (15-20 minutes)	15%
Presentation paper #2 (8-10 pages)	15%
Major critical paper (1) (10-12 pages)	30%
Attendance and Participation	20%

### In-Class Presentation

On the first day of class, students will each sign up for two presentations, one in the first half of term and one in the second. The reading for that class becomes that student's responsibility. Students will complete the reading well in advance, do some secondary research, and present a talk (length listed above) to the class. Following this talk, other students are encouraged to ask the presenter questions in a manner that encourages discussion and debate. The presentation and the presenter's responses to the class both contribute to the presentation grade.

Missing a class in which you are signed up to present is a serious matter. If the absence is not justified and documented, the presenter will receive a grade of 'F' on the missed presentation; in that case, the presentation paper will still be due the following week. If the absence is justified and documented, the presentation will be re-scheduled. If you are ill on the day of your presentation, please contact the instructor.

### Presentation Papers

Presentation papers are based on the in-class presentation and edited/expanded using material from the subsequent class discussion. **These papers are due one week after the in-class presentation.** They should be fully formatted essays.

## **STUDENT PRINTING POLICY:**

It is the responsibility of each academic department to ensure that their students are not required to print more than the amount provided by this policy. If the requirements of the program are such that additional printing cannot be avoided, it is the responsibility of the department to ensure that their students are aware of this policy, and that additional charges for printing should be expected.

Be aware: because some readings for this course are posted on Moodle, if you choose to print them out, you may exceed the amount provided by this policy. Printing readings out is not required.

## **STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES:**

### **1. Requirements for Essays:**

All essay-assignments in this course must be written in academic essay format, which we will study throughout the course. Spelling and grammar, structure, and comprehension and analysis of the course material are key grading elements. Expectations for the quality of writing will rise in the course of the term.

Formatting expectations are posted on Moodle, and will be distributed as a handout. All essays must be typed, double-spaced, and stapled together. **Assignments not meeting these criteria will not be accepted.**

### **2. Attendance and Participation**

Attendance and participation are crucial to this course. More than two unexcused absences in the course of the term will result in a serious deduction from your participation grade.

Hit by a bus? That's a different matter. But let me know about it.

That said, simply showing up is not enough. You are expected to comment, respond to questions, interact with classmates, and otherwise contribute to the class dialogue. Questions are welcomed and encouraged. If you're wondering about something, most likely several classmates are as well, only they're afraid to speak up. So ask!

**Students are responsible for all missed material**, including material missed due to legitimate/excused absences. Do not ask me to “just quickly tell me what we covered.” If I could sum up a lecture in 5 minutes, I promise you I wouldn’t take 80 minutes to deliver it. All handouts will be posted on Moodle.

Take a moment early in the class to find a “note buddy” who is willing to share notes with you in the event of your absence. Take a moment to be a note buddy as well!

### 3. Late Assignments

Assignments are due **in class, and on paper**. **No paper may be submitted by e-mail**. Papers submitted outside of class will be considered late. Late papers may be left in the mailbox on my office door (C420). It is the student's responsibility to confirm I have received assignments left on my door.

Late papers are penalized at the rate of **one third of a letter grade every two days** (ie. Submitting two days late reduces a grade from a B+ to a B, or from a B to a B-). Weekends count as one day. If your paper is extremely late, come talk to me; I may take pity and cap the deducted marks.

I grant extensions for the following reasons: computer failure (may be used only once), sick children/family crisis, illness or injury of student (with doctor’s note), alien abduction (documentation required). **Extensions are not open-ended**; rather, we will agree on a new deadline, after which late penalties apply. The time to let me know you will need an extension is **before** the assignment is due.

#### 4. Moodle

Students are responsible for checking Moodle regularly for updates, announcements, and handouts. Ensure you check Moodle each morning before coming to class.

All handouts are posted on Moodle after they have been distributed in class. If you miss a class or lose a handout, go online to access it.

The majority of readings for this course are also posted on Moodle in .pdf format. This has been done to save you (the student) money. Ensure you can access and read these files well in advance of the class in which we take up each one.

If you have trouble accessing Moodle, contact the technical support office **immediately**. Students are responsible for ensuring they have access to the course material.

#### **STATEMENT ON PLAGIARISM AND CHEATING:**

Academic dishonesty includes plagiarism, submission of work in one course which has already been submitted in another, failure to cite sources, attempts to communicate with other students during exams, impersonating another student, and purchasing papers online. (This is not a complete list. See the GPRC Academic Calendar pp. 48-49 for details and a list of penalties.\*)

Academic dishonesty devalues your education and the education of your classmates. It is disrespectful of the institution and (particularly) of your instructor. I take this issue personally, and **very** seriously.

Never fear: you will be specifically instructed on how to avoid “accidental” dishonesty. And when in doubt, cite!

\*You may also refer to the Student Conduct section of the College Admission Guide at <http://www.gprc.ab.ca/programs/calendar/> or the College Policy on Student Misconduct: Plagiarism and Cheating at [www.gprc.ab.ca/about/administration/policies/\\*\\*](http://www.gprc.ab.ca/about/administration/policies/**)

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

## **COURSE SCHEDULE/TENTATIVE TIMELINE:**

**TBA**