

## Department of Humanities and Scoail Sciences

### COURSE OUTLINE – Winter 2023

#### EN4103M (A3): Literary Genre Series – 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:** C308    **E-MAIL:** crsmith@nwpolytech.ca  
**OFFICE HOURS:** Mondays 10:30-11:30, Wednesdays 1:00-1:45, or by appointment

**CALENDAR DESCRIPTION:** A variable-content seminar course on specific literary themes or genres such as the Faust figure, the motif of survival in Canadian literature, the frontier as a recurrent idea in American literature, comedy, tragedy, Romanticism, Neoclassicism, and writing by women. Students may take different-genre, different-theme versions of this course

**PREREQUISITE(S)/COREQUISITE:** Six credits of junior English

#### **REQUIRED TEXT/RESOURCE MATERIALS:**

Unsworth, Barry – *The Songs of the Kings*  
Barker, Pat – *The Silence of the Girls*  
Atwood, Margaret – *The Penelopiad*  
Tobin, Colm – *House of Names*  
Haynes, Natalie – *The Children of Jocasta*  
Shamsie, Kamila – *Home Fire*

Other class materials will be posted to myClass (D2L); it is your responsibility to ensure that you are able to access these materials well in advance of the class in which they will be discussed.

**DELIVERY MODE(S):** The course work includes lecture, class discussion, in-class quizzes, and written assignments.

**COURSE OBJECTIVES:** This course focuses on contemporary variations on classical Greek myths. Reading and viewing works about gods, kings, and heroes, we will gain an appreciation of the legends and stories that have existed in one form or another from the very beginnings of literature to our own present day. In addition to learning who's who in the bewildering world of myth and acquainting ourselves with some of the most dramatic, exciting, scandalous, and bizarre characters and narratives ever dreamt up, we will try to figure out what myths tell us about the human condition, how ancient tales still meet our 21st-century needs, and why some myths insist on being re-told. Where necessary and appropriate, we will contextualize our readings of these literary adaptations with reference to and discussion of key source texts associated with figures such as Homer, Aeschylus, Sophocles, and Euripides. We will also draw on a lexicon derived from adaptation studies and situate our discussion of specific adaptations of Greek myth within a wider culture of remakes, reboots, and retellings.

**LEARNING OUTCOMES:** After taking this course, the successfully participating students will demonstrate the following:

- An ability to define and apply terminology appropriate to adaptation studies and adaptive literature
- An ability to identify key mythological figures and to explain the relationships between them
- An ability to identify key source texts and to discuss the relation between source texts and adaptations

An ability to perform close textual analysis and write argumentatively about primary sources

#### **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.ca>.

**\*\* 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%

Discussion Leading Activity – 10%

Test – 10%

Paper 1 – 15%

Paper 2 – 20%

Final Exam – 30%

**GRADING CRITERIA:** (The following criteria may be changed to suite the particular course/instructor)

Please note that most universities 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	90-100		C+	2.3	67-69
A	4.0	85-89		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:**

Weeks 1-2: Introduction to Greek myth and to Adaptation Studies

Weeks 2-4: Trojan War Cycle I: Prelude to War

Weeks 4-6: Trojan War Cycle II: Greek heroes at Troy

Weeks 7-11: Trojan War Cycle III: War's Aftermath

Weeks 12-15: Variations on the Theban Cycle: Oedipal Families

**STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES:**

1. Unless otherwise indicated, all written work be uploaded to MyClass (D2L) **AND** submitted as a hard copy. Students must accept the Turnitin agreement to submit written work.
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. Extensions will not be granted for written assignments except in extenuating circumstances. Documentation will be required.
4. 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.

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

6. Students do not need to make appointments to meet with me during my office hours. Anyone who wants to meet with me outside of my scheduled hours may contact me to arrange an alternate meeting time. Students wishing to meet via Zoom rather than in my office may request a virtual appointment. Please note that I will not meet with you outside of regular working hours.

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

8. The date for the midterm can be found on the more detailed schedule of readings and assignments available on the myClass page for this course. The midterm **will not** be rescheduled except in extenuating circumstances. Documentation **will be required** for any student wishing to write the midterm on an alternate date.

9. Students should feel free to email me with questions or concerns at any point during the semester. I will do my best to respond to your emails as quickly as possible, but emails sent outside of regular working hours will not receive immediate replies.

10. The final exam for this class will be scheduled by the registrar and will take place in April. 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.

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

Cheating and plagiarism will not be tolerated and there will be penalties. For a more precise definition of plagiarism and its consequences, refer to the Student Conduct section of the Northwestern Polytechnic Calendar at <https://www.nwpolytech.ca/programs/calendar/> or the Student Rights and Responsibilities policy which can be found at <https://www.nwpolytech.ca/about/administration/policies/index.html>.

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