

English 2916 WA: Popular Fiction

Course Location: RB 3024

Class Times: Tuesdays and Thursdays 2:30-4 pm

To our Student: Should you require information or documents from our office in another format, please let us know. We are happy to help you. Contact me or Cindy Haggerty, the Department of English Administrative Assistant.

Instructor Information.....	1
Course Description	2
Course Resources	2
Required Course Texts.....	2
Course Website	2
Desire2Learn (or myCourseLink).....	2
Course Schedule.....	2
Assignments and Evaluation	3
Assignment Policies.....	3
Details of Assignments	4
Short Paper	4
In-class Essay.....	4
Creative Assignment.....	4
Final Essay	4
Final Exam.....	4
Marking Standards.....	4
Plagiarism and Academic Dishonesty	4
Course Policies	5
University Policies	5

Instructor Information

- Instructor: Dr. Douglas Ivison
- Office: RB 3038
- Telephone: 346-7825
- Email: divison@lakeheadu.ca
- Office Hours: Mondays 11-12, Tuesdays 1-2, and Thursdays 1-2, or by appointment

Course Description

This course will provide an introduction to the study of popular fiction. Utilizing a range of theories of popular fiction and cultural studies, we will develop a variety of approaches to reading popular fiction. We will consider, among other topics, the relationship between popular fiction and literature; genre conventions; the ideological work performed by popular fiction; and the ways in which popular fiction reflects, inscribes, and challenges dominant ideologies. We will read popular fiction as an example of mass culture, highly commodified and deeply implicated in consumer capitalism; as a site of resistance to dominant cultures; as an example of the culture of the margins and the marginal; as an example of participatory culture; and, most often, as some or all of the above. In reading popular fiction texts, we will be paying attention as well to topics such as gender, sexuality, race, ethnicity, class, etc. In doing so, we will be situating popular fiction texts in the context of the societies in which they were produced and consumed.

Course Resources

Required Course Texts

- Dan Brown, *The Da Vinci Code*. Random House.
- Michael Connelly, *The Black Echo*. Grand Central.
- Gillian Flynn, *Gone Girl*. Broadway.
- Maria Grace, *Pemberley: Mr. Darcy's Dragon*. White Soup Press.
- N. K. Jemisin, *The Fifth Season*. Orbit.
- Rupi Kaur, *milk and honey*. Andrews McMeel.

Course Website

[Desire2Learn \(or myCourseLink\)](https://mycourselink.lakeheadu.ca/d2l/home)¹

Course Schedule

Tuesday, Jan. 7: Introduction to course
Thursday, Jan. 9: Introduction to Popular Fiction

Tuesday, Jan. 14: Introduction to Popular Fiction
Thursday, Jan. 16: *The Da Vinci Code*

Tuesday, Jan. 21: *The Da Vinci Code*
Thursday, Jan. 23: *The Da Vinci Code*

Tuesday, Jan. 28: *The Da Vinci Code*
Thursday, Jan. 30: *Gone Girl* – **DUE: Short Paper**

Tuesday, Feb. 4: *Gone Girl*

¹ <https://mycourselink.lakeheadu.ca/d2l/home>

Thursday, Feb. 6: *Gone Girl*

Tuesday, Feb. 11: **In-class Essay**

Thursday, Feb. 13: Creative Assignment Workshop

Tuesday, Feb. 18 & Thursday, Feb. 20: Winter Study Break – No Class

Tuesday, Feb. 25: Essay Writing Workshop

Thursday, Feb. 27: *The Black Echo*

Tuesday, Mar. 3: *The Black Echo*

Thursday, Mar. 5: *The Black Echo*

Friday, Mar. 6: Last day to drop classes

Tuesday, Mar. 10: *The Fifth Season*

Thursday, Mar. 12: *The Fifth Season* – **DUE: Creative Assignment**

Tuesday, Mar. 17: *The Fifth Season*

Thursday, Mar. 19: *Mr. Darcy's Dragon*

Tuesday, Mar. 24: *Mr. Darcy's Dragon*

Thursday, Mar. 26: *milk and honey*

Tuesday, Mar. 31: *milk and honey*

Thursday, Apr. 2: Exam Review – **DUE: Final Essay**

April 6-20: Final Examination Period

Assignments and Evaluation

Assignment	Due date	Value	Length
Short Paper	January 30	15%	750 words
In-class Essay	February 11	20%	75 minutes
Creative Assignment	March 12	10%	
Final Essay	April 2	25%	2000 words
Final Exam	April 6-20	30%	3 hours

Assignment Policies

- Unless otherwise indicated, all assignments are individual assignments and cannot be completed collaboratively.
- Assignments are due by 4:30pm on the dates indicated. See individual assignments for submission guidelines.
- If you require an extension, you must ask for one BEFORE the due date.
- Unless you ask for (and receive) an extension, late assignments will be penalized by 3% per day. No assignments will be accepted more than two weeks late.

- Failure to write the in-class essay in the scheduled class will result in a mark of 0, unless we have previously made alternate arrangements and/or appropriate documentation is presented.
- The final exam must be written on the date scheduled, so do not make travel plans for the exam period until the exam schedule is posted.

Details of Assignments

Short Paper

Due Thursday, Jan. 30. You will be asked to write a 750-word essay on *The Da Vinci Code*. Your assignment will be distributed no later than Thursday, Jan. 16.

In-class Essay

Tuesday, Feb. 11. You will be asked to write an essay in response to one of a number of questions on *Gone Girl*. The assignment will be distributed no later than Thursday, Jan. 30. You will have the entire class to write your essay.

Creative Assignment

Due Thursday, Mar. 12. You will be asked to produce a creative assignment relevant to popular fiction. You will be given a number of options of type of assignment. The assignment will be distributed no later than Thursday, Feb. 6.

Final Essay

Due Thursday, Apr. 2. You will be asked to write a 2000-word essay. The assignment will be distributed no later than Thursday, Feb. 13.

Final Exam

You will be responsible for all required readings and all material covered in class. The exam format will be distributed no later than Thursday, Apr. 2

Marking Standards

All assignments will be marked in accordance with the [English Department Marking Standards](https://www.lakeheadu.ca/academics/departments/english/marking-standards)².

Plagiarism and Academic Dishonesty

Plagiarism is the unacknowledged use of someone else's words and/or ideas. Not acknowledging your debt to the ideas of a secondary source, failing to use quotation marks when you are quoting directly, buying essays from essay banks, copying another

² <https://www.lakeheadu.ca/academics/departments/english/marking-standards>

student's work, or working together on an individual assignment, all constitute plagiarism. Resubmitting material you've submitted to another course is also academic dishonesty. All plagiarized work (in whole or in part) and other forms of academic dishonesty, including collaborating on individual assignments, will be reported and infractions penalized as required by the Student Code of Conduct – Academic Integrity.

Course Policies

- I will take attendance every class. If you miss a class, you are responsible for all material covered in class, and are responsible for knowing about information re due dates, etc. that is given out in class. Absence from class is not an acceptable excuse for missing an assignment. Please note that the schedule is subject to change, and as a result due dates may change.
- You are expected to read the required readings in advance, and be ready to discuss them in class.
- Six books have been ordered for this course, and all are available in the campus bookstore. They should also be easily accessible from Amazon and, in some cases, at Chapters. E-books are acceptable, and in some cases are significantly cheaper than the print version. You are expected to have access to each of the books and bring the appropriate one to each class.

University Policies

- Students in this course are expected to conform to the Code of Student Behaviour - Academic Integrity³.
- **Accommodations:** Lakehead University is committed to achieving full accessibility for persons with disabilities in accordance with the terms of the Ontario Human Rights Code⁴. This occurs through a collaborative process that acknowledges a collective obligation to develop an accessible learning environment that both meets the needs of students and preserves the essential academic requirements of the course. Part of this commitment includes arranging academic accommodations for students with disabilities to ensure they have an equitable opportunity to participate in all of their academic activities. If you think you may need accommodations, you are strongly encouraged to contact Student Accessibility Services (SAS)⁵ and register as early as possible.
- This course outline is available online through the English Department homepage⁶ and/or the Desire2Learn or My Courselink¹ site for the course.

³ <https://www.lakeheadu.ca/faculty-and-staff/policies/student-related/code-of-student-behaviour-and-disciplinary-procedures>

⁴ <http://www.ohrc.on.ca/en/ontario-human-rights-code>

⁵ <https://www.lakeheadu.ca/faculty-and-staff/departments/services/sas>

⁶ <https://www.lakeheadu.ca/academics/departments/english>