

## ENGL 122E Texts and Contexts

*3 credits, 6 weeks, 6 hours lecture*

This course introduces students to post-secondary studies in English by focusing on a specific literary theme (to be determined by the instructor) in a cluster of related texts. Students may expect to encounter fiction, poetry, drama, and non-fictional prose, as well as visual media. The course will enable students to explore a particular subject in depth as well as a broad range of materials, and to acquire a rich sense of contexts or intellectual landscapes that give shape to the study of literature and culture.

*Prerequisite: English 30 or 30-1 or equivalent*

### Instructor

Dr. Ryan J. Cox  
S211C  
780-791-4837  
[ryan.cox@keyano.ca](mailto:ryan.cox@keyano.ca)  
@RyanJCoxPhD

### Office Hours

Monday 2:00 – 3:50pm  
Tuesday 1:00 – 1:50pm  
Wednesday 2:00 – 3:50pm

### Hours of Instruction

Monday 6:30—9 30pm  
Wednesday 6:30—9 30pm

### Required Resources

**Supergods**, Morrison, ISBN 978-0812981384

**Superman: A Celebration of 75 Years**, ISBN 978-1401247041

**Guardians of the Galaxy by Abnett & Lanning: The Complete Collection Volume 1**, Abnett and Lanning, ISBN 978-0785190646

**Astro City: Life in the Big City**, Kurt Busiek, ISBN 978-1401232610

**Leaving Megalopolis**, Gail Simone and Jim Calafiore, ISBN 978-1616555597

**X-Men: The Dark Phoenix Saga**, Chris Claremont and John Byrne, ISBN 978-0785164210

**Ms. Marvel Vol1: No Normal**, G. Willow Wilson, ISBN 978-0785190219

**Watchmen**, Alan Moore and Dave Gibbons, ISBN 978-1401238964

### Course Outcomes

The successful student will be able to:

1. Generate meaning from literary discourse
2. Perform close readings at a university level
3. Write scholarly argumentative essays in the MLA notational style

**Evaluation**

Response Papers	20%
Portfolio	20%
Material Culture Essay	15%
Critical Essay	15%
Final Exam	30%
Total	100%

*A grade of C- is required for progression or transfer.*

**Response Essay**

Students are required to complete a series of 4 short essays of 2-3 pages each in which they explore that week's reading in greater detail. Response papers are to be written about the readings in advance of classroom discussion. These essays should advance an argument about the text. These four essays are to be written at your discretion throughout the semester, however, only one paper can be submitted at a time. Marked out of 5; handed in at the beginning of the first class of the week.

**In-class Writing:**

Throughout the course there will be a series of in-class writing and composition activities. These pieces will be collected for the portfolio assignment. There will not be an opportunity to make up missed in-class writing; for this reason it is strongly recommended that you attend every class.

**Material Culture Essay:**

In order to understand the material culture associated with superhero comics, students will be expected to go to a comic book store, buy a single issue of any comic, and describe the experience. Students should address what comic they purchased and why, as well as the experience of buying and the comic (where did you purchase the comic? what was the store like? what were your interactions with the staff like? how were the comics displayed?). Students may also discuss the experience of reading a single issue and compare it to reading a graphic novel. Length:4 pages

**Critical Essay:**

Students will write a short essay of 4-5 pages responding to one of the questions that will be provided on Moodle. The essay will be thesis-driven and students will be expected to use direct evidence (quotations etc.) from the course material to support their argument.

Essays must be TYPED, double spaced, and proper MLA documentation. Do NOT submit essays to me by e-mail..Hard copies are not only preferred, they are required. Be sure to keep a copy of any essay that you hand in.

**Portfolios:**

In your portfolio you will collect all of your in-class writing activities. In addition, you will select one piece that you will revise, polish and expand. The revised version is to represent the best possible version of that particular writing activity—you are aiming for publishable quality work. You will also include a 2 page author's letter in which you discuss why you chose that piece, how you revised it and what you feel the piece accomplishes.

## Grading System

Descriptor	Alpha Grade	4.0 Scale	Percent	Rubric for Letter Grades
Excellent	A+	4.0	> 92.9	Work shows in-depth and critical analysis, well developed ideas, creativity, excellent writing, clarity and proper format.
	A	4.0	85 – 92.9	
	A-	3.7	80 – 84.9	
Good	B+	3.3	77 – 79.9	Work is generally of high quality, well developed, well written, has clarity, and uses proper format.
	B	3.0	74 – 76.9	
	B-	2.7	70 – 73.9	
Satisfactory <b>Progression</b>	C+	2.3	67 – 69.9	Work has some developed ideas but needs more attention to clarity, style and formatting.
	C	2.0	64 – 66.9	
	C-	1.7	60 – 63.9	
Poor <b>Minimum Pass</b>	D+	1.3	55 – 59.9	Work is completed in a general way with minimal support, or is poorly written or did not use proper format.
	D	1.0	50 – 54.9	
Failure	F	0.0	< 50	Responses fail to demonstrate appropriate understanding or are fundamentally incomplete.

## Proposed Schedule of Topics

Date	Topic	Reading	Assignments	Notes
May 11-15	Introduction: The Crisis of Infinite Supermen	Morrison, Chapters 1 & 2; <i>Superman</i> , Part 1, "The Super Duel in Space," For The Man who has Everything," "Doomsday"		
May 18-22	Reading The Myth of Superman			No Class May 18 Victoria Day
May 25-29	Awesome Mix, Vol 3: What Adapating Superheroes Teaches us About Form	Abnett and Lanning, <i>Guardians of the Galaxy</i> ; Gunn, <i>Guardians of the Galaxy</i> (film); Morrison, Chapters 21 and 24	Material Culture Essay due May 29 by Noon	
June 1-5	(Super)Bodies that Matter: Gender, Power, and superheroic bodies	Claremont and Byrne, <i>The Dark Phoenix Saga</i> , Wilson and Alphona, <i>Ms. Marvel</i> ; Morrison, Chapters 3, 7 and 12		
June 8-12	Sing Along With The Common People: Normalcy, Domesticity, and	Busiek, <i>Astro City</i> ; Simone and Callifiore. <i>Leaving Megalopolis</i>	Critical Essay due June 10	

	Humanity in Superhero Comics			
June 15-19	Quis custodiet ipsos custodes? Compromise, Deconstruction, and Inkblot tests	Moore and Gibbons, <i>Watchmen</i> ; Morrison, Chapters 13 and 26	Portfolio due June 15 Final Exam June 17	

**Please Note:**

Date and time allotted to each topic is subject to change. It is your responsibility as a student to contact the Office of the Registrar to complete the forms for Withdrawal or Change of Registration, and any other forms. Please refer to the list of important dates as noted in the Academic Schedule in the Keyano College Credit Calendar.

**Performance Requirements****Late Policy**

Late work will be accepted, however, it will be penalized at a rate of 10%/Business Day. If it is turned in a week or more late, it will not be accepted. It should also be noted that late material will receive no feedback from the instructor. It is your responsibility to meet the due dates for the assigned material.

**Standards for Written Assignments**

Learning how to follow house style sheets is one of the most important skills a writer can develop. To aid you in your quest to learn these skills I have provided a document entitled "Standards for Written Assignments" on Moodle. If your paper does not conform to these standards, expect to lose marks.

All work must be TYPED, double spaced, and have proper MLA documentation (unless instructed otherwise). Do NOT submit work to me by e-mail.. Hard copies are not only preferred, they are required. Be sure to keep a copy of any essay that you hand in.

**Sensitivity, Respect, and Subject Matter**

Some of the material we will be covering this semester is of a charged nature—whether in terms of form, content or politics. As critics, we cannot shy away from this material; however, we must understand that this material may generate a wide variety of reactions and opinions among our colleagues in the classroom. Thus, it is imperative that we remain aware of, and sympathetic to the reactions and opinions of our classmates. Respect and sensitivity will produce a stronger learning environment and generate better, more nuanced discussions.

**Student Attendance**

Class attendance is useful for two reasons. First, class attendance maximizes a student's learning experience. Second, attending class is a good way to keep informed of matters relating the administration of the course (e.g., the timing of assignments and exams). Ultimately, you are responsible for your own learning and performance in this course.

It is the responsibility of each student to be prepared for all classes. Students who miss classes are responsible for the material covered in those classes and for ensuring that they are prepared for the next class, including the completion of any assignments and / or notes that may be due.

**Academic Misconduct**

Students are considered to be responsible adults and should adhere to principles of intellectual integrity. Intellectual dishonesty may take many forms, such as:

- Plagiarism or the submission of another person's work as one's own
- The use of unauthorized aids in assignments or examinations (cheating)
- Collusion or the unauthorized collaboration with others in preparing work
- The deliberate misrepresentation of qualifications
- The willful distortion of results or data
- Substitution in an examination by another person
- Handing in the same unchanged work as submitted for another assignment

Penalties for academic offences range from a verbal reprimand to dismissal from the College, and in certain circumstances may involve legal action.

### **Specialized Supports**

#### **Counselling and Disability Services**

Counselling Services provides a wide range of specialized counselling services to prospective and registered students, including personal, career and academic counselling.

#### **SKILL Centre**

The SKILL Centre is a learning space in the Clearwater Campus at Keyano College where students can gather to share ideas, collaborate on projects and get new perspectives on learning from our tutorial staff.

The SKILL Centre, through a variety of delivery methods, provides assistance in skill development to Keyano students. Assistance is provided by instructors, staff and student tutors. Individuals wishing to improve their mathematics, writing, grammar, study, or other skills, can take advantage of this unique service.

**Authorization**

This course outline has been reviewed and approved by the Program Chair.

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Ryan J. Cox, Instructor

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Louis Dingley, Chair

Date Authorized

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Guy Harmer, Dean

Date Authorized

**Signed copies to be delivered to:**

Instructor

Registrar's Office