

ENGLISH 520, Fall Term 2019
“Community Engagement through Literature”
Instructor: Dr. Susan Bennett (sbennett@ucalgary.ca)

This course will combine classroom and community-based learning in partnership with the Calgary Public Library’s “Creative Writing Club.” The goals of “Community Engagement through Literature” are to explore practical ways that knowledge gained in the study of English might serve the community and to reflect on the relationship between literary studies and public service.

Students will meet in a formal classroom setting to examine and discuss assigned readings on service learning and community engagement. Once a week students, in teams of two, will work in a community partner setting (one of eight library branches), bringing their expertise and interest in literature to help students in grades 5-9 improve their writing skills. In this role, you will be encouraged to actively test possible approaches to engaging younger students with creative writing through a wide range of activities of your choice/design. University volunteers are also expected to be positive mentors and role models. Students in ENGL 520 have the opportunity to shape how the “Creative Writing Club” works and to offer valuable feedback to the Library on the program’s strengths and challenges.

Course assignments will include regular critical reflections, a review paper based on assigned literature and volunteer experiences, and a final oral report offering a critical assessment of the “Creative Writing Club” activities.

Successful applicants will be asked to complete the Calgary Public Library’s police background check (no cost involved to the student).

The class will meet on campus from 3:30-4:45 most Mondays, starting on September 9; the day and time of the library volunteer session will depend on location (students will need to allow for travel time to/from library branch so as to arrive promptly). Orientation at the assigned library branch will be in the week of September 9, with volunteer sessions starting the following week. We will also have one class (September 16) at the downtown Calgary Public Library where staff member Kate Schutz will run an ideation workshop.

Please note that volunteer sessions will run through the week of December 9 (i.e. during the University exam period) and students are expected to fulfill this obligation in lieu of a final exam in the course.

Please submit your completed application form electronically to
sbennett@ucalgary.ca
Applications will be reviewed in the order they are received so please
submit ASAP!

ENGLISH 520 (Fall Term 2019): APPLICATION FORM
“Community Engagement through Literature”
Instructor: Dr. Susan Bennett (sbennett@ucalgary.ca)

YOUR NAME:

UCID:

YOUR CONTACT EMAIL:

1. Please briefly explain your interest in taking a course with a community engagement component:

2. Please describe any relevant experience you have had in the volunteer sector, especially previous work with children and youth. (Experience is not essential, but it is useful to know if applicants have volunteered before.)

3. Please rank order the library branches with “1” being the branch where you would MOST like to volunteer. I will endeavor to assign students to one of their top 2 or 3 choices. If there are days and/or locations where you cannot volunteer, please put “X” in the “Your Rank” column. The more options you offer, the stronger your chances in gaining a place in this course.

Note: you are responsible for getting to the branch in time for the “School Support: Language Arts” Session so be sure to consider your travel options when making your rankings!

| LIBRARY BRANCH | DAY & TIME | YOUR RANK |
|---|----------------------------|-----------|
| Central 800 3 rd St SE | Thursdays, 5:30-6:30 p.m. | |
| Country Hills 11950 Country Village Link NE | Mondays, 6:30-7:30 p.m. | |
| Crowfoot 8665 Nose Hill Drive NW | Wednesdays, 6:30-7:30 p.m. | |
| Fish Creek 11161 Bonaventure Drive SE | Tuesdays, 6:30-7:30 p.m. | |
| Saddletowne 7555 Falconridge Blvd NE | Mondays, 6:00-7:00 p.m. | |
| Seton 4995 Market St SE | Mondays, 6:30-7:30 p.m. | |
| Shawnessy 333 Shawville Blvd SE | Wednesdays, 6:30-7:30 p.m. | |
| Signal Hill 5994 Signal Hill Centre SW | Mondays, 6:30-7:30 p.m. | |

If your application cannot be accommodated in Fall Term, **you may be considered for ENGL 520 in Winter Term 2020** (instructor: Dr. Stefania Forlini). Please note: the branches and days/times for Winter Term may not be the same as those listed above for Fall 2019.

Would you like to be considered for Winter Term 2020? Yes/No

Would you need a waiver to be eligible to take an ENGL 500-level course (in other words, you do not yet have the necessary pre-requisites) Yes/No

Please send your completed application form as an email attachment to sbennett@ucalgary.ca