



**T. S. Eliot: Poet, Critic, and Playwright**  
**DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH**  
**UNDERGRADUATE STUDIES**

**January – April 2012**

**Brian Diemert**

**English 4530G**

**Seminar in Twentieth-Century British and Irish Literature**

Mondays 8:30-11:30

Half course; second term.

Restricted to Year 4 students in an Honors Specialization module. Students are limited to no more than 1.0 full course equivalent (or two half-courses) at the 4000 level.

Prerequisites: Two of English 2200F/G, English 2210F/G, English 2220F/G, English 2230F/G, 2235A/B, English 2240F/G or 2250F/G.

**T. S. Eliot: Poet, Critic, and Playwright**

**Instructor: Professor B. Diemert (Brescia)**

**Description:**

T. S. Eliot (1888-1965) is surely one of the twentieth-century's most influential literary figures. Not only did his poetry alter the shape of English language poetry, especially before World War Two, but his criticism worked to create an audience for that poetry while also helping to shape our understanding of modernism and of modernist theory in the early twentieth century. Eliot's career, however, was varied, and, after his early work, peaking with The Waste Land, Eliot moved towards both devotional poetry and increasingly verse drama. While Four Quartets is arguably the great poem of the twentieth century, it is hard to imagine the author of The Waste Land as a celebrated Broadway playwright, yet The Cocktail Party did just that. (Of course, the success of Cats is greater than anything Eliot achieved with his own dramatic efforts.) This seminar will offer a deeper look at the work of a poet most familiar to undergraduates through "The Love Song of J. Alfred Prufrock", The Waste Land, and "Tradition and the Individual Talent". While we can't read all of Eliot's work, however small its corpus, we will look at representative texts from every phase of his career. Students will examine particular texts in detail through their presentations and through their written work.

**Texts:**

Complete Poems and Plays, (Faber)

Selected Prose of T. S. Eliot ed. Kermode (Faber)

**Assignments and Objectives:**

Because this is a seminar course, our first obligation is to each other; consequently, regular attendance, participation, and preparation are important for us to have a successful class. I am sure you've all experienced the horrifyingly sinking feeling that results from asking questions during a presentation (and, perhaps, you'd planned for a discussion!) only to meet with stony silence (I know I have!). Not a pleasant feeling, is it? So, to help us along, 10% of the course mark will be allocated to participation and attendance. Of course, because this is a seminar course, you will have to perform! Twice! One of these turns will consist of a short book review on a critical text you choose from the selected bibliography I will distribute. I anticipate these reviews to be 3-4 pages in length and not take more than fifteen minutes of class time. The goal is for each of you to offer the class a sense of a critical book that people may or may not find useful for their own work. The review should be handed in to me for grading and a second copy should be submitted for other students' (and your own) reference (this second copy can be made available electronically, perhaps through webct?) This assignment will be worth 20% of your course grade and will be due sometime during the term at a period removed from your presentation date. Again, because this is a seminar course, I don't plan on having a final exam in December (some of you may cheer me now), so the bulk of your grade will emerge from a major presentation and a major essay, which cannot be on the same text. The presentation will be on a topic or text(s) selected by you and held on the scheduled date. You are responsible for fifty minutes to an hour of class time. You are free to do what you want with the time so long as you deal with the topic or text and the academic nature of the course. You can talk, read, ask questions, lead discussion, use electronic resources, puppets or partners, etc. You needn't submit anything to me after the presentation but should reveal your sources during it. The seminar is a heap of work and, consequently worth 35% of your grade. The remaining 35% of your grade will be awarded for your final essay. This paper will be a substantial piece of work of between 16 and 20 pages on a topic of your choosing (I will provide suggestions). You can make passing use of the material you did your presentation on, but it cannot be a main part of the essay. On the other hand, any framing, criticism, or theory you may have used in your presentation can be used in your essay. Similarly, the book you did a review of can be used to help you with the essay. The essay is due by the end of the last class in April. It goes without saying that clear and grammatically correct composition is expected by you and me. Improvement in this area is never ending.

By the end of this course, students will have read much of the work of a great twentieth century poet and have an understanding of his development.

Students will also develop a sense of what can be meant by the term "modernism".

Students will enhance their presentation skills.

They will also enhance their ability to write clearly through practice.  
Students will discover the joys of independent work.

I hope you enjoy the texts and the class. Best of luck with this and all your courses!

Brian Diemert  
Brescia University College  
x28387  
bdiemert@uwo.ca

## **BRESCIA UNIVERSITY COLLEGE ACADEMIC POLICIES AND REGULATIONS**

### **1. POLICY REGARDING MAKEUP EXAMS AND EXTENSIONS OF DEADLINES**

When a student requests academic accommodation (e.g., extension of a deadline, a makeup exam) for work representing 10% or more of the student's overall grade in the course, it is the responsibility of the student to provide acceptable documentation to support a medical or compassionate claim. All such requests for academic accommodation **must** be made through an Academic Advisor and include supporting documentation. Academic accommodation on medical grounds will be granted only if the documentation indicates that the onset, duration and severity of the illness are such that the student could not reasonably be expected to complete her academic responsibilities. Appropriate academic accommodation will be determined by the Dean's Office in consultation with the student's instructor(s). Please note that personal commitments (e.g., vacation flight bookings, work schedule) which conflict with a scheduled test, exam or course requirement are not grounds for academic accommodation.

If supporting documentation is from a family physician, Hospital Urgent Care Centre or Emergency Department, or a walk-in clinic a UWO Student Medical Certificate (SMC) is **required**. An SMC can be downloaded at <https://studentservices.uwo.ca/secure/index.cfm>. Documentation should be obtained at the time of the initial visit. If it is not possible to have an SMC completed by the attending physician, the student must request documentation sufficient to demonstrate that her ability to meet academic responsibilities was seriously affected. Please note that under University Senate regulations documentation stating simply that the student "was seen for a medical reason" or "was ill" is **not** considered adequate to support a request for academic accommodation. If documentation is from Student Health Services, the student should sign a release of information form. All documentation is to be submitted to an Academic Advisor.

Whenever possible, requests for academic accommodation should be initiated in advance of due dates, examination dates, etc. Students must follow up with their professors and Academic Advisor in a timely manner.

The full statement of University policy regarding extensions of deadlines or makeup exams can be found at [http://www.westerncalendar.uwo.ca/2008/print\\_pg140.html](http://www.westerncalendar.uwo.ca/2008/print_pg140.html).

## 2. ACADEMIC CONCERNS

If you feel that you have a medical or personal problem that is interfering with your work, contact your instructor and Academic Advisor as soon as possible. Problems may then be documented and possible arrangements to assist you can be discussed at the time of occurrence rather than on a retroactive basis. Retroactive requests for academic accommodation on medical or compassionate grounds may not be considered.

If you think that you are too far behind to catch up or that your work load is not manageable, you should consult an Academic Advisor. If you consider reducing your workload by dropping one or more courses, this must be done by the appropriate deadlines (refer to the Registrar's website, [www.registrar.uwo.ca](http://www.registrar.uwo.ca), for official dates). You should consult with the course instructor and the Academic Advisor who can help you consider alternatives to dropping one or more courses. *Note that dropping a course may affect OSAP eligibility and/or Entrance Scholarship eligibility.*

The Dean may refuse permission to write the final examination in a course if the student has failed to maintain satisfactory academic standing throughout the year and or for too frequent absence from the class or laboratory.

## 3. ABSENCES

**Short Absences:** If you miss a class due to a minor illness or other problems, check your course outline for information regarding attendance requirements and make sure you are not missing a test or assignment. Cover any readings and arrange to borrow notes from a classmate. Contact the course instructor if you have any questions.

**Extended Absences:** If you have an extended absence, you should contact the course instructor and an Academic Advisor. Your course instructor and Academic Advisor can discuss ways for you to catch up on missed work and arrange academic accommodations, if appropriate.

## 4. POLICY ON CHEATING & ACADEMIC MISCONDUCT

Students are responsible for understanding the nature of and avoiding the occurrence of plagiarism and other academic offences. Students are urged to read the section on Scholastic Offences in the Academic Calendar. Note that such offences include plagiarism, cheating on an examination, submitting false or fraudulent assignments or credentials, impersonating a candidate, or submitting for credit in any course without the knowledge and approval of the instructor to whom it is submitted, any academic work for which credit has previously been obtained or is being sought in another course in the University or elsewhere. Students are advised to consult the section on Academic Misconduct in the Western Academic Calendar.

If you are in doubt about whether what you are doing is inappropriate or not, consult your instructor, the McCann Student Services Centre, or the Registrar. A claim that "you didn't know it was wrong" is not accepted as an excuse.

The penalties for a student guilty of a scholastic offence (including plagiarism) include refusal of a passing grade in the assignment, refusal of a passing grade in the course, suspension from the University, and expulsion from the University.

**Plagiarism:**

Students must write their essays and assignments in their own words. Whenever students take an idea, or a passage from another author, they must acknowledge their debt both by using quotation marks where appropriate and by proper referencing such as footnotes or citations. Plagiarism is a major academic offence (see Scholastic Offence Policy in the Western Academic Calendar).

All required papers may be subject to submission for textual similarity review to the commercial plagiarism detection software under license to the University for the detection of plagiarism. All papers submitted for such checking will be included as source documents in the reference database for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of papers subsequently submitted to the system. Use of the service is subject to the licensing agreement, currently between The University of Western Ontario and Turnitin.com (<http://www.turnitin.com>).

#### **Computer-marked Tests/exams:**

Computer-marked multiple-choice tests and/or exams may be subject to submission for similarity review by software that will check for unusual coincidences in answer patterns that may indicate cheating. Software currently in use to score computer-marked multiple-choice tests and exams performs a similarity review as part of standard exam analysis.

### **5. PROCEDURES FOR APPEALING ACADEMIC EVALUATIONS**

All appeals of a grade must be directed first to the course instructor. If the student is not satisfied with the decision of the course instructor, a written appeal signed by the student must be sent to the Department Chair. If the response of the department is considered unsatisfactory to the student, she may then submit a signed, written appeal to the Office of the Dean. Only after receiving a final decision from the Dean may a student appeal to the Senate Review Board Academic. A Guide to Appeals is available from the Ombudsperson's Office, or you can consult an Academic Advisor. Students are advised to consult the section on Academic Rights and Responsibilities in the Western Academic Calendar.

### **6. PREREQUISITES AND ANTIREQUISITES**

Unless you have either the requisites for this course or written special permission from your Dean to enroll in it, you will be removed from this course and it will be deleted from your record. This decision may not be appealed. You will receive no adjustment to your fees in the event that you are dropped from a course for failing to have the necessary prerequisites.

Similarly, you will also be deleted from a class list if you have previously taken an antirequisite course unless this has the approval of the Dean. These decisions may not be appealed. You will receive no adjustment to your fees in the event that you are dropped from a course because you have taken an antirequisite course.

### **7. SUPPORT SERVICES**

The Brescia University College Registrar's website is at <http://www.brescia.uwo.ca/current/registrar/>, Academic Support and Advising is at <http://www.brescia.uwo.ca/current/advising/> and the McCann Student Services Centre is <http://www.brescia.uwo.ca/current/services/>. The University of Western Ontario Registrar's website is <http://www4.registrar.uwo.ca>.

Portions of this document were taken from the Academic Calendar, the Handbook of Academic and Scholarship Policy and the Academic Handbook of Senate Regulations. This document is a summary of relevant regulations and does not supersede the academic policies and regulations of the Senate of the University of Western Ontario.