







English (ENGL) 306

The Literature of Work (Revision 3)

Status:

Replaced with new revision, see the [course listing](#)  for the current revision 

Delivery mode:

[Individualized study online](#)  with **Video component**  (Overseas students, please contact the University Library before registering in a course that has an audio/visual component). Delivered via Brightspace.

Credits:

3

Areas of study:

Arts or Humanities

Prerequisites:

A university English literature course is recommended.

Precluded:

None

Challenge:

ENGL 306 has a challenge for credit option.

Faculty:

[Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences](#) 



Overview

ENGL 306 is an introduction to literature created by people who do the actual work being depicted. This is a relatively new genre. In the past, most literature about the workplace was written by outsiders; by people who had never done the job and who therefore did not have an insider's knowledge of what actually went on in the daily life of workers. In breaking the taboo against depicting the realities of life on the job, the literature of work gives an exciting new perspective both on the workplace and on the possibilities of literature.

Outline


- Unit 1: Oral Responses to Working
- Unit 2: Poetry
- Unit 3: Fiction
- Unit 4: Plays
- Unit 5: Autobiography and Criticism

Evaluation

To **receive credit**  for ENGL 306, you must achieve a composite course grade of at least **D (50 percent)**  and a grade of at least D (50 percent) on the final examination. The weighting of the course assignments is as follows:

Activity	Weight
Assignment 1	15%
Assignment 2A	10%
Assignment 2B	20%
Assignment 3	30%

Activity	Weight
Final Exam	25%
Total	100%

The **final examination** for this course must be requested in advance and written under the supervision of an AU-approved exam invigilator. Invigilators include either ProctorU or an approved in-person invigilation centre that can accommodate online exams. Students are responsible for payment of any invigilation fees. Information on exam request deadlines, invigilators, and other exam-related questions, can be found at the [Exams and grades](#)  section of the Calendar.

Materials

Digital course materials

Links to the following course materials will be made available in the course:

Wayman, Tom, ed. *Going for Coffee: Poetry on the Job*

Smedley, Agnes. *Daughter of Earth*

Physical course materials

The following course materials are included in a course package that will be shipped to your home prior to your course's start date:

Fennario, David. *On the Job*.

Marty, Sid. *Men for the Mountains*.

Sayles, John. *Union Dues*.

Other Materials

The course materials also include a study guide.

Challenge for credit

Overview

The challenge for credit process allows you to demonstrate that you have acquired a command of the general subject matter, knowledge, intellectual and/or other skills that would normally be found in a university-level course.

Full information about **challenge for credit** [↗](#) can be found in the Undergraduate Calendar.

Evaluation

To **receive credit** [↗](#) for ENGL 306 challenge for credit, you must pass the essay and the examination. Credit is awarded on a pass/fail basis only.



Challenge for credit course registration form

Important links

- › **Academic advising** [↗](#)
- › **Program planning** [↗](#)
- › **Request assistance** [↗](#)
- › **Support services at AU** [↗](#)

Athabasca University reserves the right to amend course outlines occasionally and without notice. Courses offered by other delivery methods may vary from their individualized study counterparts.

Opened in Revision 3, June 10, 2024

Updated August 11, 2025

View **previous revision** [↗](#)