UNIVERSITY OF THE FRASER VALLEY

ORIGINAL COURSE IMPLEMENTATION DATE: January 2015
REVISED COURSE IMPLEMENTATION DATE: January 2027
COURSE TO BE REVIEWED (six years after UEC approval)**:** October 2032
Course outline form version: 29/08/2024

OFFICIAL UNDERGRADUATE COURSE OUTLINE FORM

Note: The University reserves the right to amend course outlines as needed without notice.

Course Code and Number: ENGL 386	**Number of Credits:** 4 Course credit policy (105)
Course Full Title: Figurative Language **Course Short Title:** Figurative Language	
Faculty: Faculty of Humanities	**Department/School:** English

Calendar Description:
Explores the wide influence of figurative language on rhetoric, literature, and culture through the study of diverse texts.

Prerequisites (or NONE):	Any two 200-level English courses.
Corequisites (if applicable, or NONE):	None.
Pre/corequisites (if applicable, or NONE):	None.

Antirequisite Courses *(Cannot be taken for additional credit.)*

Former course code/number:

Cross-listed with:

Equivalent course(s):

(If offered in the previous five years, antirequisite course(s) will be included in the calendar description as a note that students with credit for the antirequisite course(s) cannot take this course for further credit.)

Typical Structure of Instructional Hours

Lecture/seminar	30
Tutorials/workshops	30
Total hours	**60**

Scheduled Laboratory Hours

Labs to be scheduled independent of lecture hours: **No**

Course Details

Special Topics course: **No**
(If yes, the course will be offered under different letter designations representing different topics.)

Directed Study course: **No**
(See policy 207 for more information.)

Grading System: **Letter grades**

Delivery Mode: **May be offered in multiple delivery modes**

Expected frequency: **Every other year**

Maximum enrolment (for information only)**: 25**

Prior Learning Assessment and Recognition (PLAR)

PLAR is available for this course.

Transfer Credit *(See **bctransferguide.ca**.)*

Transfer credit already exists: **No**

Submit outline for (re)articulation: **No**
(If yes, fill in transfer credit form.)

Department approval	**Date of meeting:**	May 7, 2026
Faculty Council approval	**Date of meeting:**	June 5, 2026
Undergraduate Education Committee (UEC) approval	**Date of meeting:**	October 2, 2026

Learning Outcomes *(These should contribute to students' ability to meet program outcomes and thus Institutional Learning Outcomes.)*

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

1. Analyze the role of figurative language in the interpretation of texts.
2. Define major types and examples of figurative language, such as tropes and figures of speech.
3. Analyze the use of figures and tropes in literature, as well as other art and media.
4. Compare theories about figurative language from different historical periods, intellectual movements, and cultural contexts, including Indigenous and non-Western contexts and perspectives.
5. Integrate knowledge of figurative language into academic research and writing.
6. Reflect on their learning in the course, and how it connects to their broader personal and academic development.

Recommended Evaluation Methods and Weighting *(Evaluation should align to learning outcomes.)*

Final exam:	25%	Assignments:	65%	Quizzes/tests/midterm:	
Holistic assessment:	10%		%		%

Details:

Assignments include midterm essay (20%), presentation (10%), and research essay (35%). Holistic assessment is reflective writing.

NOTE: The following sections may vary by instructor. Please see course syllabus available from the instructor.

Typical Instructional Methods *(Guest lecturers, presentations, online instruction, field trips, etc.)*

Lecture, student presentations, discussion

Texts and Resource Materials *(Include online resources and Indigenous knowledge sources. Open Educational Resources (OER) should be included whenever possible. If more space is required, use the Supplemental Texts and Resource Materials form.)*

	Type	Author or description	Title and publication/access details	Year
1.	Textbook	Lakoff, G., Turner, M.	More Than Cool Reason: A Field Guide to Poetic Metaphor	1989
2.	Book	Alexis, André	Fifteen Dogs	2015
3.	Other	Readings posted on LMS	Selected readings on figurative language (scholarly essays, articles, chapters, as well as illustrative examples of poetry/ literature).	
4.	Other			
5.				

Required Additional Supplies and Materials *(Software, hardware, tools, specialized clothing, etc.)*

Course Content and Topics

- Introduction and overview: Figurative language, opening contexts, and readings (Hilary Turner, *Figurative Language: A Historical Guide*; Geary, *I is an Other: The Secret Life of Metaphor*)
- Figures and tropes in classical rhetoric, philosophy, and literature (Gorgias, Plato, Aristotle, Longinus, Sappho)
- Literature break: Shakespeare sonnets, numbers 18, 55, 97, 130, 138; Jordan Abel, excerpt from "The Place of Scraps"
- Indigenous poetics: Select readings from McLeod, *Indigenous Poetics in Canada* (Introduction, Maracle, Ruffo)
- Contemporary approaches: Introduction to cognitive poetics (Lakoff and Turner, *More than Cool Reason*)
- Historical contexts 1: Figurative language in early modern thought (Vico, Bacon, Locke, Sprat)
- Historical contexts 2: Nineteenth-century literature and rhetoric (Christina Rossetti; Frederick Douglas)
- Figurative language and the early 20th century: The Linguistic Turn (Nietzsche, Saussure, Jakobson)
- Late 20th century contexts (Helene Cixous, Paul de Man, Edward Said)
- Figurative language in contemporary fiction (André Alexis, *Fifteen Dogs*)
- Review, reflection, student presentations, assignment workshops