

Fall/Winter 2018-2019

AP/EN 2220 6.0A (Y)

INTRODUCTION TO CANADIAN LITERATURE

Course Director:

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Delivery Format:

Lecture

Time:

Lecture: Thursday 12:30-2:30pm
Tutorials: Thursday 2:30-3:30-pm, 3:30-4:30pm

Description:

This course is an introduction to Canadian literature and its surrounding critical conversations. We will read a wide range of (broadly defined) literary texts from well before Confederation up to the present, including poetry, drama, film, and fiction, as well as performance art and spoken word, graphic novels, song lyrics, and social media. The course will emphasize the close reading of literature, attending to formal, genre, and aesthetic concerns, but it will also focus on the contested politics of Canada's literary history, including the state-sanctioned funding of literature as a nationalist project, as well as the construction and contestation of place, gender, ethnicity, and race in critical and popular discussions about writing and culture in Canada. Readings include both literary and critical texts, as we aim to explore not only literature in Canada but also the very idea of "Canadian literature" itself.

The course structure includes a two-hour lecture session each week with the full class, as well as separate tutorial sessions with smaller groups. Attendance in both lectures and tutorials is mandatory. The lecture sessions will introduce and explore key concepts, as well as contextualize and expand upon course readings, using lectures, power point, and videos, along with class discussions, group activities, and in-class assignments. We'll have a 5 minute break midway through the lecture. As a reading intensive course, it is crucial that students complete assigned readings prior to class.

The tutorial sessions will build on lectures with additional readings and activities designed to further explore course material and deepen student engagement through discussion and small group work. The tutorial sessions will also be used to refine the research and writing skills that are central to literary studies,

including essay writing, primary and secondary research, and MLA style.
Finally: For pedagogical reasons, I will not be providing lecture notes or slides to students. Please introduce yourself to your neighbours in case you need to request notes. However, I do begin each class with a cursory summary of the previous class, and I will periodically update a “key words and concerns” list on our Moodle site to help you stay on top of material, and prepare for examinations.

Category:

C

Historical Requirement:

Period II (1700-1900)

Requirements:

Fall Term Essay (Nov 15) 20%

Winter Test (Nov 29) 20%

Winter Term Essay (Feb 28 / Mar 14) 5% / 20%

Final Exam 25%

Reading Responses & Participation 10%

Reading List:

Sugars, Cynthia, and Laura Moss, eds. *Canadian Literature in English: Texts and Contexts*, Volumes 1 & 2. Toronto: Pearson, 2009.

Brown, Chester. *Louis Riel: A Comic-Strip Biography*. (2003) Montreal: Drawn & Quarterly, 2015.

Carrier, Roch. *La Guerre, Yes Sir!* (1968) Trans. Sheila Fischman. (1970) Concord: Anansi, 1995.

Chariandy, David. *Brother*. Toronto: McClelland & Stewart, 2017.

Dimaline, Cherie. *The Marrow Thieves*. Toronto: Dancing Cat Books, 2017.

Kogawa, Joy. *Obasan* (1981) Toronto: Penguin, 2014.

MacLennan, Hugh. *Barometer Rising* (1941) Toronto: McClelland & Stewart, 2007.

Maddin, Guy. *My Winnipeg*. Film, 2007. Toronto: Coach House, 2009.

Verdecchia, Guillermo. *Fronteras Americanas*. 2nd Ed. (1993). Vancouver: Talonbooks, 2014.

Watson, Sheila. *The Double Hook*. (1959) Toronto: McClelland & Stewart, 2008.

- Additional class readings will be made available online.
- Texts available in the bookstore; students may use any edition.

Open To:

YR 2, 3