

Fall/Winter 2019-2020

AP/EN 2220 6.0A (Y)

Introduction to Canadian Literature

Course Director:

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Delivery Format:

Lecture

Time:

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

Description:

This course is a survey of literary culture in Canada from the eighteenth century to the present. We will read and discuss first contact narratives, pioneer memoirs, confederation poetry, modernist and contemporary writing, and we will consider how the concept of nation has changed in the Canadian imagination. Early constructions of Canada as a colony and the place of First Nations peoples in these constructions will be set in dialogue with later understandings of the Canadian nation as a more heterogeneous construct. Students are encouraged to look at the socio-historical context of the texts they are reading, as well as to examine the meanings of these texts in the contemporary context.

The texts selected are representative of the variety of voices that exist in Canadian literature. Various literary genres and the ways in which they depict and are influenced by time, location, gender, class, and ethnicity/race will be investigated in order to get an overview of the complexities of Canadian literature.

Category:

C

Historical Requirement:

Period II (1700-1900)

Requirements:

1000-word close reading assignment (10%); midterm (20%); quizzes (2x 5%=10%); weekly participation in discussions (15%); Essay outline and annotated bibliography (5%); 2000-word research essay (20%); final test (20%).

Reading List:

Sugars, Cynthia, and Laura Moss, eds. *Canadian Literature in English: Texts and Contexts*, Vol. 1& 2. Toronto: Pearson, 2009. ISBN: 9780321494009, 9780321313621
Gabrielle Roy—*The Tin Flute* (New Canadian Library)
Michel Tremblay—*Les Belles Soeurs*. Talonbooks. ISBN-10: 0889223025
Tomson Highway—*The Rez Sisters* (Fifth House Books) ISBN-10: 092007944X
Michael Ondaatje—*In the Skin of a Lion* (Vintage Canada). ISBN-10: 0394281829
Dionne Brand—*What We All Long For* (Vintage Canada). ISBN-10: 067697693X
Chester Brown—*Louis Riel* (Drawn & Quarterly). Paperback. ISBN-13: 978-1894937894

Open To:

Years 2, 3