

Fall/Winter 2020-2021

<b>EN 4254 3.0A (F)</b>	Contemporary Canadian Writers
<b>Course Director:</b>	Robert Zacharias Office: 602 Atk Email: <a href="mailto:rzach@yorku.ca">rzach@yorku.ca</a> Office Hours: Wednesdays 1-2
<b>Time:</b>	Course material made available weekly
<b>Delivery Format:</b>	<b>ONLINE</b> – (asynchronous delivery) – There is no set course meeting time. Students may engage with course content/materials 24/7.
<b>Description:</b>	<p>This course will explore a selection of (broadly defined) literary and critical texts by contemporary Canadian writers over the past two decades. Working across genres and contexts, we will emphasize the close reading of literary texts, attending to formal, aesthetic, and critical concerns. We will also historicize our readings, and explore the contested politics of contemporary Canadian literary studies itself. <i>Who</i> or <i>what</i> constitutes Canadian literature, and why does it matter? What is “CanLit,” and how does it differ from “literature in Canada”? What does the study of literature within a national frame enable, and what does it limit?</p> <p>We will also take time to build and sharpen the research, writing, and presentation skills that are central to literary studies.</p> <p>This is an online course, which will not have any set meeting time. Instead, I will be positing the week’s course material on our moodle site at the start of each week. This material will include weekly lectures (video or audio) with accompanying power-point slides, along with a range of links, short activities, and discussion board prompts. Working your way through the class’s weekly material – listening to the lectures, following the links, and completing the brief activities and discussion board responses – should take roughly 3hrs per week, and can be completed Monday through Thursday.</p> <p><u>Students are expected to compete the week’s assigned readings prior to working their way through the week’s posted material.</u></p> <p>In addition to regular weekly virtual office hours during which I will be available for individual meetings, we may hold several open Q&amp;A sessions via Zoom throughout the course.</p>
<b>Category:</b>	C
<b>Historical Requirement:</b>	N/A
<b>Requirements:</b>	20% Essay 1: 5-6 pgs 25% Essay 2 (research essay): 10-12 pgs 10% Participation (discussion board, Q&A submissions, other assignments) 20% Reading Responses (4 x 5%; 2 pages each) 25% Final Test
<b>Reading List:</b>	In addition to class readings made available online via moodle,

	<p>students will be asked to read the following texts:</p> <p>Abel, Jordan. <i>Injun</i>. Vancouver: Talon, 2017.</p> <p>Clements, Marie. <i>The Unnatural and Accidental Women</i>. Vancouver: Talon, 2005.</p> <p>Plett, Casey. <i>Little Fish</i>. Vancouver: Arsenal, 2018.</p> <p>Lemire, Jeff. <i>Essex County</i>. Marietta, GA: Top Shelf Productions, 2009.</p> <p>Thúy, Kim. <i>Ru</i>. Toronto: Vintage Canada, 2012.</p> <p>Chariandy, David. <i>Brother</i>. Toronto: McClelland &amp; Stewart, 2018.</p> <p>Maddin, Guy. <i>My Winnipeg</i>. IFC Films, 2008.</p>
<b>Open To:</b>	Year 4 Honours