

## Preliminary Web Course Description

\*Please note: This is a preliminary web course description only. The department reserves the right to change without notice any information in this description. The final, binding course outline will be distributed in the first class of the semester.

### School of English and Theatre Studies

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| Course Code:<br>ENGL*2130*02 | Course Title:<br>Seminar: Literature and Social Change<br>Topic for Sec. 02:<br>“The Changing World of Alice Munro” | Date of Offering:<br>W 17<br>Mon./Wed.<br>11:30 a.m.-12:50 p.m. |
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| Course Instructor:<br>Dr. J.R. (Tim) Struthers |  |
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| <p>Brief Course Synopsis:<br/>ENGL*2130 has been designated a writing- and presentation-intensive course; it provides an important opportunity for spirited study, for careful preparation of presentations and written work, and for informed conversation and it requires – more importantly, it warrants – full commitment week in and week out by every seminar member to one’s own and everyone else’s education. For each section of ENGL*2130 the choices of focus and texts and approach are made by the instructor, then redefined by each student. The topic of our seminar will be “The Changing World of Alice Munro” (or to put this a little differently, the changing world of Southwestern Ontario, the region known to writers, painters, and others as “Souwesto”) – with attention to changes in fact and in perspective as seen in literary, historical, and cultural terms. Primary texts to be read for the course will include Munro’s late-career two-part family book (half memoirs, half stories) <i>The View from Castle Rock</i>, and her very first collection (and in various senses arguably her most autobiographical collection) of short stories, <i>Dance of the Happy Shades</i> – along with important works by both “majority” and “minority” writers including Basil Johnston’s <i>Ojibway Heritage</i>, James Reaney’s <i>The Box Social and Other Stories</i>, Thomas King’s <i>The Truth about Stories</i>, and Terry Griggs’s <i>Quickening</i>.</p> |
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| Course Format:<br><br>SEMINAR/DISCUSSION | Methods of Evaluation and Weights:<br>10% > <u>First Seminar Presentation</u> (10 to 12 to perhaps 15 minutes, including intervals for discussion; to be accompanied by an approx. 1½-page outline of arguments and examples in point form)<br><br>10% > <u>Second Seminar Presentation</u> (10 to 12 |
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|  | <p>to perhaps 15 minutes, including intervals for discussion; to be accompanied by an approx. 1½-page outline of arguments and examples in point form)</p> <p>10% &gt; <u>Third Seminar Presentation</u> (about 15 minutes, including intervals for discussion; to be accompanied by an approx. 1½-page outline of arguments and examples in point form)</p> <p>15% &gt; <u>Analytic Paper</u> of about 1,000 words (to be revised and resubmitted if requested by instructor)</p> <p>20% &gt; <u>Reading Journal</u> in 13 parts of approx. 100 words apiece (that is, totalling approx. 1,300 words) consisting of double-spaced typed commentaries on assorted theoretical and fictional works identified by the instructor</p> <p>20% &gt; <u>Two-Part Out-of-Class Take-Home Final</u> – each part worth 10% and each part approx. 600 to 750 words</p> <p>15% &gt; Overall Effort, Participation, Improvement (including work on Take-Home Final Exam)</p> <p><b>TOTAL NUMBER OF WORDS OF FORMAL PROSE REQUIRED :</b><br/> approx. 3,500 to 3,800 words (incl. approx. 1,200 to 1,500 words in total for the Two-Part Out-of-Class Take-Home Final Exam)</p> |
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Texts and/or Resources Required (e.g. Internet access, specific textbook title, lab kit, etc.)  
Alice Munro’s family book, *The View from Castle Rock* and her first story collection, *Dance of the Happy Shades* (each in the mass-market Penguin edition), along with Basil Johnston’s *Ojibway Heritage* (McClelland & Stewart), James Reaney’s *The Box Social and Other Stories* (The Porcupine’s Quill), Thomas King’s *The Truth about Stories* (Anansi), and Terry Griggs’s *Quickening* (Biblioasis).

Other information that you wish share about the course (optional):  
Members of this section (02) of ENGL\*2130 who wish to do some advance reading before our first class meeting are encouraged to treat themselves to reading the first half of Alice Munro’s

family book *The View from Castle Rock*. Copies of the mass-market Penguin edition will be available at both bookstores on campus..

**List the distribution requirements that this course fulfills: Canadian Literature.**