

School of English and Theatre Studies
University of Guelph

GRADUATE COURSE OFFERING – Summer 2016

ENGL*6201 Topics in Canadian Literature
The Long and The Short of It: Gallant, Hood, Munro, Blaise
Class Schedule: Tues. & Thurs. 2:30 pm - 4:00 pm
Room: MacKinnon 225
Instructor: J.R. (Tim) Struthers

This course, which above all else will be designed to be vigorous and enjoyable, will examine a variety of literary genres -- the novel and the novel-in-stories and the story cycle; the novella; and the short story -- as practised by four very distinguished Canadian writers: Mavis Gallant, Hugh Hood, Alice Munro, and Clark Blaise. Readings of works by these four artists will be undertaken in the context of readings of theoretical works chosen by each student from a wide selection including both anthologies and individual books by figures such as William H. Gass, Jack Hodgins, Thomas King, Charles E. May, Daphne Marlatt, John Metcalf, Francine Prose, and Oscar Wilde: works meant to inspire us to reconsider the directions and the forms that own critical thinking and critical writing might take not only theoretically but also creatively.

Assignments will include various short to medium-length seminar presentations, various brief response, position, or journal pieces, and a final research paper on "The Long and the Short of It" to be chosen by each student in consultation with the instructor, with each student meant to feel encouraged to pursue original work on any of the four fiction writers on whom we'll have focussed or on any other contemporary Canadian fiction writer of each student's choosing.

Details of specific texts to be read during the course may be obtained by e-mailing the instructor.