

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

Course Code: ENGL 2550	Course Title: North American Native Literatures	Date of Offering: Winter 2018
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Course Instructor: M. Nandorfy	Course Format: Lecture
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Brief Course Synopsis:

Several narrative genres of storytelling will be studied including novel, short story, essay, graphic novel, feature and documentary film. Some of the topics to be examined will include the theoretical and political implications of studying Native American literatures as a minoritized and racially determined category; modes of Native storytelling and Native responses to colonial policies, postcolonial theory, and strategies of decolonization; the ongoing legacy of residential schools; comparative study of Native American and Euroamerican epistemologies; land claims; the colonial invention of Indianness and the paradoxes of cultural identity; the significance of geopolitical borders (Mexico/US and US/Canada) and less visible borders like the one separating the Arctic from Southern Canada, and Natives from Euroamericans within national borders. Special attention will be paid to forms of political resistance in relation to environmental and other human rights. Average weekly out-of-class workload for students should amount to five hours of reading, and three hours of writing and/or exam preparation. Learning outcomes: Students will be able to analyze a text in relation to a theoretical and historical framework, as well as interrogate questions of literary value and evaluate how a text works within, or expands the definitions of, genre. Students will understand how an historical, academic and/or national grouping demonstrates a genealogy, both productive and contested, around specific social issues, cultural concerns or intellectual issues.

Methods of Evaluation and Weight:

In-class test 15
Short Response paper 15
Take-home Midterm exam 35
Final Exam 35

Texts and/or Resources Required:

Dimaline, Cherie. *The Marrow Thieves*

Erdrich, Louise. *The Round House*

King, Thomas. *The Back of the Turtle*

McCall, Reder, Gaertner, L'Hirondelle Hill, eds. *Read. Listen. Tell: Indigenous Stories from Turtle Island*

Other information that you wish share about the course (optional):

This course fulfills Canadian distribution requirement.