

School of English and Theatre Studies
University of Guelph

GRADUATE COURSE OFFERINGS - Winter 2015

ENGL*6209 Topics in Colonial, Postcolonial and Diasporic Literatures

Class Schedule: Thursday 2:30 pm – 5:20 pm

Room: Macs 231

Instructor: Julie Cairnie

It is well understood that the regulation of the body and bodily practices was fundamental to colonization in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. Fanon's *Black Skin, White Masks* is one of the earliest texts to examine some forms of regulation and their impacts on colonized men (women are subordinate to his inquiry), and has been followed by further inquiries in the areas of postcolonial theory, critical race studies, feminism, and whiteness studies. There is an emerging area of research into the relationship between sport and colonialism/postcolonialism, but it mostly escapes the notice of scholars of postcolonial literature. This course aims to correct this oversight and look at a range of 'texts' that illuminate the colonial (and postcolonial) regulation of the body and bodily practices through the introduction/imposition of sport. While most studies of postcolonial sport tend to obscure gender, here we put it in the foreground and examine the ways in which sport regulates men's bodies and desirable masculinities. The course will focus on the African continent (running in Kenya, rugby in South Africa, and football/soccer throughout the continent); but in order to gain a wider understanding of the relationship between sport and colonialism/postcolonialism will also study cricket and ice hockey, as well as 'indigenous' sports such as Australia rules football, Irish hurling, lacrosse, and Rwandan pole jumping. The course will begin with readings of Chinua Achebe's *Things Fall Apart* and Cecil Rhodes's *Last Will and Testament* in order to establish a framework for reading the regulation of black and white men through body cultures and sports. The range of our reading will be varied, including fiction, memoir, film, sport-specific magazines (print and online), newspaper sports sections, advertising, fan websites/Facebook/twitter, and theory and criticism.

ENGL*6451 Topics in American Literature

Storytelling in the American West: Transcultural Approaches to an Ecology of Knowledges.

Class Schedule: Wednesday 2:30 pm – 5:20 pm

Room: Macs 231

Instructor: Martha Nandorfy

This course will attempt to respond to Portuguese sociologist Boaventura de Sousa Santos's challenge to move beyond abyssal thinking and monoculture toward an ecological and transcultural approach to knowledges in the plural. We will examine a selection of cosmopolitan indigenous storytellers such as Laguna Pueblo writer Leslie Marmon Silko. Instead of approaching her *Almanac of the Dead* as a western novel, we will read it as a contemporary chronicle bearing witness to historical and current human/environmental rights abuses, and as a prophetic enactment of retribution and decolonization. We will also study non-Native speculative/literary journalists whose work enacts Deleuze and Guattari's concept of the

rhizome: 'unlike trees or their roots, the rhizome connects any point to any other point, and its traits are not necessarily linked to traits of the same nature; it brings into play very different regimes of signs, and even nonsign states ... It is comprised not of units but of dimensions, or rather directions in motion. It has neither beginning nor end, but always a middle (milieu) from which it grows and which it overflows' (*A Thousand Plateaus* 21). Bowden's *Trinity* and Solnit's *Savage Dreams* both interweave previously silenced histories with prophetic stories about increasing militarization in the west, centered around nuclear test sites in New Mexico and Nevada. The central problematic will be to examine the limitations of Western literary genres, theory, disciplines, and epistemology, and to consider the potential of storytelling and recombinant poetics, as both an ancient and emergent hybrid form of collective memory and prophecy.

ENGL*6811 Special Topics in English

"THE TROUBLE WITH NORMAL": SEXUALITY, RACE, AND POLITICS IN CANADIAN LITERATURE DURING THE COLD WAR

Class Schedule: Tuesday 2:30 pm – 5:20 pm

Room: Macs 231

Instructor: Jade Ferguson

This graduate course explores Canadian literary engagements with post-World War II shifts in social understandings of sexuality and race. We will begin with an examination of "biopolitics" in the writings of Michel Foucault as well as recent investigations of Cold War representations of sexuality and race in Canada and the United States by cultural historians and literary critics. We will investigate Canadian literary representations of sexuality as a fluid, troublesome, and challenging force in Canada. The course will begin with an examination of Sinclair Ross' representation of sex, sexuality, and sexual desire in *As For Me and My House* (1941). Ross' narrative of sexual deviances or excesses presents an affective topology of embodied states of shame, misery, and loss. We will explore the post-war shift in Canadian literary depictions of sexuality and race through the constellations of gender, class, nation, and citizenship. We will read a selection of novels, all written and published during the Cold War era, that depict intimate relations and desiring bodies that contest the normative forces and structures of power / knowledge. Our literary texts will include Elizabeth Smart's *By Grand Central Station I Sat Down and Wept* (1945), Morley Callaghan's *The Loved and the Lost* (1951), Austin Clarke's *The Meeting Point* (1967), Jane Rule's *The Young in One Another's Arms* (1977), and Dany Laferrière's *How to Make Love to a Negro Without Getting Tired* (1985).