

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*2130*01	Course Title: Literature and Social Change	Date of Offering: W20
------------------------------	---	-----------------------

Course Instructor: Dr. Leila Qashu	Course Format: Seminar
------------------------------------	------------------------

Brief Course Synopsis: Literature and the arts have often produced social change by shifting perspectives and revolutionizing standard modes of thinking. In this seminar, we will use varied student-centred approaches and collaborative methods to explore different topics intertwined with literature, such as gender, sexuality, nation, race, ethnicity and class in a postcolonial setting. For years, Indigenous and minority groups all over the world have faced different forms of oppression and cultural genocide. Literature and other arts have become means by which members of these cultural groups have fought against colonization, oppression and fought for their culture, truths, self and group reconciliation and healthy lives. Culturally, stories and literature are often intertwined with other arts, law/justice, belief and, in general, complex worldviews. We will focus on stories and truths related to Indigenous women, music and cultural contexts and how these have led to social change. Literature is expressed differently depending on situations and people, encompassing different forms of literary texts, public texts such as Op-eds and opinion essays, oral literature, songs, poetry, film, ethnographic writings and more. In this course, we will explore these different forms of literary expressions, ways they have and can lead to social change and how each of you has the potential to think out of the box in your own academic writing, presenting and teaching to incite change. To think about decolonizing not only the classroom but also the canon, the academy and the standard ways of teaching and learning, we will also work in groups in this course to work in creative and collaborative manners on actions that can lead literature to social change.

Methods of Evaluation and Weight:

6 written assignments - 30% (approx. 350 words each)

Presentations – 25%

In class participation/discussion-leading – 15%

Essay proposal – 10% (approx. 200 words)

Final Essay – 20% (approx. 1300 words)

Texts and/or Resources Required (e.g. Internet access, specific textbook title, lab kit, etc.)

Tentative list of required texts (Only Birdie is at the bookstores. The other readings and films will be at the library)

Birdie, Tracy Lindberg (HarperCollins)

Stories from *Islands of Decolonial Love*, Leanne Simpson

Chapters from *My Conversations with Canadians*, Lee Maracle

Ouvrir la Voix, documentary by Amandine Gay

This course counts towards the following distribution requirement(s) for students who registered at the University prior to the Fall of 2018: 20th/21st Literature and Canadian Literature.

*Students who registered at the University of Guelph after Fall 2018 must fulfill the “new” major and minor requirements. Students who registered at the University of Guelph prior to Fall 2018 must fulfill the requirements of the Calendar in effect when they first enrolled unless they have filed a Schedule of Studies Change Request to change to the 2018-2019 calendar. For more information, please consult the major and minor checklists at <https://www.uoguelph.ca/arts/sets/undergraduate/english/current-student-information>.