

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*4280	Course Title: Seminar: Canadian Literature	Date of Offering: W20
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Course Instructor: Paul Barrett	Course Format: Seminar
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Brief Course Synopsis: **Diaspora and Indigeneity in Canada**

This course considers representations of space, nation, the body, desire, and citizenship within contemporary diasporic and Indigenous Canadian writing. Diasporic writing regularly evokes a transnational imaginary that creatively and unevenly stitches together relationships between disparate spaces. Indigenous writing, meanwhile, is often concerned with the manner in which identity emerges from particular locales and conceptions of place. Despite these apparent differences, however, Indigenous and diasporic writers are often aligned in their engagement with questions of nation, citizenship, multiculturalism, and decolonization in Canada. In this course we will examine a number of these differences and surprising similarities in the work of Indigenous and diasporic writers. How do these authors employ Indigenous history and diasporic memory in order to narrate the spaces of the nation anew? How does desire circulate in these texts to articulate new visions of belonging? How is race imagined alongside, and in distinction from, indigeneity? What does it mean for these authors to write 'here' in Canada and what does all of this tell us about Canadian Literature today?

Methods of Evaluation and Weight:

Participation (20%)
Seminar Presentations (30%)
Critical Review Assignment (10%) (750 words)
Final Paper (40%) (4,500 – 6,000 words)

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

Lee Maracle, *My Conversations with Canadians*
Leanne Betasamosake Simpson, *Islands of Decolonial Love*
Dionne Brand, *A Map to the Door of No Return*
Ian Williams, *Reproduction*
Jean Marc Ah-Sen, *Grand Menteur*
Didier Leclair, *This Country of Mine*
Joshua Whitehead, *Jonny Appleseed*
Austin Clarke, *More*

This course counts towards the following distribution requirement(s) for students who registered at the University prior to the Fall of 2018: Canadian Literature

Other information about the course (optional):

*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>.