

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*4400	Course Title: Postcolonial Literatures	Date of Offering: Fall 2019
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Course Instructor: Julie Cairnie	Course Format: Seminar
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Postcolonial Literatures: Violence

Brief Course Synopsis: In this seminar we will examine the means by which a selection of late twentieth/twenty-first century texts from Zimbabwe and Canada address a violent and often deliberately obfuscated past and present; accommodate and bring into dialogue new stories that began to emerge through the Truth and Reconciliation Commission in Canada and in the aftermath of Civil War and its reverberations in Zimbabwe; grapple with issues of multiculturalism and non-racialism; re-evaluate the assumptions upon which national and cultural identities are built and claims of belonging are staked; come to terms with residual and new forms of violence bred by centuries of colonial rule followed by colonial/neocolonial governance; and re-assess the function of literary and artistic endeavour.

Methods of Evaluation and Weight:

Seminar Presentation 20%
Commonplace Book (journal) (2000 words) 20%
Research Proposal/Annotated Bibliography 20%
Research Essay (4500 words) 40%

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

Zimbabwe

Shimmer Chinodya, *Harvest of Thorns* (Weaver)
Alexandra Fuller, *Scribbling the Cat: Travels with an African Soldier* (Penguin)
Yvonne Vera, *The Stone Virgins* (Farrar, Straus and Giroux)

Canada

Eden Robinson, *Son of a Trickster* (Knopf)
Tanya Talaga, *Seven Fallen Feathers Racism, Death, and Hard Truths in a Northern City* (House of Anansi Press)
Richard Wagamese, *Medicine Walk* (Emblem)

NOTE: We will be reading a number of articles (available on or linked through Courselink); in addition, you are expected to view a range of films and other media.

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

20th/21st century

Canadian Literature

Other information about the course (optional):

Focus is subject to change. Please contact the instructor before purchasing texts.

*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>.