

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*6201	Course Title: Seminar: Canadian Literature	Date of Offering: F23
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Course Instructor:	Course Format: Seminar
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Brief Course Synopsis:

Canadian Literary Humanism

The course begins from the provocation that Canadian literature and Canadian literary culture is a decidedly humanist enterprise, one dedicated to not merely asserting a particular vision of national identity and culture but a particular conception of who gets to count as human. Canadian literature has pride of place within the expression of national identity as both the form and the forum for asserting who gets to count as human in Canada and for narrating the story of nation to accord with a particularly humanist ethos. We will begin by studying early settler and Indigenous texts in Canadian literature to investigate how they frame ideas of the subject, land, nation, culture, and race. We will also trace the emergence of ideas of national literature via concepts of Romantic nationalism to the allegedly post-national articulations of nation. We will then move to contemporary writers to understand how they articulate a ‘counter-humanism’ that challenges Canadian literature’s colonial origins and offer a new vision of community and writing in Canada.

Methods of Evaluation and Weight:

Participation (20%)
Seminar Presentation (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.)

Early text list (subject to change)

Leanne Betasamosake Simpson and Robyn Maynard, *Rehearsals for Living*

John Norton, *The Journal of Major John Norton, Teyoninhokarawen*

Jordan Abel, *The Place of Scraps*

Dionne Brand, *A Map to the Door of No Return*

David Chariandy, *Brother*

Alanis Obomsawin, *Kanehsatake: 270 Years of Resistance*

Austin Clarke, *When He Was Free and Young and Used to Wear Silks*

Alice Munro, *The View From Castle Rock*

M. NourbeSe Philip, *Zong!*

Select Criticism (excerpts)

Lisa Lowe, *The Intimacies of Four Continents*

Sylva Wynter, “Unsettling the Coloniality of Being / Power / Truth”

Katherine McKittrick, *On Being Human as Praxis*

M. NourbeSe Philip, *Bla_k*

Cynthia Sugars, *Home Work: Postcolonialism, Pedagogy, and Canadian Literature*

Northrop Frye, “Conclusion” to Second Edition of *Literary History of Canada*

Margery Fee, “Canadian Literature and English Studies in the Canadian University.”

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>.