

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: <b>ENGL*6201</b>	Course Title: <b>Seminar: Canadian Literature</b>	Date of Offering: W22
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Course Instructor: <b>Paul Barrett</b>	Course Format: <b>Seminar</b>
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Brief Course Synopsis:

Canadian Literary Humanism

This course begins with Northrop Frye’s assertion that “the creative instinct has a great deal to do with the assertion of territorial rights,” to consider *how* Canadian literature asserts a particular vision of humanism as part of a settler colonial project. 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 the 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. Questions such as what texts matter, what critical frameworks can best guide us, and who gets to speak for the national culture will be investigated as part of a broader program of Canadian literary humanism. 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 read, roughly chronologically, a series of texts that engage, resist, challenge, parody, and refuse visions of the human in Canada and assert alternate modes of belonging. We will investigate the writers who offer us new visions of community, identity, place, and belonging beyond the rigid confines of Eurocentric humanism.

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.)

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

Mary Prince, *The History of Mary Prince*

Susanna Moodie, “Richard Redpath”

EJ Pratt, *Brébeuf and his Brethren*

Andre Alexis, *Days by Moonlight*

Tessa McWatt, *Out of My Skin*

Austin Clarke, *More*

Marie-Claire Blaise, *Songs for Angel*

Dionne Brand, *theory*

Leanne Betasamosake Simpson, *The Accident of Being Lost*

Canisia Lubrin, *The Dysgraphxst*

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*

Erin Wunker et al., *Refuse: CanLit in Ruins*

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

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

George Grant, *Technology and Empire*

Philip Massolin, *Canadian Intellectuals, the Tory Tradition, and the Challenge of Modernity*

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>.