School of English and Theatre Studies

Course Code: ENGL 6611  
Course Title: Topics in Women’s Writings: Women Writing in Native Space  
Date of Offering: F’20

Course Instructor: Christine Bold  
Course Format: Seminar

Brief Course Synopsis: Women Writing in Native Space

This course asks what we can learn from the ways in which women writers of different cultures, periods, and genres have written their stories into Turtle Island (North America)—in this case, mostly in what is now known as the United States. The framing concept for our readings and discussions is “Native space,” as elaborated, reconstructed, and digitally mapped by Lisa Brooks (Abenaki). Our readings begin on the east coast in 1682, with a “captivity narrative” by a Puritan settler, and in 2018, with the re-mapping of that narrative from Indigenous perspectives by Professor Brooks and her students. Then we will move very selectively through voices from the 19th, 20th, and 21st centuries, including Seneca playwright-performer Go-won-go Mohawk, African American novelist Pauline Hopkins, Anishinaabe novelist Louise Erdrich, and Chicana writer Gloria Anzaldúa. We will end on the west coast, on the shores of the Columbia River, as written by Asian Canadian poets Rita Wong and Fred Wah. The schedule is designed so that we first read primary and critical works together then students develop individual or collaborative research projects with ongoing feedback from the group.

Methods of Evaluation and Weight:

Brief postings and responses on CourseLink (to readings and each others’ presentations), as well as follow-up discussion on Zoom, throughout the semester, for a total 30% of final grade.

Short essay (1,000 words), for 10%.

Presentation of individual research project proposal): no grade

Presentation of research project-in-progress presentation), for 20%.

Research Essay (5,000 words), for 40%.
Texts and/or Resources Required (e.g. Internet access, specific textbook title, lab kit, etc.):

   - Cassandra Hradil and Lauren Tuiskula, "Mary White Rowlandson's Removes," story map, online at [http://arcg.is/1Cr53KU](http://arcg.is/1Cr53KU)

2. Go-won-go Mohawk, playscripts and cabinet cards, 1889-1907, with commentary by contemporary Indigenous artists. Available online through CourseLink.


Information about mode of delivery (synchronous/asynchronous/other details):

Synchronous: 1 x 1.5 hour formal seminar meeting per week by Zoom (with a one-week pause for research essay development in the second half of the semester); virtual “office hour” appointments by Zoom; presentations, postings, responses, and other assignments will be managed through CourseLink, with follow-up discussion and feedback on Zoom.