

ANG – 2050 Contemporary Canadian Literature

Course Description

This course surveys a cross-section of novels, short stories, poetry, and plays by some of the most important writers in English-Canadian literature with an emphasis on work published since the mid-twentieth century. Attention will be given to texts intertextually engaged in alluding to, parodying, transforming, or adapting other literary texts or historical accounts in order to explore or problematize buried or little-known tragic histories, to critique or satirize social follies, or to advocate for renewed relations with the natural world. Both intercultural and intracultural intertextuality will be considered. The corpus will include texts working within the comic, the tragic, the neo-realistic, and the neo-gothic modes, as well as texts situated within the modern and postmodern literary movements. The staging of marginalization, ostracization, agency, resistance, and resilience will be among the matters probed, with consideration of the dramatizations of systemic and institutionalized sexism, racism, and other forms of social oppression.

Objectives

- to survey contemporary English-Canadian texts exemplifying various literary modes, movements, thematic interests and formal engagements;
- to consider the historical, social, and environmental contexts of the texts, as appropriate;
- to help students perfect their ability to do independent critical analyses through the appropriate application of literary concepts and terminology;
- to contribute to the on-going development of students' written and oral communication skills at the university level.

Pedagogical Approach

This course will combine lectures with class and small group discussion. Students are required to have attentively read assigned texts before each class and to participate thoughtfully in class discussion.

Evaluation

Mid-term Exam: 30%; Essay: 30%; Review of Writers' Festival Event: 10%; Final Exam: 30%

Note: students must submit *all* the above assignments and exams to fulfill the course requirements.

Quality of Language

Lectures and group discussions are held in English. Quality of English will be one of the factors in evaluating work. Students are encouraged to make use of the services of the Writing Centre.

Required Texts (in order of reading):

See the class portal for details on additional required primary readings and supplementary material.

W. O. Mitchell. *The Devil Is a Travelling Man*. Oxford UP, 2009. ISBN 978-0-19-543004-2

Kevin Kerr. *Unity (1918)*. Talon Books, 2002. ISBN 13: 9780889224612

Tomson Highway. *The Rez Sisters*. 1986. Fifth House, 1999. ISBN 092007944X

Joy Kogawa. *Obasan*. 1981. Toronto: Penguin Canada, 1983. ISBN 9780143192343

Margaret Atwood. *Alias Grace*. 1996. Toronto: Seal Books, 2000. ISBN 97807711008825

- For rules on plagiarism, see: *Plagiat/Règlement des études*
<http://www.lit.ulaval.ca/departement/politiques-et-reglements/plagiat/>
- Centre de prévention et d'intervention en matière de harcèlement: <https://www.ulaval.ca/services-ul/harcelement.html>

Grading Scale (undergraduate level)

Excellent:	A+ = 94-100	A = 89-93	A- = 85-88	Fair:	D+ = 61-64	D = 55-60
Very Good:	B+ = 82-84	B = 78-81	B- = 75-77	Inadequate:	E = 0-54	
Good:	C+ = 72-74	C = 68-71	C- = 65-67			

- Politique relative au calendrier de publication des résultats: 30 % de la note globale devra avoir été attribuée et communiquée aux étudiants deux jours ouvrables avant la date d'abandon sans échec et sans remboursement. Seuls les cours à formule particulière, ayant été approuvés par les directions d'unité, seront exemptés de cette politique, ce qui devra faire l'objet d'une mention dans le plan de cours.

Note: This course will help students in the BEALS program develop several “core professional competencies” as required for teacher training, notably 1, 2, 11, and 12. See the course plan on the class portal for details.