

ANG 7131 English-Canadian Literature in a Comparative Context/  
LIT 7111 Littérature d'expression anglaise V

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### Course Description

Dealing with the effects of anthropogenic changes to the natural environment and grappling with the ethical issues they pose are among the major issues of our time. As ecocritics have long been pointing out, cultural responses to these challenges offer valuable ways of exploring their complexities and imagining paths forward. While anxieties about the catastrophic consequences of harmful environmental damage have fuelled much public discourse around environmental problems, writers are increasingly exploring them across genres through a variety of modes, from the melancholic, apocalyptic, and post-apocalyptic to the meditative, darkly humorous and satiric. To allow for a comparative survey, this seminar will examine a sampling of recent novels, short stories, poems, and essays exploring two issues that have garnered much public attention: genetic modification and human-caused climate change. We will be scrutinizing the cultural work of literature in reflecting on the consequences of deleterious types of environmental change and on the forces propelling them as well as in intimating, weighing, and problematizing forms of mitigation, adaptation, resilience, and alternative futures.

### Objectives

- to introduce students to a range of Canadian literary texts that deal with anthropogenic changes to the natural environment,
- to familiarize students with some of the recent scholarship and critical concepts useful for the productive study of these types of texts;
- to assist students in the on-going development of their skills in independent research and analysis at the graduate level.

### Pedagogical Approach

Seminar presentations combined with roundtable discussions. Students are expected to read all assigned texts before class, participate weekly in class discussion, and engage in individual research and original analysis.

### Evaluation

Weekly Class Participation – 15%; One Seminar Presentation – 30%; Essay Proposal – 5%; Essay – 40%  
Formal Academic Talk– 10%

### Quality of Language

Quality of English will be one of the factors in evaluating the oral and written work of students registered under the ANG 7131 course number. Classes and group discussions will be held in English. Students registered in LIT 7111 may submit their written work and do their academic talk in French.

### Class Content (Complete Syllabus with Full List of Readings Provided in Class)

- Margaret Atwood. *Oryx and Crake*, *The Year of the Flood*, *MaddAddam*
  - Thomas King. *The Back of the Turtle*
  - Catriona Sandilands. *Rising Tides: Reflections for Climate-Changing Times*
- 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>

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#### Grading Scale (graduate level)

<b>Excellent:</b>	A+ = 94-100	A = 89-93	A- = 85-88	<b>Good:</b>	C+ = 72-74	C = 68-71
<b>Very Good:</b>	B+ = 82-84	B = 78-81	B- = 75-77	<b>Inadequate:</b>	E = 0-67	