

ANG 7130 Studies in Contemporary English-Canadian Literature /
LIT 7111 *Littérature d'expression anglaise V*
Narratives of Endangerment and Extinction

Course Description

Biodiversity has been identified as one of the pressing issues of our time. Scientists have delineated how direct and indirect human pressures on wild species and their habitats have put many non-human creatures at risk and accelerated the pace of species extinction beyond normal rates. While elegy and mourning have been identified as common cultural responses to the decimation and extirpation of wildlife populations, Canadian writers have also taken other approaches. This seminar will consider some of the ways endangerment and extinction have been conceptualized and problematized by scholars in extinction studies as well as some of the ways they have been imagined in Canadian literary texts ranging from the eco-memoir to the animal story, from psychological and historicized eco-conscious fiction and poetic contemplation to social dramas undergirded by non-human species loss or habitat fragmentation and reduction. The survey will run the gamut from the non-human centred text focussing on the vanishing species to the anthropocentric text exploring the psycho-social toll of the commercial extinction of a species. Matters addressed will include the type of species and endangerment scenarios privileged, the ways modes and genres are reworked to express cultural and psychological anxieties about the implications of past and impending losses, and how nature-culture entanglements are explored.

Objectives

- to introduce students to a range of Canadian literary texts that have grappled with non-human species endangerment and loss and, on occasion, set up parallels with human experiences of precarity,
- 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

This class will be structured around seminar presentations and 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

Class Participation – 10%; Presentation – 30%; Essay Proposal – 10%; Essay – 40%; 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 7130 course number. Classes and group discussions will be held in English. Students registered in LIT 7111 may submit their written work and do their presentation and academic talk in French.

Class Content (complete syllabus with full list of readings provided on class site)

- 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 (graduate level)						
Excellent:	A+ = 94-100	A = 89-93	A- = 85-88	Good:	C+ = 72-74	C = 68-71
Very Good:	B+ = 82-84	B = 78-81	B- = 75-77	Inadequate:	E = 0-67	