

ENGL 2225 Canadian Literature

General Information

Instructor: tjohnstone@langara.ca (Office: A303m)

Course Times: Online, Asynchronous

Credits: 3 (for information about transfer credit, visit bctransferguide.ca)

Course Description

If you have ever wondered “what is Canadian literature anyway?,” you are not alone. In fact, such questions are fundamental to literature by and about Canadians. In this survey course, we read a range of genres (scholarly articles, poetry, non-fiction, short fiction, and a novel), historical periods (19th - 21st century), regions (rural and urban), and subject matter (including ghosts, magic, adventure, nationhood, violence, loss, memory, and much more). We cover some conventional “classics” as well as more experimental and diverse perspectives within Canadian literature and criticism (with particular consideration of Indigenous cultures, multiculturalism, and cultural hybridity). We read literature by Canadians of African, Indigenous, East-Asian, European, Middle Eastern, and South-Asian descent, and we explore how Canadian writers have anticipated, answered, and even challenged Northrop Frye’s question of “where is here?”

Required Readings Provided as PDFs (*course texts are subject to change before the semester begins)

- **Secondary Sources (Scholarly Articles):**
 - Northrop Frye – “Conclusion to *A Literary History of Canada*”
 - Linda Hutcheon – “Eruptions of Postmodernity: The Postcolonial and the Ecological”
 - Kristina Fagan et al. – “Canadian Indian Literary Nationalism?: Critical Approaches in Canadian Indigenous Contexts – A Collaborative Interlogue”
- **Primary Sources (Short Poems and Stories):**
 - Charles GD Roberts – “The Mowing”
 - Duncan Campbell Scott – “The Onandaga Madonna”
 - Pauline Johnson – “The Song My Paddle Sings”
 - Irving Layton – “The Birth of Tragedy”
 - Earle Birney – “Bushed”
 - Margaret Atwood – “Dream 1: The Bush Garden”
 - Fred Wah – “Waiting for Saskatchewan”
 - George Elliott Clarke – “Nu(is)ance”
 - Ray Hsu – “Midas”
 - Amber Dawn – “Oral Tradition”
 - Evelyn Lau – TBA poem from *Cactus Gardens*
 - Rawi Hage – “The Whistle”

Required Course Texts (Novel-Length) to be Purchased through the Bookstore:

- Michael Ondaatje – *Running in the Family*
- Eden Robinson – *Monkey Beach*