



Department of English & Writing Studies
Canadian Literature and Multiculturalism
English 3572F (001)
Fall 2018

Instructor: Dr. D. Palmateer Pennee

Course Date/Time

Course Location: University College 2110

In other words, multiple cultures have always been core to the growth and development of Canada, even though “multiculturalism” (as an official policy and term) tends to be associated with Canadian identity in the later twentieth and early twenty-first centuries.

In this particular iteration of the course, we will consider continuities and discontinuities between “multiple cultures” and “multiculturalism,” between official and unofficial multiculturalism, and between “ethnicity,” “race,” and “diversity.” We will study a range of texts, in poetry and prose (fiction, non-fiction, excerpts, and full novels, including a graphic novel) from early in the twentieth century through to 2018. The required reading is necessarily limited by the 12 weeks of a .50 credit term of study and (thus) by the representation of only some of the many “heritage” and “new-comer” groups that constitute Canada. Despite this limitation, the concepts, phenomena, and relations to be studied will be “good to think with” for texts beyond this course, for understanding (some of) the history of Canada as represented and refracted in its literature and policies, and for thinking about some of the antecedents of today’s “globalization” and “global” literatures.

Examples of concepts, phenomena, and relations to be studied include “mosaic” and “melting pot,” bilingualism and multiculturalism, hyphenated and hybrid identities, universalisms and particularisms, nationalism, regionalism, and internationalism, immigrants of colour and Indigenous peoples, the politics of identity, the politics of recognition, intersectionality, and “critical multiculturalism.”

Teaching and learning will occur in class primarily through mini-lectures, discussion-based inquiry, and discussion-based knowledge sharing. Students are also encouraged to avail themselves of office hours for further learning opportunities.

An OWL course site will be used for the management of course materials, submission and return of assignments (unless otherwise noted), and communication (outside of class time) with the class as a whole during the term.

Objectives:

By the end of the course, successful students will have demonstrated the following learning outcomes (derived, as appropriate to this course, from the following learning outcomes for third-year study in the English program:

http://www.uwo.ca/english/undergraduate/courses/english_learning_outcomes.html)

Analytic Skills:

- an advanced ability to analyze a text’s rhetoric and form and to employ that analysis in a broader argument
- a developing ability

Communication Skills:

- a clear, concise and compelling prose style, free of technical errors
- a developing ability to structure a complex and engaging argument
- a developing ability to present one's own analysis within the context of a specific theoretical approach
- a developing ability to present one's own analysis while confidently engaging with existing scholarship
- a developing capacity to engage in class discussions and respond meaningfully to lecture material and peer discussion while using textual evidence as support
- a mastery of the format and citation method of academic writing

Research Skills:

- proficiency with the essential tools of literary scholarship and some of the more specialized tools for research in Canadian Literature
- an advanced appreciation of the use of citation in one's own work and within the critical tradition
- an advanced ability to critique, annotate, and review secondary sources appropriate to the course

Knowledge of Course Content:

- an increasingly advanced understanding of multicultural components of the Canadian literary tradition
- an advanced understanding and deployment of the language of literary analysis
- a developing facility with selected approaches, theories and techniques which can be applied to the study of literature

Course Materials

Note: The list of readings below is (partly) chronological by publication date, not necessarily by content or according to the order in which the texts will be studied; a weekly schedule will be posted to the OWL course site for the order of discussion of the required reading, not later than the beginning of classes. This schedule may be subject to small changes over the term, depending on the pace of learning and in consultation with the class; at no point will any changes in schedule result in students being required to submit work for grades earlier than the originally-posted schedule of due dates.

Required Reading:

- Emily Ferguson [Murphy], excerpts from *Janey Canuck in the West* (1910) and *The Black Candle* (1922) (Course Readings, Western Libraries)
- Laura Goodman Salverson, excerpts from _____ (1939) (Course Readings, Western Libraries)
- Vera Lysenko, excerpts from *Yellow Boots* (1954) (novel) (Course Readings, Western Libraries)
- John Marlyn, *Under the Ribs of Death* (1957) (novel)
- F.G. Paci, *Black Madonna* (1982) (novel)
- Fred Wah, *Diamond Grill* (1996) ("bio-text")
- David Chariandy, *Brother* (2017) (novel)
- GG, _____ (2018) (graphic novel)
- Canadian Multiculturalism Act (1988; June 2018) at <http://laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/PDF/C-18.7.pdf>
- Other (shorter) required readings will be available on-line through the Course Readings service provided by Western Libraries. We will read short stories, poetry, and essays by, for example, Austin Clarke, George Elliott Clarke, Himani Bannerji, Ven Begamudré, Hiromi Goto, Roy Kiyooka, Shani Mootoo, Nice Rodriguez, Shyam Selvadurai, and Rita Wong.

We will also read a small number of secondary texts in literary criticism, history, political science, popular culture, and government policy (via Course Readings, Western Libraries). There is no additional cost for the required on-line readings: the cost is already covered in fees

Timetable

Plagiarism Checking:

All required papers may be subject to submission for textual similarity review to the commercial plagiarism detection software under license to the University for the detection of plagiarism. All papers submitted for such checking will be included as source dnd-3(er)9(ci)5(al)6(u 0 612 795.92 6T-4()-4(A.9