

Department of English & Writing Studies

**Canadian Literature Survey
English 2501E (001)**

Instructor: D. Palmateer Pennee

Course Day/Time: M 12:30-2:30; V

Course Location: Kresge Building 103

Delivery Type: Lecture, discussion
(synchronous if we need to go online)

Antirequisites: [English 2354E](#), [English 2356F/G](#) and [English 3774E](#).

Prerequisites: At least 60% in 1.0 of English 1020-1999 or permission of the Department.
*nt to your fees in the
event that you are dropped from a course for failing to have the necessary prerequisites.*

Course Description

What does literature tell us about the making of a nation and its citizens? Spanning the period from imperial exploration to Confederation to the present day, this course examines Canada's vibrant literary culture. Students will encounter a diverse range of genres and authors, from accounts of early explorers to current internationally acclaimed and award-winning writers. The course includes a number of BIPOC (Black, Indigenous, and People of Colour) and Queer writers.

Classes proceed by a combination of short lectures and guided discussions, for which students

Objectives:

By the end of the course, successful students will be able to:

- **know** (i.e., to identify, recognize, recall), **comprehend**, and **analyze** examples of Canadian Literature and examples of affiliated contextual texts (government documents, literary criticism, etc.);
- **apply, synthesize, and communicate** your knowledge, comprehension, and analyses in discussion and in writing;
- **evaluate** others' analyses of the materials studied and materials similar to what we have studied;
- **understand** how your own research essay can be in conversation with other readers-as-scholars
- **improve and develop** writing skills through frequent, short written analyses and the longer research essay
- **scrutinize** your own writing for accuracy, brevity, and clarity of style
- **conduct research** in Western Libraries information ecosystem
- **prepare a bibliography** in the most recent MLA (Modern Language Association) format
- **prepare an annotated bibliography** of best sources for your research paper
- **write a research paper** that is in conversation with current scholarship in literary studies
- **understand** how literary scholarship represents the discipline of literary studies in university settings, i.e., how scholars produce disciplinary knowledge about literature;
- **appreciate** how when studied for form and content at once, literary works both *reflect* and *refract* knowledge about Canada

Course Materials

Note: Western's Bookstore has the required novels for this course in the recommended editions (so that we can all be on the same page, literally, for in-class discussions): some of the texts

Methods of Evaluation

The grade for the course will be arrived at as follows:

Across Both Fall and Winter Terms:

30% for Informed Participation, measured by i) signs of preparedness for class in the form of one-paragraph responses to a Study Question, submitted before class; and ii) informed contributions to class discussions or one-on-one conversation with the instructor.

Your preparedness for sound class participation will take the form of 4 RATS (Readiness Achievement Trials) in each term, i.e., a total of 8 fully-developed paragraph responses to 8 Study Questions across the year. The best 6 of 8 will count towards this 30%. You also always have an are encouraged to use the opportunity to show your engagement with the course readings and classmates' ideas during class time.

RATS study questions will be available for all classes to help you prepare for class, but you will be in charge of choosing a Study Question to answer *and* when to submit your choice of 4 RATS each term. You are strongly advised to spread the due dates for your RATS out across the term (e.g., Weeks 2, 4, 6, 8, or Weeks 3, 5, 7, 9) to benefit from feedback. If you submit all 4 in the final couple of weeks of each term, you run the risk of not getting feedback in time to help you improve your work.

A further note on participation in class: the instructor does not take attendance, but be aware that absenteeism will be observed and may adversely affect your ability to succeed in the course. Students who for whatever reason are reluctant to participate in class will nevertheless be able to show their engagement with the course materials through their written RATS and, if desired, through conversing with the instructor in the less public space of office hours. Obversely, students who speak often in class but without evidence of having read the required readings, will not necessarily improve their participation grade beyond what they earn through their written RATS. Wherever you may be on the spectrum of introversion to extroversion, or discomfort and comfort with speaking in class, you are in charge of your own participation grade. Good questions about the readings also constitute evidence of engagement!

Fall Term: In addition to the 4 RATS submissions for this term, you will submit one short analytical essay:

10% for a 1,000-word essay (a close reading of some aspect of a single work of literature: topics will be provided)

Together, these required stages of work will chart the development of your search skills and demand that you attend to the relationship between your research process and the reading-thinking-rereading-writing-thinking-rewriting process. In other words, together these required components

Additional Course Policies

Formatting and Handing in Out-of-Class work: All out-of-class written work must be formatted according to the MLA 8th edition. All out-of-class written work must be submitted to your OWL Dropbox. You do not need to install anything on your PC or laptop to use the OWL Dropbox: it is already a feature of OWL. (This instructor does not use the Assignments tool in OWL because it is not sensitive to students having a choice of due dates for the same category of assignment.)

Late Penalties: If you need an extension, ask for it in advance. Late papers for which no extension has been sought or no academic consideration approved will lose marks at the rate of 10% of the value of the late assignment per day or part thereof late. For example, an essay worth 15% that is submitted 1.5 days late will lose 3 marks (10% of 15% is 1.5; 1.5 x 1 day and part of one day late is 1.5 + 1.5 = 3 marks). (Your paper would be worth a maximum of 12% prior to grading.)

Email: The instructor generally responds quickly via e-mail, but will not necessarily respond to e-mails after 6pm or on weekends. (Would you expect to be able to speak by phone with your professor after 6pm or on the weekend? Probably not. Consider e-mail the same way.)

Office Hours: Unless announced otherwise (e.g., when everyone needs to meet with me to discuss their choice of novel and topic for their research essays), you do not need to book a time during office hours to meet with the instructor. Just drop in! Office hours are a chance to ask questions that you didn't think of during class, or to follow up on a discussion that you wanted to contribute to but didn't feel comfortable talking in the classroom that day, or to seek clarification of ideas that come up in class, or to help develop your understanding of a topic, an idea, a reading, a figurative device, by "trying it out" on someone else, etc. Or, you can just stop in to say hello and share how things are going for you during the term! If you have a scheduling conflict with Office Hours, e-mail the instructor to arrange an alternative time to meet.

Laptops/devices: You are advised to bring a laptop or tablet to class for access to course readings that are online (i.e., if you choose not to print readings from Course Readings or prefer to read on screen rather than use paper). You are welcome to take notes on your device, though research has shown that handwriting helps us to remember the material more effectively.

Reminder about Participation: The instructor does not take attendance, but be aware that absenteeism will be observed and may adversely affect your ability to succeed in the course.

Trigger Warnings: Your instructor does not use trigger warnings and is not a trained therapist. Western offers ready access to counsellors for any ongoing needs you may have from incidents in your life that may be triggered by course readings. By definition, critical thinking cannot occur, cannot be developed or accomplished, without encountering unfamiliar things and sometimes familiar things that become uncomfortable or difficult through a critical encounter with the course readings. Negative affects may arise from some of our readings, even for those who do not expect trigger warnings.

Accommodation Policies

Students with disabilities work with Accessible Education (formerly SSD) which provides recommendations for accommodation based on medical documentation or psychological and cognitive testing. The accommodation policy can be found here: [Academic Accommodation for Students with Disabilities](#).

Students seeking academic accommodation on medical grounds for any missed tests, exams, participation components and/or assignments worth (either alone or in combination) 10% or more of their final grade must apply to the Academic Counselling office of their home Faculty and provide documentation. Academic accommodation cannot be granted by the instructor or department.

Documentation shall be submitted, as soon as possible, to the Office of the Dean of the student's Faculty of registration, together with a request for relief specifying the nature of the accommodation being requested. The Student Medical Certificate (SMC) can be found at https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/medicalform.pdf.

The full policy is set out here:

https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/accommodation_medical.pdf.

Religious Accommodation:

Students should consult the University's list of recognized religious holidays, and should give reasonable notice in writing, prior to the holiday, to the Instructor and an Academic Counsellor if their course requirements will be affected by a religious observance. Additional information is given in the [Western e](#)

Support Services

Registrarial Services <http://www.registrar.uwo.ca>

Student Support Services <https://student.uwo.ca/psp/heprdweb/?cmd=login>

Services provided by the USC <http://westernusc.ca/services/>

Academic Support & Engagement <http://www.sdc.uwo.ca/>

Students who are in emotional/mental distress should refer to MentalHealth@Western:
<http://www.uwo.ca/uwocom/mentalhealth/> for a complete list of options about how to obtain help.

Timetable

(a weekly schedule will be available in the OWL Course Site not later than the first week of classes):

As noted above, 5 assignments are due in the fall term:

- 4 RATS (recommended timetable is to submit them in Weeks 2, 4, 6, and 8 or Weeks 3, 5, 7, and 9, though the choice of due dates is yours: none will be accepted after the last day of classes of the fall term)
- 1 x 1,000-word analytical essay due approximately the middle of term

As noted above, 5 assignments are due in the winter term, plus a comprehensive final examination (scheduled by the Registrar's office):

- 4 RATS (recommended timetable is to submit them in Weeks 2, 4, 6, and 8 or Weeks 3, 5, 7, and 9, though the choice of due dates is yours: none will be accepted after the last day of classes of the winter term)
- 1 x 2,500-3000-word analytical research essay (with multiple components spread across the winter term): due date Week 10