

Department of English & Writing Studies

Seminar in Canadian Literature: Diaspora in the Works of Dionne Brand
English 4570F (001)
Fall 2022

Instructor: D. Palmateer Pennee

Course Day/Time: Th 12:30-3:30pm

Course Location: UC 4401

Delivery Type: Seminar (synchronous if we must move to Zoom online learning)

Prerequisites: 1.0 from English 3000-3999 or permission of the Department.

An Official Message about your eligibility for this course:

Unless you have either the requisites for this course or written special permission from your
, temporality ; form, reading, embodiment, affect;

autobiography, historiography, memory, phenomenology; race, gender, sexuality, class, language. We will study together how creative work is a form of theorizing as well as aesthetic practice, and we will do so across a range of genres, with particular attention to the “poetic” elements of Brand’s work in her prose, including one work of non-fiction prose, *A Map to the Door of No Return*.

Questions to be pursued together include: How does her writing represent what she calls “this inexplicable space” into which slaves and their descendants stepped through “the door of no return,” the space of the diaspora created by slavery and permeated by racism and white supremacy but also by Black resistance and refusal? How might we understand Brand’s (selected) work as “a map” to this “door of no return”? How does her work facilitate understanding of “this inexplicable space”? How does her work represent *being* and *knowing* in this space? How do the formal properties of her work contribute to our understanding of the particularities of “diaspora” for Black people, past and present? How might Brand’s theorizing and practice of diaspora entail futurity for those who live in “this inexplicable space”?

Accordingly, students will be required to read the selected Brand texts alongside selected secondary sources (journal articles, book chapters) about Brand's work and/or about key terms. A scholarly monograph, inspired in part by Brand's work, particularly by *A Map to the Door of No Return*, will be required reading as well: our engagements with this monograph, Christina Sharpe's *In the Wake: On Blackness and Being*, will help to hone our understanding of methodology as situated approaches to creative and other forms of work. Likewise, reading of selected prose essays by Brand herself will help to illuminate methods in her poetry and fiction.

The course will proceed as much as possible as a seminar, which is to say with significant informed participation during class time by all members of the class. The honing of abilities to speak about the required readings is a significant objective of the course, not only to communicate clearly and in detail, but also to be able to speculate aloud in the classroom, i.e., to consider implications arising from discussion as it occurs. Informed listening will accompany informed speaking, of course.

Everyone is expected to come to class. 7-2 (e), 4.2 (not), 4.3 (on), 2.6 (y)-2 () 11.3 (t) 007 Tw 0.283 0(d6o.6

Seminar in Canadian Literature:

Intellectual Property/Copyright

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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 as well as familiar things that become uncomfortable or difficult through a critical encounter with the course readings. Negative affects may arise from our readings, even for those who have not experiences that lead to the expectation of trigger warnings.

See further official departmental and University policies and supports below.

Accommodation Policies

Students with disabilities work with Accessible Education (formerly SSD) which provides recommendations to (epw) (0) 54 (0) 35 2 x BDC ohmo0.489 0 Td ()Tj -0.005 T3 -0.002 Tda 0 Td (c)Tj (i)T

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 documents in the reference database for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of papers subsequently submitted to the