

**Carleton University
Fall/Winter 2013-14
Department of English**

ENGL 2802A: *Canadian Literatures*

**Monday and Wednesday / 11:30 – 1
Fall Southam 413, Winter Southam 515**

**Instructor: Jennifer Henderson
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Phone: 613-520-2600 x2367
Office Hours: **Monday** 1:30 to 3:30**

Course description:

This course provides an introduction to Canadian literature with an emphasis on the themes and debates that have shaped a changing national culture. This historical emphasis is paired with a stress on the multiplicity of Canada's literary subcultures. Most of the works we study were written in English, with the exception of a few translations. We read a variety of forms and genres including exploration and travel narratives, short fiction, novels, comics, poetry, essays, and song lyrics. These are often combined with contextualizing material: legislation, newspaper articles, visual art, advertisements from the period. We proceed chronologically, but we occasionally interrupt this path with recent texts that re-imagine earlier historical texts and contexts. Lectures, discussions, and writing assignments explore the ways in which national identity is constructed and contested.

The course is designated as a **writing-attentive course**, which means we devote some class time and several assignments to honing writing and research skills specific to the discipline of literature. In addition to providing you with a broad introductory knowledge of Canadian literature, the course will advance your skills in writing coherent paragraphs, focused thesis statements, and clear lines of argument; revising your writing; reading literary language and form perceptively; locating and summarizing critical sources; and constructing a comparative analysis of literary texts.

Required texts: Please note that one or two of the novels on this list may be subject to change prior to September. You will need *both* volumes of the course's anthology at the start of the year. Books will be available at the Carleton University Bookstore. Copies will also be put on reserve at MacOdrum library for 24-hour loans.

Sugars, Cynthia and Laura Moss, eds., *Canadian Literature in English: Texts and Contexts*, Volumes 1 and 2 (Pearson Longman])
Ostenso, Martha. *Wild Geese* [1925] (M&S])
Lemire, Jeff. *The Complete Essex County* [2009] (Top Shelf)

Roy, Gabrielle. *The Tin Flute* [1945] (M&S)
Joy Kogawa, *Obasan* [1983](Penguin)

EVALUATION AND ASSIGNMENTS (NOTE: MAY BE SUBJECT TO CHANGE)

Reading quizzes	10%
Short writing assignment	10%
Revisions to writing assignment	5%
Essay 1	15%
Annotated bibliography	15%
Essay 2	20%
Final examination	25%

DETAILS OF ASSIGNMENTS AND EVALUATION

Quizzes	10% Grade is based on your best 10 out of a total of 12 unannounced in-class reading quizzes in the course of the year. (NOTE: There will be no opportunities for making up missed quizzes if you miss a class for any reason)
Short writing assignment	10% , due: Wed. Oct. 2nd 2-4 paragraphs on a single text, 400-500 words Effective use of topic sentences, paragraph coherence and sense of development
Revisions to writing assignment	5% , due: Mon. Oct. 21st
Essay 1	15% , due Wed. Nov. 20th 1000 words, MLA format, approx. 4 pages double-spaced. Analysis of a passage, demonstrating close reading skills, and precise thesis statement.
Thesis & Annotated Bibliography assignment	15% , due date: Mon. Feb. 24th Statement of your focus. Location of two relevant and appropriate pieces of literary criticism. Summaries of their arguments and statements of how you will engage with them in your essay. Formulation of precise thesis statement.

Essay 2

20%, due date: **Monday March 31st**

2000 words, MLA format, approx.. 8 pages

Comparative essay. Questions will be handed out.

Final examination

25%, covers material from both terms; includes

short answers, close reading of passages,

comparative essay. During scheduled examination period in April.

CLASS RULES AND REGULATIONS

Attendance and participation: Come to class with the assigned readings done **in advance** and **in hand**, and be ready to discuss them. Attendance of lectures is mandatory and I will take attendance in each class. You should not miss a lecture without a compelling reason. **If you miss more than four lectures in a term (without medical documentation), you will not be permitted to write the final examination.** You should take good notes on the lectures and class discussions.

Basic preparation for class: Do not simply skim the texts; **read attentively.** Note the elements you find interesting or striking. Think about connections to other texts or to issues we have been discussing in class.

Classroom etiquette: All cell phones must be turned off in the classroom. Laptops are permitted for note-taking *only* (no browsing, Facebooking, etc.) and any student found to be using the laptop for a purpose other than note-taking will be asked to leave and will thereafter lose the privilege of bringing a laptop to class.

Email etiquette: The best way to speak with me is in person, right after class or during my office hours. Email may be used for brief messages. If you have a substantive question about a text, an assignment, or the course material please stop by my office (Dunton 1911) during my office hours on Wed. 1:30 to 3:30 or arrange an appointment for another time. Any email communication with me should have the subject line ENGL2802.

Submission of assignments: All assignments are due on the dates indicated, **but can be submitted without penalty until 8:00 a.m. the following day.** Assignments submitted outside of class time should be left in the English Department's drop-box on the 18th floor of Dunton Tower, located just to the left of the main office when you step off the elevator. Make sure my name is on the front page. Please keep a back-up copy of every assignment. Do not submit assignments by email; I will only grade hard copies.

Penalties for late assignments: The one day extension mentioned above is a **blanket extension granted to everyone, without need for prior communication with me.** Because I grant that extension, **all** assignments submitted later than 8 a.m. the day

following the official due date will be penalized 1/3 of a letter grade per day. Exceptions will only be granted in the rare case of a documented medical emergency or the death of an immediate family member. I will not accept work that is more than two weeks late. In cases of medical emergency or death in the family, please contact me by email a.s.a.p. to arrange an alternate due date and note that I will require written documentation from a doctor. Submit late papers to the English Department drop-box where they will be date-stamped when received. Make sure my name is on the front page.

Exams and airplane ticket bookings: The Registrar's Office does not set specific exam dates until well into each term. Plan to be in town during the final examination period. Exams will not be rescheduled for those students who take on other commitments during the exam period.

Grades: Grades for written work will be based on insightfulness, presentation of focused ideas supported by textual evidence, effective organization of ideas, clarity of expression, correct use of MLA style, spelling, and grammar. The following percentage equivalents will be used when calculating your final grade for this class:

A+ = 90; A/A+=88; A=85; A-/A=83; A-=80
B+/A-=79; B+=77; B/B+=75; B=73; B-/B=72; B-=70
C+/B-=69; C+=67; C/C+=65; C=63; C-/C=62; C-=60
D+/C-=59; D+=57; D/D+=55; D=53; D-/D=52; D-=50
F=0-49 (a numerical grade will be assigned for any paper receiving an F)

Plagiarism: Plagiarism means passing off someone else's words or ideas as your own or submitting the same work in two different academic contexts. The most common forms of plagiarism include unacknowledged copying from secondary sources, purchasing papers online or from essay-writing services, or having another person write a paper for you. Do not take these risks. The consequences of plagiarism are severe and are issued by the Dean and the University Senate. In order to avoid plagiarism, you must clearly and correctly attribute the specific source of quotations, phrasings, and ideas you pick up from books, the internet, and other people. Acknowledging the sources for your writing is considered a crucial part of scholarship and does not suggest that you are unoriginal; rather, it shows that you are responsible and honest about how your own writing builds on the work of others. For additional information, consult the section on Instructional Offenses in the *Undergraduate Calendar*.

Academic accommodations policy:

If you need special arrangements to meet your academic obligations during the term due to pregnancy, religious obligation, or disability, the processes to be followed for an accommodation request are:

Pregnancy obligation: write to me with any requests for academic accommodation during the first two weeks of class, or as soon as possible after the need for accommodation is known to exist. For more details visit the Equity Services website <http://www2.carleton.ca/equity/accommodation/>

Religious obligation: write to me with any requests for academic accommodation during the first two weeks of class, or as soon as possible after the need for accommodation is known to exist. For more details visit the Equity Services website

<http://www2.carleton.ca/equity/accommodation/>

Students with disabilities requiring academic accommodations in this course must register with the Paul Menton Centre for Students with Disabilities (PMC) for a formal evaluation of disability-related needs. Documented disabilities could include but are not limited to mobility/physical impairments, specific Learning Disabilities (LD), psychiatric/psychological disabilities, sensory disabilities, Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD), and chronic medical conditions. Registered PMC students are required to contact the PMC, 613-520-6608, every term to ensure that I receive your Letter of Accommodation, no later than two weeks before the first assignment is due or the first in-class test/midterm requiring accommodations. If you only require accommodations for your formally scheduled exam(s) in this course, please submit your request for accommodations to PMC by the deadlines published on the PMC website: <http://www2.carleton.ca/pmc/new-and-current-students/dates-and-deadlines/>

Other learning services at Carleton:

Learning Support Services (LSS): offers students academic skills workshops and information sessions, study rooms, a tutor referral service, and peer helpers. Visit the LSS on the 4th floor of the MacOdrum Library or www.carleton.ca/lss

Career Development and Cooperative Education (CDCE): career development, employment preparation, experiential learning opportunities for Carleton students. The Career and Resource Centre is located at 401 Tory (613-520-6611). The Co-op and Employer Centre is at 1400 Carleton Technology and Training Centre (613-520-4331).

LECTURE AND READING SCHEDULE

Unless otherwise indicated, page numbers refer to *Canadian Literature in English* anthology with Volume 1 or 2 indicated before the page numbers. **Please bring the relevant readings with you to every class.**

Mon. Sept. 9

Introduction to the course: the nation and literature

Preparatory reading Vol. 1: 15-32: Who/What/Where Is Here?
Vol. 2: 703: Molson Canada, "I Am Canadian" (plus Art
Napoleon, "My Name is Joe and I am... Indigenous," to be
viewed in class)

Wed. Sept. 11

First Nations literature: Whose maps, whose home?

Vol. *2*: 578-89: King, "Borders"
33: Fig 1
37: Fig 6

Mon. Sept. 16

First Nations literature: Origin stories

Vol. *1*: 1-13: Maracle, "The First Words"

Wed. Sept. 18	<u>Exploration literature</u> Vol 1: 41-51: Cartier, from <i>The Voyages of Jacques Cartier</i> 34-35: Figs 2, 3
Mon. Sept. 23	Vol. 1: 51-56: de Champlain, from <i>Voyages</i> 70-81: Hearne, from <i>A Journey from Prince of Wales' Fort</i> 36: Figs 4, 5 Short writing assignment distributed
Wed. Sept. 25	Workshop on writing polished paragraphs
Mon. Sept. 30	Vol. 1: 56-60: <i>The Jesuit Relations</i> 61-62: de Brébeuf, "The Huron Carol"
Wed. Oct. 2	Vol. 1: 90-102: Franklin, from <i>Narrative of a Journey to the Shores of the Polar Sea</i> 103-07: Inuit testimony 40: Fig 10 ***Short writing assignment due***
Mon. Oct. 7	<u>Canadian Gothic</u> Vol. 1: 237-39: Shanly, "The Walker in the Snow" 140: Fig 9 348 – 49: Campbell, "The Winter Lakes"
Wed. Oct. 9	<u>Narratives of Emigration and Settlement:</u> Vol. *2*: 441-46: Atwood, from <i>The Journals of Susanna Moodie</i> Vol 2: 247: Fig 7 Vol. *1*: 208-30: Moodie, from <i>Roughing It in the Bush</i> 138-39: Figs 7, 8 Short writing assignments returned to you
Mon. Oct. 14	NO CLASS
Wed. Oct. 16	Vol. 1: 135-36: Figs 4, 5 Vol. 1: 193- 208: Traill, from <i>The Backwoods of Canada</i> 244-50: Shadd, "A Plea for Emigration"
Mon. Oct. 21	<u>The Black Maritimes</u> Vol. *1*: 147-53: King, from <i>Memoirs of the Life of Boston King</i> Vol. *2*: 658-62 Clarke, "Rose Vinegar," "Blank Sonnet" and "Bio: Black Baptist/Bastard" ***Revisions to short writing assignment due***

Wed. Oct. 23

The settler ideal of “progress”

Vol. 1: 161-75: Goldsmith, "The Rising Village"
141-44: Anonymous, "Advice to Mrs. Mowat"

Mon. Oct. 28 and Wed. Oct. 30 NO CLASSES

Mon. Nov. 4

Satire

Vol. 1: 186-93: Haliburton, from *The Clockmaker*
490-514: Leacock, "The Marine Excursion of the Knights
of Pythias"

Questions for Essay 1 distributed

Wed. Nov. 6

Indigenous prose

Vol. 1: 239-44: Copway, from *Life, History and Travels of Kah-
ge-ga-gah-bowh*

Vol. 1: 144-47: Brant, Letter to Capt. Green

Workshop on thesis statements and effective use of textual
evidence

Mon. Nov. 11

Promises and Treaties, Diaries: Whose record?

Vol. 1: 437-40: Scott, "The Last of the Indian Treaties"

Vol. 1: 292: Fig 19

Vol. *2*: 648-49: Ruffo, "Poem for Duncan Campbell Scott"

In class: CBC radio podcast, "George McMartin's Big Canoe
Trip"

Wed. Nov. 13

A New Nation

Vol. 1: 277: Fig 4

315-17: Muir, "The Maple Leaf Forever"

345-46: Crawford, "Canada to England"

Mon. Nov. 18

A National Literature?

Vol. 1: 305-06: McGee, "Protection for Canadian Literature"

380-82: Duncan, "American Influence on Canadian Thought"

340-45: Crawford: "The City Tree," "The Camp of Souls"

Wed. Nov. 20

Vol. 1: 356-58: Roberts, "The Tantramar Revisited"

416-19: Lampman, "The Railway Station," "The City of the End of
Things"

Mon. Nov. 25

Vol. 1: 318-24: *The Indian Act*

427: Scott, "The Onondaga Madonna"

400: Johnson, "The Corn Husker"

290-91: Figs 17-18

*****Essay 1 due*****

Wed. Nov. 27 **Paddling Poems**
Vol. 1: 396-97: Johnson, "The Song My Paddle Sings"
431-32: Scott, "Night Hymns on Lake Nipigon"

Mon. Dec. 2 **Nation and Immigration**
Vol. 1: 471 Fig 5, 287 Fig 14
475-78: Sifton, "The Immigrants Canada Wants"
Ostenso, *Wild Geese*, 1-150

Wed. Dec. 4 **The novel: romance and realism**
Wild Geese, 151-end

Mon. Dec. 9 Finish discussion of *Wild Geese* and Fall term review

DECEMBER BREAK

Mon. Jan. 6 **Modernism**
In-class film screening: *Winds of Heaven: Emily Carr, Carvers and the Spirits of the Forest* (dir. Michael Ostroff, 2010)

Wed. Jan. 8 Vol. *2*: 36 – 40: Carr, "Ucluelet"

Mon. Jan. 13 Vol. 2: 27 – 30: (figs)
96 – 102: Smith, "The Lonely Land" (both versions), "A Rejected Preface"

Wed. Jan. 15 Vol. 2: 85 – 91: Scott: "The Canadian Authors Meet," "Laurentian Shield," "The Canadian Social Register"

Mon. Jan. 20 Vol. *1*: 280-83 Figs 7, 8, 9
Vol. *2*: 55-66, Pratt, from *Towards the last Spike*
Vol. 2: 91, F. R. Scott, "All the Spikes But the Last"
Thesis & annotated bibliography assignment handed out

Wed. Jan. 22 Vol. 2: 164-68: Livesay, "Day and Night"

Mon. Jan. 27 Vol 2: 153-58: Klein, "Portrait of the Poet as Landscape"

Wed. Jan. 29 **Realism**
Vol. 2: 135-49: Ross, "The Painted Door"

Mon. Feb. 3 Roy, *The Tin Flute*

Wed. Feb. 5	Roy, <i>The Tin Flute</i>
Mon. Feb. 10	<u>Cultural nationalism:</u> Vol. 2: 204 – 11: Excerpt from <i>The Massey Report</i> 114 – 24: Birney, “Anglosaxon Street,” “Can.Lit” 249: Fig. 9
Wed. Feb. 12	Vol. 2: 269-71: Grant, from <i>Lament for a Nation</i> 271 – 83: Purdy, “The Country North of Belleville” 465 – 76: Lee, from <i>Civil Elegies</i>
Feb. 17, 19	WINTER BREAK, no classes this week
Mon. Feb. 24	<u>Rereading Canadian myths of masculinity</u> Vol 2: 189-90: Le Pan, “Coureurs de Bois” Purdy, “Hockey Players” (to be distributed in class) Thesis & annotated bibliography assignment due
Wed. Feb. 26	<u>Inheritances</u> Vol. 2: 384 – 96: Wiebe, “Where Is the Voice Coming From?” 300-16: Laurence, “A Bird in the House” Questions for Essay 2 handed out
Mon. Mar. 3	Vol. 2: 336 – 51: Munro, “Meneseteung” 245: Fig. 5
Wed. Mar. 5	Lemire, <i>The Complete Essex County</i>
Mon. Mar. 10	Lemire, <i>The Complete Essex County</i>
Wed. Mar. 12	Vol. 2: 323 – 34: Kroetsch, “Stone Hammer Poem” 631-37: Brand, “Blues Spiritual for Mammy Prater”
Mon. Mar. 17	Vol. 2 : 477-84: Campbell, “Jacob” Vol. *1*: 324-25: <i>The Indian Act</i> (revised statutes, 1927)
Wed. Mar. 19	<u>Unfinished histories</u> Kogawa, <i>Obasan</i> : 1-61 Vol 2: 31 – 32: (figs)
Mon. Mar. 24	<i>Obasan</i> : 62 – 188
Wed. Mar. 26	<i>Obasan</i> : 189 - end
Mon. Mar. 31	<u>Multiculturalism</u>

Vol. 2: 545: *Canadian Multiculturalism Act*
541: Fig 3
558 – 63: Wah, from *Diamond Grill*

Essay 2 due

Wed. Apr. 2

Postmodernism

Vol. 2: 373-81: Cohen, "A Kite Is a Victim," "Suzanne Takes You Down" and "How to Speak Poetry"
500-01: Ondaatje, "Spider Blues"

Mon. Apr. 7

Ecopoetics

Vol. 2: 568 – 70, 573-78: McKay, "Close-Up on a Sharp-Shinned Hawk," "Load," from "Baler Twine"
693 – 94: Wong, "nervous organism" and "canola queasy"

Final examination (25%), date TBA