

**Carleton University
Fall/Winter 2015-16
Department of English**

ENGL 2802B: Canadian Literatures
Prerequisite(s): 1.0 credit in ENGL at the 1000 level.

Tuesdays and Thursdays/ 1:05pm-2:25pm
Location: Please confirm location on Carleton Central

Instructor: Dr. Sara Jamieson
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Office: 1819 Dunton Tower
Phone: (613) 520-2600 ext. 2431
Office Hours: Thursdays 3-4; Fridays 11-12

Course Description: This course introduces you to a wide variety of Canadian texts including novels and graphic novels, plays, ghost stories, poetry, popular songs, short stories and sketches, films, and exploration narratives. Through reading, writing, and discussion, the class will explore the ways in which these texts articulate multiple narratives of Canadian history and identity.

Please note that English 2802 is a writing attentive course. In English 2802, “writing attentive” means the following:

Students will write at least one examination.

Students will write a number of formal essays in which they are expected to do the following:

- *develop a thesis statement across each essay
- *develop complex ideas using correct and effective expression, according to academic English practice
- *develop literary reading skills through close analysis of poetry and/or prose passages
- *use and cite evidence from primary texts appropriately
- *develop secondary research and citation skills
- *a portion of class time will be devoted to developing an improving essay writing skills and research essay skills

Note: prerequisites include a 1000-level credit in English or second-year standing.

Reading List:

(texts available at Haven Books, 43 Seneca St., [613] 730-9888)

Laura Moss and Cynthia Sugars, eds. *Canadian Literature in English: Texts and Contexts* (2 volumes)

Paul Quarrington, *King Leary*

Joseph Boyden, *Three Day Road*

L.M. Montgomery, *Emily of New Moon*

Jeff Lemire, *Essex County* (graphic novel)

Lynn Coady, *Hellgoing*

Djanet Sears, *The Adventures of a Black Girl in Search of God* (will be available at Haven Books in time for Winter Term)

Highly recommended: *MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers*, 7th Ed.

Assignments and Evaluation:

Term One:

Quiz: 10% **Thursday, September 24**

Close reading assignment: 10% **Due Thursday, October 8**

Assignment in connection with Munro Beattie Lecture: 5% (**submit no later than one week after the lecture on October 21**) **OR** Quiz (5%) **Thursday, October 22**

Close reading assignment: **10% Due Thursday, November 26**

Class Contribution: 5%

Term Two:

In-class Essay **OR** Seminar Presentation **OR** Poetry Recitation: 10%

Bibliographic Assignment: 5% **Due Tuesday, March 15**

Research Essay: 15% **Due Thursday, March 31**

Final Exam: 25% (scheduled exam period)

Class Contribution: 5%

Bonus Marks:

During the year, you will have the opportunity to earn bonus marks for attending literary events outside class time. Please provide proof of attendance and one mark will be added to your final grade for the course. These events include:

The Ottawa International Writers Festival, October 22-29 (attend ONE Writers Festival event to earn one mark) See <http://www.writersfestival.org> for details.

Writers Festival events are FREE for Carleton students. Use your student card to purchase tickets online or at the door.

Versefest: A World of Poetry in Ottawa (dates TBA; usually held in March) Attend ONE Versefest event and ONE mark will be added to your grade.

Versefest events are FREE for Carleton students. Use your student card to purchase tickets online or at the door.

The Adventures of a Black Girl in Search of God performance at National Arts Centre, 53 Elgin St., at Confederation Square. October 21 to November 7. (50% discount available for students who purchase tickets in person with valid student ID at the NAC box office; LiveRush tickets available for \$12 on the day of performance; see NAC website for details: <http://nac-cna.ca/en/>).

Description of Major Assignments:

Fall Term:

Close Reading Assignments: Topics for these will be made available well in advance of the due date. Your assignment should be 4-5 pages in length. It should have a thesis

statement, and develop a coherent and thoughtful argument supported by examples from the primary text(s). As these are close reading assignments intended to help you in developing your skills in the analysis of primary texts, secondary sources are not permitted. Correct use of MLA format and correct grammar, spelling, and punctuation are required.

Assignment in connection with Munro Beattie Lecture: This assignment requires you to attend the 2015-16 Munro Beattie Lecture featuring Giller Prize-winning novelist Joseph Boyden. The event is free of charge, and takes place on Wednesday Oct. 21 in the Kailash Mital Theatre in Southam Hall at 7pm. Within a week of the event, you must submit a two-three page (12 pt. font, double spaced) response paper in which you describe and reflect on Boyden's lecture. **Students who are unable to attend this event can instead earn the 5% of the course grade by writing a quiz on a selection of the required texts instead.**

Winter Term:

Choose ONE of the following three options:

In-Class Essay: Write an essay on one of the topics that I will provide on the day of the essay. **Compare** the work of two authors in this essay. You may choose from any of the authors on the course list. This is an open book exercise, so you will need to quote directly from the texts that you discuss.

Presentations:

All presentations should be no shorter than 10 minutes and no longer than 15 minutes. Choose a **short work** (a poem, a very short essay or story or prose passage) from either volume of the Sugars and Moss anthology and teach it to the class. This will include a detailed critical analysis of the text. Examine the major themes and ideas that appear in the text. Remember to include some specific references to the writer's use of imagery, poetic devices, and diction in your analysis. You should be prepared to provide historical and cultural context when needed.

Choose texts that are not on the course reading list. You must inform the class one week in advance which text you will be looking at, so that we all have chance to read it. Presenters should be prepared to field detailed questions from the class and myself. Hand in your presentation notes to me after presenting. These notes do not need to be in the form of a formal essay, but should be typed and double-spaced and include references to any source material used.

N.B.: You need to e-mail me with your idea in order to sign up and book a date for a presentation.

Poetry Recitation: This assignment gives you the opportunity to recite a memorized poem in front of the class, and to reflect on how the experience of memorizing and declaiming a poem affects your understanding of its meaning. Choose a poem from the anthology to memorize: it must be a poem that is not on the course reading list, and it must be no shorter than 14 lines. Commit the poem to memory and recite it in front of the class. After your recitation, you should be prepared to field detailed questions about its meaning from myself and from the rest of the class, and you must submit a brief analysis. What did you find particularly challenging about the exercise? How did the process enhance or otherwise affect your understanding of the poem? What is the value of

memorizing and/or reciting poetry? You must inform the class one week in advance which poem you will be reciting, so that we all have a chance to read it.

N.B. You need to e-mail with your idea for a recitation in order to sign up and book a date.

Bibliographic Assignment: This assignment requires you to locate three secondary sources on an author or text from the second-term reading list and arrange them into a bibliography using correct MLA format. Marks will be deducted for format errors.

Research Essay: This assignment requires you to submit a research essay six to eight pages in length. Topics will be distributed well in advance of the due date. The essay should have a thesis statement and develop an argument supported by secondary sources and by examples from the primary text. Correct adherence to MLA format and correct spelling, grammar, and punctuation are required.

Attendance and Class Contribution: This portion of the grade will be based on class attendance, preparedness, and the frequency and quality of contributions to in-class discussion. **In my experience, students who attend classes regularly stand a far better chance of doing well in the course than those who do not. This is in part because the final exam will test you specifically on material that has been discussed in class.** You are expected to attend every class, read the assigned material for each class, bring the assigned readings with you to class, and be prepared to answer questions and engage in discussion. Perfect attendance does not guarantee a perfect grade of 5/5 on the Attendance and Class Contribution component of the course. To attain a 5/5, you must attend regularly, and make regular and thoughtful contributions to class discussions. If you miss a class, it is your responsibility to find out what went on in your absence.

Final Exam: The exam will be scheduled by the registrar during the official exam period. It will cover material from the whole year, and will involve some combination of short answers, passage identification, and essay writing. No exam aids will be permitted.

Classroom Courtesy: While the internet can be a very useful in-class tool that enhances the quality of our discussions, **please refrain from randomly surfing the web and text messaging during class.** These activities are discourteous to the instructor and your fellow students. In my experience, the students who spend most of every class giggling at something on a computer screen or a phone do not tend to do as well as those who are alert and engaged with what is actually going on.

Please stay for the duration of the class; if you must leave early, I would appreciate it if you would let me know beforehand.

Late Penalty: For certain assignments, there will be a grace period of seven days during which there will be no lateness penalty. **This applies only to the Close Reading Assignment #2 and the Final Research Essay.** How you use this grace period is up to you; you can use all seven days on one assignment, or use three for one and four for the other, etc. Please make a note on your assignment of how many days you have used. Once you have used up these days, the penalty for lateness is 2% per day late. In case of illness or emergency, a doctor's note or appropriate document must be provided in order for an extension to be granted.

Plagiarism: The University Senate defines plagiarism as "*presenting, whether*

intentionally or not, the ideas, expression of ideas or work of others as one's own." This can include:

- reproducing or paraphrasing portions of someone else's published or unpublished material, regardless of the source, and presenting these as one's own without proper citation or reference to the original source;
- submitting a take-home examination, essay, laboratory report or other assignment written, in whole or in part, by someone else;
- using ideas or direct, verbatim quotations, or paraphrased material, concepts, or ideas without appropriate acknowledgment in any academic assignment;
- using another's data or research findings;
- failing to acknowledge sources through the use of proper citations when using another's works and/or failing to use quotation marks;
- handing in "substantially the same piece of work for academic credit more than once without prior written permission of the course instructor in which the submission occurs."

Plagiarism is a serious offence that cannot be resolved directly by the course's instructor. The Associate Dean of the Faculty conducts a rigorous investigation, including an interview with the student, when an instructor suspects a piece of work has been plagiarized. Penalties are not trivial. They can include a final grade of "F" for the course. For more information please go to: <http://www2.carleton.ca/studentaffairs/academic-integrity>.

Writing Tutorial Service: Students requiring assistance should contact the Writing Tutorial Service at 411 MacOdrum Library (x. 6632, www.carleton.ca/wts)

Papers should conform to MLA style; see *MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers*.

Grades will be alphabetical.

Carleton percentage equivalents:

- A+ 90-100
- A 85-89
- A- 80-84
- B+ 77-79
- B 73-76
- B- 70-72
- C+ 67-69
- C 63-66
- C- 60-62
- D+ 57-59
- D 53-56
- D- 50-52

Academic Accommodation

You may need special arrangements to meet your academic obligations during the term because of disability, pregnancy or religious obligations. Please review the course outline promptly and 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.

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 your Instructor receives 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 Nov. 11, 2011 for the Fall term and March 7, 2012 for the Winter term.

You can visit the Equity Services website to view the policies and to obtain more detailed information on academic accommodation at <http://carleton.ca/equity/accommodation/academic/students/>

Students with disabilities: contact Paul Menton Centre (6608) to obtain letters of accommodation.

For Religious Observance: To be worked out on individual basis with instructor. Contact Equity Services Website or an Equity Advisor (5622) for Policy and list of Holy Days (www.carleton.ca/equity).

For Pregnancy: Contact Equity Services (5622) to obtain letters of accommodation.

Class Schedule:

Week One:

Thurs. Sept. 3: Welcome and Introduction

Week Two: The National Game

Tues. Sept. 8: Paul Quarrington, *King Leary*

Thurs. Sept. 10: *King Leary*, continued

Week Three: Youth and Age in Canadian Literature

Tues. Sept. 15: *King Leary*, continued

Thurs. Sept. 17: **Masculinities and Mythologies of “Northern-ness”**

John Franklin, *Narrative of a Journey to the Shores of the Polar Sea*
(Sugars and Moss 1, 92-102)

Writing Attentive Session

Week Four: John Franklin and Competing Narratives of Exploration

Tues. Sept. 22: John Franklin, *Narrative of a Journey to the Shores of the Polar Sea*
(Sugars and Moss 1, 92-102)
Inuit Testimony of the 1845 Franklin Expedition (Sugars and Moss 1
104-106)

Thurs. Sept. 24: **Quiz**

Franklin, Inuit Testimony continued
Margaret Atwood, "The Age of Lead" (Sugars and Moss II, 450-59)

Week Five: Settlement Narratives

Tues. Sept. 29: Susanna Moodie, selections from *Roughing It in the
Bush* (Sugars and Moss I, 211-27)

Thurs. Oct. 1: Susanna Moodie, selections from *Roughing It in the
Bush* (Sugars and Moss I, 211-27)

Writing Attentive Session

Week Six: More Settlement Narratives

Tues. Oct. 6: Catherine Parr Traill, selections from *The Backwoods of Canada* (Sugars
and Moss 1, 196-207)

Thursday Oct. 8: Alice Munro, "Menesteung" (Sugars and Moss II, 336-350)
First Close Reading Assignment Due

Week Seven: History and Indigeneity

Tues. Oct. 13: Joseph Boyden, *Three Day Road*

Thurs. Oct. 15: *Three Day Road*, continued

Week Eight: 2015-2016 Munro Beattie Lecturer Joseph Boyden

Tues. Oct. 20: *Three Day Road*, continued

Thursday, Oct. 22: *Three Day Road*, continued
(quiz for those who did not attend Boyden's lecture)

Oct. 27-31: Fall Break, no classes

Week Nine: WWI: Other Perspectives

Tues. Nov. 3: John McCrae, "In Flanders Fields" (Sugars and Moss 1, 516)
Margaret Atwood, "Poppies: Three Variations" (posted on ARES)

Thurs. Nov. 5: Jessie Georgina Sime, "Munitions!" (Sugars and Moss I, 485-89)

Writing Attentive Session

Week Ten: Poetry and Indigeneity

Tues. Nov. 10: E. Pauline Johnson, "A Cry from an Indian Wife," "The Song My Paddle Sings," "The Cattle Thief," "The Corn Husker," "Canadian Born" (Sugars and Moss I, 395-400)
excerpt from *The Indian Act* (Sugars and Moss 1, 321-24)

Thurs. Nov. 12: E. Pauline Johnson, continued
Isabella Valancy Crawford, "The Camp of Souls" (Sugars and Moss I, 343)

Week Eleven: Fiction for Young Readers

Tues. Nov. 17: L.M. Montgomery, *Emily of New Moon*

Thurs. Nov. 19: *Emily of New Moon*, continued

Week Twelve: The *Kunstlerroman*

Tues. Nov. 24 *Emily of New Moon*, continued

Thurs. Nov. 26: *Emily of New Moon*, continued

Second Close Reading Assignment Due

Week Thirteen: Immigration and Assimilation

Tues. Dec. 1: F.P. Grove, "Dawn and Diamonds," "Canadians Old and New"
(Sugars and Moss 2, 42)

Thurs. Dec. 3: Wrap-Up

Winter Term Schedule:

Week One: The Graphic Novel

Thurs. Jan. 7: *Essex County*

Week Two: The Graphic Novel, continued

Tues. Jan. 12: *Essex County*

Thurs. Jan. 14: *Essex County*

Week Three: Writing the Local

Tues. Jan. 19: Michael Crummey, "Bread," "What's Lost," "Newfoundland Sealing Disaster" (Sugars and Moss 2, 668-669)

Thurs. Jan. 21: Al Purdy, "The Country North of Belleville," "Wilderness Gothic"
(Sugars and Moss 2, 274-76)

Writing Attentive Session

Week Four: Drama

Tues. Jan. 26: Djanet Sears, *Adventures of a Black Girl in Search of God*

Thurs. Jan. 28: *Adventures of a Black Girl in Search of God*, continued

Week Four: Hybridity and Literary Form

(Presentations / Recitations)

Tues. Feb. 2: Fred Wah, from *Diamond Grill* (Sugars and Moss II, 558-63)

The Chinese Immigration Act (Sugars and Moss I, 338)

Thurs. Feb. 4: *Diamond Grill*, continued

Robert Kroetsch, "Elegy for Wong Toy" (Sugars and Moss II, 320)

Week Five: Short Fiction

(Presentations / Recitations)

Tues. Feb. 9: Madeleine Thien, "Simple Recipes" (Sugars and Moss II, 695-701)

Writing Attentive Session

Thurs. Feb. 11: **In-Class Essay** (people who are doing recitations / presentations not required to attend)

☺ **Reading Week** ☺ (Feb. 15-20)

Week Six: Gothic Ottawa

Tues. Feb. 23: selections from *Despair and Other Stories (of Ottawa)* by Andre Alexis
(posted on ARES)

Thurs. Feb. 25: *Despair*, continued

Week Seven: "Road" Narratives

Tues. Mar. 1: Maria Campbell, "Jacob" (Sugars and Moss 2, 477-84)

Thurs. Mar. 3: Thomas King, "Borders" (Sugars and Moss 2, 580-89)

Week Eight: Storytelling and Discomfort

Tues. Mar. 8: Lynn Coady, *Hellgoing*

Thurs. Mar. 10: *Hellgoing*, continued

Writing Attentive Session

Week Nine: More Storytelling

Tues. Mar. 15: *Hellgoing*, continued

Bibliographic Assignment Due

Thurs. Mar. 17: Miriam Toews, *Blueprints* (Sugars and Moss II, 665-667)

Week Ten: Ecologies

Tues. Mar. 22: Grey Owl (Archibald Belaney) from *Pilgrims of the Wild* (Sugars and Moss II, 72-76)
Armand Garnet Ruffo, from *Grey Owl: The Mystery of Archie Belaney* (Sugars and Moss II, 649-653)

Thurs. Mar. 24: *Grey Owl*, continued
Don McKay, selections in Sugars and Moss II, 568-73

Week Eleven: Ecologies, continued

Tues. March 29: Don McKay, continued

Thurs. March 31: **Another Road Trip**

Bruce MacDonald, dir., *Highway 61* (film screening)

Research Essay Due

Week Twelve: Road Trip, continued

Tues. April 5: *Highway 61*

Thurs. April 7: Exam Review