

**Carleton University
Fall 2013
Department of English**

ENGL 3803A: *Chronotopes of Canada*

**Mondays / 2:30 – 5:30
Tory 447**

**Instructor: Jennifer Henderson
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Office Hours: Wednesdays, 1:30 to 3:30**

Course description:

This course reads Canadian literature with a focus on how texts configure versions of national time space, and through their “chronotopes,” different modes and experiences of belonging. M. M. Bakhtin defines the literary chronotope as “the intrinsic connectedness of temporal and space relationships that are artistically expressed in literature.” When we read texts for their distinctive chronotopes, “time thickens, takes on flesh, becomes artistically visible; likewise space becomes charged and responsive to the movements of time and history.” Our tour through a series of 20th and 21st century novels will take us through representations of the experience of the city as a shared social space. We will encounter cities as civic spaces embedded with stories, dreams, desires, memories, and ghostly traces; the cities are also represented as being mapped by social relations of class, gender, and ‘race.’ At the end of our reading, we reach a novel that puts its characters on a raft in the ocean, to ask ‘what if all of this thick background were to be dissolved?’ We will follow a roughly chronological organization that takes us through the moments of settler nationalism, official multiculturalism, and (on the drifting raft) globalization. Generically, the novels are all associated with the genre of the *bildungsroman*, the novel of a hero’s education and maturation into a modern citizen; however, they renew and in some cases undermine this genre by stressing gendered and racialized embodiments, modernity’s exclusions and exploitations, and the differences of a diasporic consciousness.

Course requirements:

- Attendance and participation 10%
- Reading quizzes 25% (5 x 5%) (unannounced, no make-up quizzes, short answer)
- Passage analysis 15% (1,000 – 1,250, or 4 to 5 pages/words)
- Short essay 20% (1,750 – 2,000 words, or 7 to 8 pages)
- Final exam 30% (date TBA, in December exam period)

Required texts:

Books are available at the Carleton University Bookstore. Copies will also be placed on reserve at the McOdrum Library and a few readings will be available electronically through Ares, the online reserve system.

Richler, Mordecai. *The Apprenticeship of Duddy Kravitz* [1959]

Wiseman, Adele. *Crackpot* [1974] If you cannot obtain a copy, professor will loan you one.

Ondaatje, Michael. *In the Skin of a Lion* [1987]

Martel, Yann. *Life of Pi* [2001]

Chariandy, David. *Soucouyant* [2007]

Hage, Rawi. *Cockroach* [2008]

Scott, Gail. *The Obituary* [2010]

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DETAILS OF ASSIGNMENTS AND EVALUATION:**Attendance and participation 10%**

This portion of your grade rests on your attendance, your demonstration of thorough preparation for class, and your willingness to engage with the material and with the ideas of others in class. If you miss *more* than three of our classes without a valid and documented reason (medical, family emergency) you will lose the 10% participation grade entirely. Besides attending class, you can earn participation points through informed and appropriate contributions to discussion. Bring the assigned readings to class with you every week.

Reading quizzes 5 x 5% = 25%

These will be short answer or multiple choice tests which I will distribute in class on five occasions. Their purpose is to motivate you to do the assigned readings and to listen attentively to lectures. Please note that there will be NO make-up quizzes allowed and that the quizzes must be written in the classroom, in the time allotted.

Passage analysis 15% (1000 – 1250 words, close reading) due Oct 7th

Your first essay will be a close reading of a passage from one of the texts we study early on in the course. Suggested passages will be distributed, but you will also have the option of choosing your own passage not previously discussed in class. A close reading has a clear thesis presenting a specific, provable claim; it observes significant details and devices and presents an interpretation of their effects. Different observations are coordinated and there is good use made of textual evidence to support claims. Quotations are properly introduced and adequately commented upon. Use of terminology is correct.

Short essay 20% (1750 – 2000 words) due Nov 25th

Essay questions will be distributed. This essay will include engagement with a piece of literary criticism or theory.

Final exam 30% (date TBA, in December exam period)

The three-hour exam will take place during the scheduled examination period. It will be a combination of short answer questions, passage analyses, and a comparative essay question.

COURSE PROCEDURES AND EXPECTATIONS

Email and office hours: I will gladly communicate with you by email to schedule an appointment or to provide you with a brief reply to a question. However, if you have a more substantive question about a text, an assignment, course material please stop by my office (Dunton 1911) during my Tuesday 1:30 – 3:30 office hours, or arrange an appointment for another time. All email correspondence from you should have the subject line ENGL3803A. Please note that it may take 24 hours to receive a reply.

Submission of assignments and penalties for late assignments: Essays are due on the dates indicated, *but may be submitted without penalty until 8:00 a.m. the following day* in the English Department's drop-box on the 18th floor of Dunton Tower, located just to the left of the main office. The 8:00 a.m. grace period is a blanket extension granted to all of you and is designed to pre-empt any further requests for extensions. Late assignments will be penalized 1/3 of a letter grade per day. Please keep a back-up copy of every assignment. Do not submit assignments by email; I will only grade paper copies. In cases of documented medical emergency or death in the family, please contact me by email a.s.a.p. to arrange an alternate due date.

Grades: Grades for term work will be based on insightfulness, originality, focus, 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, whether or not you do this intentionally, or submitting the same work in two different academic contexts. The consequences of plagiarism are severe and are issued by the Dean and the University Senate. In order to avoid plagiarism, you must correctly attribute the source of the ideas and phrasings you pick up from books, articles, the internet, and other people. For additional information, consult the section on Instructional Offenses in the *Undergraduate Calendar*.

Academic Accommodations

If you need special arrangements to meet your academic obligations during the term because of disability, pregnancy or religious obligations, 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.

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>.

READING SCHEDULE

		associated keywords
Sept. 9	Introduction	<u>chronotope</u>
Sept. 16	Richler, <i>The Apprenticeship of Duddy Kravitz</i>	<u>bildungsroman</u> <u>satire</u> <u>realism, social realism</u>
Sept. 23	Wiseman, <i>Crackpot</i>	<u>gender & the bildungsroman</u> <u>narration, focalization</u> <u>free indirect discourse</u> <u>myth</u> <u>the grotesque</u> <u>citizenship</u>
Sept. 30	<i>Crackpot</i> , cont'd	
Oct. 7	Michael Ondaatje, <i>In the Skin of a Lion</i> ***Passage analysis due***	<u>multiculturalism</u> <u>frame narrative</u> <u>monument, counter-monument</u> <u>memory</u> <u>metaphor, metonymy</u>
Oct. 14	No class	
Oct. 21	David Chariandy, <i>Soucouyant</i>	<u>diaspora</u> <u>memory, postmemory</u>

		<u>motif</u>
Oct. 28	No class	
Nov. 4	Rawi Hage, <i>Cockroach</i>	<u>rogue literature</u> <u>Orientalism, exoticism</u> <u>embedded narrative</u> <u>transnationalism</u>
Nov. 11	Read from TWO of the following, placed on reserve (pages TBA): PN1997.2 M92 Guy Maddin, <i>My Winnipeg</i> PN1997.2M92 W47 D. Wershler-Henry, <i>Guy Maddin's My Winnipeg</i> PN1998.3 M322 P53 D. Church, ed. <i>Playing With Memories: Essays on Guy Maddin</i>	<u>collective memory</u> <u>haunting</u> <u>invented myth</u> <u>dreamscape</u>
Nov. 18	Gail Scott, <i>The Obituary</i>	<u>palimpsest</u> <u>the dialectical image</u> <u>syntax</u> <u>the sutured subject</u>
Nov. 25	<i>The Obituary</i> cont'd ***Short essay due***	
Dec. 2	Yann Martel, <i>The Life of Pi</i>	<u>cosmopolitanism</u> <u>globalization</u> <u>allegory</u>
Dec. 9	Review class	