

**Carleton University
Fall 2013
Department of English**

ENGL3960A Studies in Aboriginal Literatures

**Time: Tuesdays and Thursdays 10:05AM-11:25AM
Location: Please confirm on Carleton Central**

Instructor: Heather Macfarlane

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Office: 1918 Dunton Tower

**Office hours: 11:35-12:30 Tuesdays and Thursdays
or by appointment**

Course Description:

This course examines Indigenous novels, traditional stories, poetry, short stories, plays and films from various time periods and numerous nations across Canada. We will study the themes, aesthetics and politics of the texts using a combination of culturally specific and pan-Native approaches. In order to develop a broader understanding of the powerful anti-colonial sentiment at the core of Native cultural production, we will also consider the texts in the light of current critical methodologies. We will examine questions of land, language, spirituality, storytelling, colonization, literary nationalism, appropriation of voice, reconciliation, racism, gender, sexuality and residential schools, and consider the role that Indigenous literatures play in shaping Native identity. Many of the works we will study are disturbing in nature--please talk to the instructor at the beginning of the semester if you have any concerns in this regard.

Required texts (available at Haven Books, Sunnyside and Seneca):

- An Anthology of Canadian Native Literature in English, 4th Edition*. Daniel David Moses, Terry Goldie and Armand Garnet Ruffo eds. Oxford U.P.: 2013.
- Dry Lips Oughta Move to Kapuskasing*. Tomson Highway. Fifth House: 1989.
- Monkey Beach*. Eden Robinson. Vintage Canada: 2001

Required internet resources:

- Nunavut Arctic College "Interviewing Inuit Elders" website:
<http://www.nac.nu.ca/OnlineBookSite/vol1/stories.html>
- CBC 8th Fire website: <http://www.cbc.ca/doczone/8thfire/>

Assignments:

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| -In-class passage analysis | 15% | (Tues. Oct. 15) |
| -Final essay (10 pages, double spaced) | 40% | (Thurs. Dec. 5) |
| -Final exam | 35% | (Exam Period Dec. 11-22) |
| -Participation (may include quiz) | 10% | |

IN-CLASS PASSAGE ANALYSIS:

The test will consist of a passage analysis from one of the works discussed in class. Students will be given one hour to write a short essay on the passage, which will be identified by its title and author. The essay should situate the passage within its immediate context, and the context of the work in general. Students should use the passage itself as a basis for discussing the themes, form and technique of the work analyzed, and comments should be **DIRECTLY** tied to the words, themes, form and images used in the excerpt.

FINAL ESSAY:

Topics will be distributed later in the semester. Papers should be 10 pages, double spaced, in 12 point font. Online submissions will not be accepted. Students are requested to follow the MLA format for works cited etc. This essay involves some research: a minimum of 3 secondary sources are required. At least 50% of all sources must be by Indigenous authors. Late papers lose 5% per day, weekends included. Extensions are only granted in cases of serious illness (MD note required) or bereavement. Late papers must be date stamped in the English Department on the 18th floor, Dunton Tower.

Note: If one of your assignments is lost, misplaced, or not received by the instructor, you are responsible for having a backup copy that can be submitted immediately upon request.

PLAGIARISM, accidental or otherwise, will not be tolerated. Plagiarized assignments will be penalized according to University guidelines. For all questions concerning citation and documentation, consult the *MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers*.

PARTICIPATION:

The participation mark is based on attendance, as well as the frequency and quality of the student's contributions during class discussions. Depending on how the class is progressing, a quiz may be given--I will inform students if this becomes a possibility. Students missing more than 5 classes (or portions of classes) will automatically be given a zero.

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. 9, 2012 for the Fall term and March 8, 2013 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>.

Weekly Outline:

(dates may vary slightly over the course of the term)

Thurs Sept 5: Introduction; syllabus and assignments; terminology

Short film: “Apples and Indians” (Lorne Olsen 2006)

Tues Sept 10: Introduction cont’d

Colonial constructions of Native peoples: slide presentation and stereotypes

READING: -“Introduction” Armand Garnet Ruffo, M&G xxi-xxxiii.

Thurs Sept 12: Colonialism and Resistance I

Colonial constructions cont’d

READING:-“ The Disempowerment...and Empowerment” Jeannette Armstrong, M&G 256-9

Short film:-“I’m Not the Indian You Had in Mind” (Thomas King 2007)

Tues Sept 17: Colonialism and Resistance II

READING:-“ The Life of Ka-Ge-Ga-Gah Bowh” George Copway, M&G 16-24
-“mcPemmicanTM” Marvin Francis, M&G 446-7

Short film:-“The Power of a Horse” (Cory Generoux 2007)

Thurs Sept 19: Storytelling and Traditional Stories I

READING: -“Is That All There Is?” Basil Johnston, M&G 111-119

-“She Who Never Wants to Get Married” Alexina Kublu, Nunavut Arctic College Website:

<http://www.nac.nu.ca/OnlineBookSite/vol1/stories.html>

Tues Sept 24: Storytelling and Traditional Stories II

READING:--“Summit with Sedna, the Mother of Sea Beasts,” Alooook Ipellie, M&G 354-6

-“Coyote Challenges God,” Harry Robinson, M&G 81-5

Short film: “Never Saw It” (Moshe Folger 2007)

Thurs Sept 26: Storytelling and Traditional Stories III

READING-“Captive in an English Circus” Harry Robinson, M&G 60-80

Film: *The Lesser Blessed*

Tues Oct 1: Storytelling and Traditional Stories IV

Film *The Lesser Blessed* cont’d; Discussion

Thurs Oct 3: Gender and Sexuality I

READING:--“Coyote Learns a New Trick” Beth Brant, M&G 168-70

-“The Cattle Thief” and “The Song My Paddle Sings” Pauline Johnson, M&G 37 and 40

Tues Oct 8: Gender and Sexuality II

ARTIST VISIT: Shigeyuki Kihara

READING:--Artist catalogue “Undressing the Pacific” (CULearn)

Thurs Oct 10: Gender and Sexuality III

READING:--“Post-Oka Kinda Woman,” Beth Cuthand, M&G 272-3

-“Body Politics,” Louise Halfe, M&G 409

-“Squaw Poems,” Marilyn Dumont, M&G 436-8

-“Promises” and “Ochim*His Kiss” M&G 371 and 574

Tues Oct 15: TEST: In-class Passage Analysis

Thurs Oct 17: Language and Nationhood I

READING:-“Halfbreed” Maria Campbell, M&G 138-150

Interview with Taiaike Alfred:

<http://www.cbc.ca/doczone/8thfire/2011/11/taiaike-alfred.html>

Tues Oct 22: Language and Nationhood II/Residential Schools I

READING: -“I Lost My Talk,” Rita Joe, M&G 107

-“One Generation from Extinction,” Basil Johnston, M&G 106

-“Sugar Girl,” Joseph Boyden, M&G 584-589

Thurs Oct 24: Residential Schools II

READING:-“First Cage—Aklavik Residential School (1942-49),” Anthony Apakark Thrasher, M&G 129-133

-“Charlie” Lee Maracle, M&G 327-332

-“From *My Name is Seepeetza*” Shirley Sterling, M&G 264-8

READING WEEK Oct. 28-Nov. 1

Tues Nov 5: Eden Robinson I

READING: -*Monkey Beach*

Thurs Nov 7: Eden Robinson II

READING: -*Monkey Beach cont'd*

Tues Nov 12: Eden Robinson III

READING: -*Monkey Beach cont'd*

Thurs Nov 14: Humour and Parody

READING:- “The One About Coyote Going West” Thomas King, M&G 200-8
-“Pretty Like a White Boy” Drew Hayden Taylor, M&G 518-22

Video: New Moon Wolf Pack Auditions

Tues Nov 19: Armand Garnet Ruffo; Spirituality I

Author visit and reading: ARMAND GARNET RUFFO

READING-“Sacred Bear From Vision,” and “Indian Canoe,” Armand Garnet Ruffo, M&G 460 and 462

Thurs Nov 21: Spirituality II

READING:-“What is Medicine Power?” George Blondin, M&G 99-100
-“First Words,” Brian Maracle, M&G 232-243
-“Compatriots,” Emma Lee Warrior, M&G 175-182

Tues Nov 26: Spirituality III/ Tomson Highway I

READING:-“Returning to Harmony,” Richard Wagamese, M&G 471-4
-*Dry Lips Oughta Move to Kapuskasing*

Thurs Nov 28: Tomson Highway II

READING: -*Dry Lips Oughta Move to Kapuskasing* cont’d

Tues Dec 3: Tomson Highway III

READING:-*Dry Lips Oughta Move to Kapuskasing* cont’d

Thurs Dec 5: **FINAL ESSAY DUE**

Conclusion

FINAL EXAM: Exam Period Dec 11-22