

**Carleton University  
Fall 2015  
Department of English**

**ENGL 4135A – 4<sup>th</sup> Year Seminar  
Little Magazines and Presses: The Canadian Modernist Poetry Project**

*Prerequisite(s): fourth-year standing in Honours English*

**Mondays/ 6:05pm – 8:55pm  
Location: Please confirm location on Carleton Central**

**Instructor: Dr. Collett Tracey  
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Office Hours: TBA**

## **Preliminary Outline**

Questioning boundaries and breaking away from the past are fundamental to the spirit of modernism. In order to do this, not only do the barriers to change have to be overcome, but vehicles of expression have to be found in order to draw like-minded people together who can build the momentum required to make a new vision reality. As John Sutherland, Louis Dudek, Raymond Souster, Michael Gnarowski and others have shown, during the modernist movement in Canada it was little magazines and little presses that provided that impetus and published often unknown poets who were experimenting with new techniques and forms.

In Montreal, three important little presses were founded that span and reflect the changing spirit of modernism from the 1940's in First Statement Press, the 1950's, in Contact Press and the 1960's, in Delta Canada. These little presses and the movement they inspired played a significant role in the development of Canadian poetry. The advantage of the little press was that it brought like-minded poets together who were equally committed to a greater cause, which was moving poetry forward. The little magazine and, by extension, the little press, was a form of resistance against the conservative, commercially-driven publishing practices demonstrated by large, depersonalized organizations that have controlled the publishing industry in Canada since the 1920's. Being self-financed and non-profit entities, the little presses were able to stand on the front lines of Canadian poetry and publish the vanguard, the experimental, the young. Made up of poets who had a personal commitment to the presses and to the poets and books they published, the presses were rebellious, ambitious and intellectually intense. With these qualities, they were able to serve as a barometer of the social and literary climate in their closeness to the pulse of the times.

In this seminar course we will consider the history and context of First Statement, Contact and Delta Canada. We will examine how they began, who began them, and how they contributed to

the development of modernist poetry in Canada.

**Grading:** Class Participation & Seminar: 40%  
Essay (10-12 pages): 60%

## **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>

### **Academic Accommodation**

You may need special arrangements to meet your academic obligations during the term. For an accommodation request the processes are as follows:

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 see the Student Guide

<http://carleton.ca/equity/accommodation/academic/students/>

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 see the Student Guide above.

Academic Accommodations for Students with Disabilities: The Paul Menton Centre for Students with Disabilities (PMC) provides services to students with Learning Disabilities (LD),

psychiatric/mental health disabilities, Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD), Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD), chronic medical conditions, and impairments in mobility, hearing, and vision. If you have a disability requiring academic accommodations in this course, please contact PMC at 613-520-6608 or [pmc@carleton.ca](mailto:pmc@carleton.ca) for a formal evaluation. If you are already registered with the PMC, contact your PMC coordinator to send me your Letter of Accommodation at the beginning of the term, and no later than two weeks before the first in-class scheduled test or exam requiring accommodation (if applicable). After requesting accommodation from PMC, meet with me to ensure accommodation arrangements are made. Please consult the PMC website for the deadline to request accommodations for the formally-scheduled exam (if applicable).