

Carleton University
Winter 2016
Department of English

English 4601A: Contemporary Canadian Poetry
Prerequisite: fourth-year standing in Honours English

Mondays / 6:05 p.m. – 8:55 p.m.
Location: Please confirm on Carleton Central

Professor Collett Tracey
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Office: 1910 Dunton Tower,
Tel.:613-520-2600 x2328

*Preliminary outline- subject to change

In this course we will consider the advances of Canadian poetry, beginning in the 20th century and moving through to the present. Among many other great poets, we will study the works of Al Purdy, Earle Birney, P.K. Page, Ray Souster, Phyllis Webb, Alden Nowlan, Patrick Lane, bpNichol, Erin Moure, Bronwen Wallace, Roo Borson, Dionne Brand, Margaret Atwood, and Michael Ondaatje. The goal of the course is to make these writers “real” – to understand their influences and contexts – in order to better deconstruct their poems and make them meaningful on a personal, as well as academic level.

Required Texts:

Geddes, Gary. 70 Canadian Poets

Course Requirements:

Class Attendance & participation, and one seminar, 40%
One Paper, 10-15 pages in length, 60% (due last day of term)

Methodology:

Given the breadth of information to be covered and the time constraints we are forced to adhere to, it is impossible to do anything more than sample one or two poems by some of our most important Canadian poets. As a result, I hope students see the course content as merely a series of appetizers that are meant to stimulate a desire to read more...

Note on seminars:

Seminars should be no more than one hour in length. During a presentation, students should provide the most essential background information on the poet in question and point out his or her most important poems. Finally, those who are presenting are responsible for leading the class in a reading and discussion or analysis of at least one poem.

The Essay:

As a student, you will be encouraged to devise your own essay topic in consultation with me. It should reflect ideas and material relevant to the issues that we will be discussing over the semester. You can base your essay on the works of a particular writer, which might be an in-depth study of a single text or a

thematic exploration across more than one text. You are encouraged to be creative in your approach to the essay and to pursue something that is personally meaningful to you.

Plagiarism:

Plagiarism means passing off someone else’s words or ideas as your own or submitting the same work in two different academic contexts (self-plagiarism). 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 sources of the ideas you pick up from books, the internet, and other people. See the statement on Instructional Offences in the Undergraduate Calendar.

For Students with Disabilities:

Students with disabilities requiring academic accommodations in this course are encouraged to contact a coordinator at the Paul Menton Centre for Students with Disabilities to complete the necessary letters of accommodation. After registering with the PMC, make an appointment to meet and discuss your needs.

For Religious Observance:

Students requesting academic accommodation on the basis of religious observance should make a formal, written request to their instructors for alternate dates and/or means of satisfying academic requirements. Such requests should be made during the first two weeks of class, or as soon as possible after the need for accommodation is known to exist, but no later than two weeks before the compulsory academic event. Accommodation is to be worked out directly and on an individual basis between the student and me. I will make accommodations in a way that avoids academic disadvantage to the student. Students who have questions or want to confirm accommodation eligibility of a religious event or practice may refer to the Equity Services website for a list of holy days and Carleton’s Academic Accommodation policies, or may contact an Equity Services Advisor in the Equity Services Department for assistance.

For Pregnancy:

Pregnant students requiring academic accommodations are encouraged to contact an Equity Advisor in Equity Services to complete a letter of accommodation. The student must then make an appointment to discuss her needs with the instructor at least two weeks prior to the first academic event in which it is anticipated the accommodation will be required.

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.

Course Schedule:

Mondays, 6-9 pm

January 11 Introduction and course overview
18th
25th

February 1
8th
15th Spring Break = no class
22nd
29th

March 7th
14th
21st
28th

April 4th

Paper Due