

****PRELIMINARY DRAFT—SUBJECT TO CHANGE****

Fall 2015

Department of English

ENGL 4807A: *Studies in Canadian Li. II*

“The Fiction Makes Us Real”: Studies in Contemporary Canadian Historical Fiction

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

Fridays / 2:35pm-5:25 pm

Location: Please confirm location on Carleton Central

Prerequisite: fourth-year standing in Honours English or permission of the Department

Instructor: Dr M. Susan Birkwood

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Office: 1928 Dunton Tower

Phone: 520-2600 ext. 2302

Office hours: TBA

Course Description: Many contemporary Canadian writers have chosen to conduct imaginative explorations of this country’s official and unofficial histories. Some of the resulting works employ late eighteenth and nineteenth century non-fiction texts as intertexts, as they review and revise past events and historical figures. Some look to the photographic archive for untold stories, and some chart the continuing legacy of cultural contact and of imperialism on colonised peoples and immigrant populations, while constructing alternative perspectives on key events in our history. During this course we will discuss the genre of historical fiction and examine twentieth- and twenty-first-century texts that seek to bring particular regions, peoples, and moments in this land’s history to imaginative expression.

Course Objectives:

- To consider these texts’ relationship to literary and national history
- To discuss the relationship between history and fiction
- To examine the construction of region, ethnicity, and gender within these texts
- To engage with theoretical and critical works relevant to these texts
- To develop further students’ critical reading, writing, research, and oral presentation skills

Required Texts:

- Expect 5 novels
- *Books will be available at Haven Books* 43 Seneca Street, Ottawa (at Sunnyside, one block from campus)
- <http://www.havenbooks.ca/carletonsite/carletonhome-e.php>

The following is last year’s list. THESE TITLES MAY NOT APPEAR ON THE FALL 2015 LIST. I will finalise the list later in the summer.

Michael Ondaatje, *In the Skin of a Lion*

Jane Urquhart, *Away*

Margaret Sweatman, *When Alice Lay Down with Peter*

Timothy Findley’s *The Wars*

Joseph Boyden, *Three Day Road*

Evaluation:

Seminar on course text (oral presentation [25%], plus written reflection [5%])	30%
Oral report (on supplementary readings)	10%
Written analysis of non-seminar course text	10%
Peer support activities	5%
Participation (attendance is mandatory)	10%
Research Essay	35%

Please note:

- You must complete all of the term work to be eligible to pass the course.
- I will grade **hard copies** only of assignments; however, I ask that you submit electronic back-up copies through CU Learn of your analyses and essays.
- There are policies in place to support students who require academic accommodation (see below). Should you, though, find yourself in circumstances that threaten to preclude your successful completion of an assignment, please contact me before the particular deadline. I would much rather work with you to find a solution than have you face the possibility of failing the course.
- “Standing in a course is determined by the course instructor subject to the approval of the Faculty Dean. This means that grades submitted by the instructor may be subject to revision. No grades are final until they have been approved by the Dean.” (FASS Teaching Regulations)

Academic Accommodation:**From Equity Services (<http://carleton.ca/equity/accommodation/academic/>):**

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](#)

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](#)

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 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).

Academic Integrity:

You are expected to know the University's policy and procedures regarding plagiarism.*
(See the section on "Academic Integrity Standards" in the University Calendar.)

Unacceptable paraphrasing does count as a form of plagiarism.

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>