

**Department of English
Carleton University
Fall 2009**

**ENGL 5803F: Canadian Fiction
WRINKLE NATION?: IDEOLOGIES OF AGING IN CANADIAN
WRITING**

**Wednesdays 6:05-8:55 pm
Location: 1816DT**

**Instructor: Sara Jamieson
Office Hours: Wednesdays 12:30-2:30, or by appt.
Office: 1819 Dunton Tower
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Course Objectives

This course will introduce you to some of the texts and methodologies used within the field of critical gerontology. In contrast to the medical and scientific discourses that have dominated the study of aging since the late nineteenth century, critical gerontology approaches the subject of aging through various perspectives including political economy, cultural history, and textual analysis. The course will pay particular attention to the ways in which literary texts participate in shaping perceptions of aging and old age in 20th century Canadian culture.

Required Texts (available at Haven Books, 43 Seneca St., (613) 730-9888)

Margaret Laurence, *The Stone Angel*
Michael Ignatieff, *Scar Tissue*
Joan Barfoot, *Exit Lines*
Hiromi Goto, *Chorus of Mushrooms*
Alice Munro, *Who Do You Think You Are?*
Carol Shields, *Larry's Party*
Douglas Coupland, *Generation X*

Beth Brant, *I'll Sing Till the Day I Die*
Paul Quarrington, *King Leary*

There will be a course pack of historical and theoretical materials in the photocopy room on the 18th floor of Dunton Tower. You will be asked to photocopy and read these materials for each class.

.Evaluation

Attendance, class contribution, completion of course journal* 25%
Presentation 25%
Final essay (approx. 18-20 pgs.) 50% (due last day of class)

*All students are required to hand in a course journal containing one-page “response papers” to each week’s assigned readings. Response papers provide you with a place to record your comments and questions that occur to you when reading. This exercise should help to stimulate class discussion. The journal will make up 10% of the 25% participation grade.

Attendance

The participation grade is based on regular class attendance, active reading of all material for each class, and thoughtful contribution to class discussions. Please bring all assigned materials to class

Late Penalty

Extensions can be negotiated in cases of documented accommodation, illness, or family crisis. If you know that you will have a legitimate problem meeting the deadline, please arrange an extension with me as soon as possible, at least 24 hours before the due date.

Late essays will lose five marks per day and may be returned without written feedback.

NOTE: Please keep a backup electronic and/or hard copy of your essay. You are responsible for keeping these backups and submitting them upon request.

Academic Integrity

“The University states unequivocally that it demands academic integrity from all its members. Academic dishonesty, in whatever form, is ultimately destructive to the values of the University. Furthermore, it is unfair and discouraging to those students who pursue their studies honestly. The

integrity of academic life and the degrees conferred by the university [are] dependent upon the honesty and soundness of scholarship. Conduct by any person that adversely affects this process is a serious matter. Students who violate the principles of academic integrity through dishonest practices undermine the value of the Carleton degree. Dishonesty in scholarly activity cannot be tolerated. Any student who violates the standards of academic integrity will be subject to appropriate sanctions.” –Carleton University Academic Integrity Policy

Academic integrity violations will not be tolerated. All suspected cases will be reported to the dean’s office at once and prosecuted to the fullest extent possible, from failure of this course at the least to expulsion from the University. No piece of work written for another course may be submitted for credit in this one.

Before completing any assignment, it is your responsibility to ensure that you understand what plagiarism is and how to cite sources properly.

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.

It takes time to review and consider each request individually, and to arrange for accommodations where appropriate. Please make sure you respect these timelines particularly for in-class tests, mid-terms and final exams, as well as any change in due dates for papers.

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>.

Students with disabilities: contact Paul Menton Centre (6608) to obtain letters of accommodation.

For Religious Observance: To be worked out on individual basis with instructor. Contact Equity Services Website or an Equity Advisor (5622) for Policy and list of Holy Days.
(www.carleton.ca/equity)

For Pregnancy: Contact Equity Services (5622) to obtain letters of accommodation.

Class Schedule and Reading List

Week One

Welcome and Introduction

Week Two: Writing and “Ageism”

Margaret Laurence, *The Stone Angel*

Course pack readings TBA

Week Three: Old Age and Psychoanalysis

Margaret Laurence, *The Stone Angel*

Course pack readings TBA

Week Four: Intergenerational Narratives

Hiromi Goto, *Chorus of Mushrooms*

Course pack readings TBA

Week Five: Writing the Old Age Home

Joan Barfoot, *Exit Lines*

Course pack readings TBA

Week Six: Writing Dementia

Michael Ignatieff, *Scar Tissue*

Course pack readings TBA

Week Seven: Still Writing Dementia

Sarah Polley, *Away From Her* (film to be screened in class)

Alice Munro, "The Bear Came Over the Mountain"

Mary Russo, "Aging and the Scandal of Anachronism"

(both available in the photocopy room)

Week Eight: Generational Identities

Douglas Coupland, *Generation X*

Course pack readings TBA

Week Nine: Age Ideology and Literary Form: the *Bildungsroman*

Carol Shields, *Larry's Party*

Course pack readings TBA

Week Ten: Writing the "Midlife Crisis"

Alice Munro, *Who Do You Think You Are?*

Course pack readings TBA

Week Eleven: Aging and Masculinity

Paul Quarrington, *King Leary*

Course pack readings TBA

Week Twelve: Old Age and Life Writing

Beth Brant, *I'll Sing Till the Day I Die*

Course pack readings TBA