

Carleton University
Fall 2023 / Winter 2024 Preliminary Course Outline
Department of English

ENGL 2802A: Indigenous and Canadian Literatures

Prerequisites: second year standing or permission of the department

Lectures: Monday/Wednesday, 2:35-3:55
Format: In-person, not suitable for online students

Instructor: Sara Jamieson
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*****This is a preliminary syllabus only—texts and assignments are subject to change.
A complete version will be available closer to the start of the term.*****

Course description and Learning Outcomes:

This course introduces students to a variety of texts produced in or about the part of Turtle Island known as Canada by peoples with radically different perspectives on that place, its histories, and meanings. By developing a familiarity with examples of traditional stories, exploration narratives, life writing, poetry, songs, short stories, critical essays, plays, novels (including a graphic novel), visual art, and film, students will learn to recognize and interpret the different ways in which cultural producers from both Indigenous and Settler cultures use language and stories to construct identities and relationships to land and place. Students will learn to respond to how the texts on the course invite a critical engagement with ideas and images often identified as typically or distinctively “Canadian”: examples include the idea of Canada as a “Northern” nation; Canada and Canadians as peacekeeping, polite, and multicultural; the canoe, the cottage, maple sugar, and the game of hockey. The course will encourage students to be attentive to how the texts they read may reinforce and/or subvert certain received meanings of these ideas and images, and to recognize the systems of inclusion, exclusion, appropriation, and critique through which generations of authors and artists have imagined this place and its peoples.

Classes will consist of lectures and discussion. Lectures will provide historical and cultural context for the readings and will help students to develop their skills in close analysis, research, and essay writing.

Texts:

Richard Wagamese, *Indian Horse*
Sheila Watson, *The Double Hook*
David Chariandy, *Soucouyant*
Djanet Sears, *The Adventures of a Black Girl in Search of God*
Drew Hayden Taylor, *Cottagers and Indians*
Joy Kogawa, *Obasan*
Tomson Highway, *The Rez Sisters*

Additional readings will be available on through ARES on the library website.

Evaluation:

Fall Term:

Short Writing Assignment: 10%

Close Reading Assignment: 15%

December Exam: 15%

Attendance, Engagement, Class Contribution: 5%

Winter Term:

Annotated Bibliography: 10%

Essay Proposal: 5%

Research Essay: 20%

April Exam: 15%

Attendance, Engagement, Class Contribution: 5%