

Carleton University
Winter 2024 Preliminary Course Outline
Department of English

ENGL 3500B: Literatures and Cultures 1700-1900

Topic: Reading Like it's 1700-1900: Transatlantic Print Culture, Periodicals, Books, and Authorship

Prerequisites: Third-year standing or permission of the department.

Preclusions: Precludes additional credit for ENGL 3502 (no longer offered).

When: Wednesdays & Fridays 8:30 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.

Format: In-Person

Instructor: Sarah Pelletier, PhD Candidate

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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.*****

I. Course Description

A study of the period between 1700 and 1900, with attention to cultural, historical, geographical, and literary contexts.

In this section of Literatures and Cultures, 1700-1900, we will take a print culture/book historical studies approach to literature, the periodical, and the book in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries across Canada, Britain, and the US. Although we might think that periodicals (journals, magazines, etc.) and serialized fictions were forms of literature decidedly different (and perhaps inferior or less legitimate?) than the mighty novel, the novel would not have taken the same shape without the periodical press. In fact, many of the most famous authors we study today published in periodicals (or ran their own!) and/or published works serially.

This course will approach the work of Canadian, British, and American authors in their respective and/or transnational literary marketplaces to begin a critical discussion of the ways that literature, the author, and reading publics navigated these literary forms (the periodical and the book). This course is attentive to issues/topics such as: technology and literary production, authorship, materiality (book vs periodical), women's authorship, and the Black press.

II. Learning Outcomes

- Students will learn to analyze literary materials through a print and book historical approach.
- Students will learn to interpret and analyze literary texts in conjunction with their material form and socio-historical contexts.
- Students will develop research skills pertinent to book historical studies.
- Students will deepen their understanding of online/digital resources and research and material databases.
- Students will develop a working proficiency in case study research methods.

III. Texts

Additional course readings will be available online (links provided) or through Ares.

The following longer texts can be read online (links provided below), but it may be beneficial to purchase them as hard copies, as some of the digital versions available are not the most accessible or clear to read. Physical copies of these texts are available to purchase at **Haven Books (43 Seneca St, Ottawa, ON K1S 4X2)**.

George Gissing, *New Grub Street*

Physical Copies

George Gissing, *New Grub Street* (Oxford University Press [Oxford World's Classics], 2016). ISBN 978-0-19-872918-1.

Online

- E-Book Copy available through the [library](#).
- Available at [Project Gutenberg](#).
- Scanned copy available for full digital download through [HathiTruth](#) (must access through the Library)
- Scan available as 3 volumes from the 1891 edition on [HathiTrust](#) (must access through the Library).

Mary Ann Shadd Cary, *A Plea for Emigration; or Notes of Canada West*

Physical Copies

Mary Ann Shadd Cary, *A Plea for Emigration* (Broadview Press, 2016). ISBN 978-1-55481321-6.

Online

- [Read online at the Toronto Public Library \(free PDF\)](#)

IV. Evaluation

Note: Fuller descriptions and rubrics for these assignments will be available on Brightspace.

- a. Reading Responses (x5) – 25% (5% each)
 - Submitted on Brightspace before class begins.
- b. Book Arts Lab Field Trip Participation – 5%
 - During regularly scheduled class time, the class will be split into 2 groups to visit the Book Arts Lab in the MacOdrum Library. Attendance will be noted. If you cannot attend a session for any reason, please email me in advance of the session, where possible.
- c. Literary Production Quiz – 10%
 - The quiz will be administered IN PERSON.
- d. Periodical Research Case Study – 25%
- e. Final Essay – 35%

NOTE: 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.