

Carleton University Fall 2017

Department of English

ENGL 4135A Studies in Publishing

Little Magazines and Presses: The Canadian Modernist Poetry Project

Prerequisite(s): fourth-year standing or permission of the department

Time of Course: Mondays, 6:05-8:55 p.m.

Class Location: TB 230

(Please confirm location on Carleton Central)

Instructor: Professor Collett Tracey

Email: Collett.Tracey@Carleton.ca

Office: 1910 Dunton Tower

Phone: 613-520-2600 x2328

Office Hours: To be determined.

Questioning boundaries and breaking away from the past are fundamental to the spirit of modernism. In order to do this, not only do the barriers to change have to be overcome, but vehicles of expression have to be found in order to draw like-minded people together who can build the momentum required to make a new vision reality. As John Sutherland, Louis Dudek, Raymond Souster, Michael Gnarowski and others have shown, during the modernist movement in Canada it was little magazines and little presses that provided that impetus and published often unknown poets who were experimenting with new techniques and forms.

In Montreal, three important little presses were founded that span and reflect the changing spirit of modernism from the 1940's in First Statement Press, the 1950's, in Contact Press and the 1960's, in Delta Canada. These little presses and the movement they inspired played a significant role in the development of Canadian poetry. The advantage of the little press was that it brought like-minded poets together who were equally committed to a greater cause, which was moving poetry forward. The little magazine and, by extension, the little press, was a form of resistance against the conservative, commercially-driven publishing practices demonstrated by large, depersonalized organizations that have controlled the publishing industry in Canada since the 1920's. Being self-financed and non-profit entities, the little presses were able to stand on the front lines of Canadian poetry and publish the vanguard, the experimental, the young. Made up of poets who had a personal commitment to the presses and to the poets and books they published, the presses were rebellious, ambitious and intellectually intense. With these qualities, they were able to serve as a barometer of the social and literary climate in their closeness to the pulse of the times.

In this seminar course we will consider the history and context of First Statement, Contact and Delta Canada. We will examine how they began, who began them, and how they contributed to the development of modernist poetry in Canada.

Grading: Class Participation & Seminar: 50%
 Essay (10-12 pages): 50%

Required Text:

Dudek, Gnarowski, Eds. *The Making of Modern Poetry in Canada*. Montreal. McGill/Queen's U.P. 2017. (Available in the University Book Store).

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 (including, if you wish, texts we haven't studied as long as I agree with them). Alternatively, you can write a thematic essay which takes an idea, topic, or theme and explores it through texts by more than one writer (although writing about more than two primary texts is usually a bad idea). The usual essay rules apply: you are expected to demonstrate a level of engagement and research that goes beyond the content covered in seminars, and the essay must be presented in correct MLA scholarly format (with a consistently used and accurate referencing system and a full, properly formatted bibliography). The essay must be word-processed and paginated, and accompanied by a completed cover sheet.

Grading System:

Grades for term work will be based on insightfulness, originality, focus, organization of ideas, clarity of expression, scholarly rigor, correct use of MLA style, spelling, and grammar.

General Expectations, Course Policies and Classroom Etiquette:

Students are expected to attend all classes, showing up on time and staying for the duration of the class. You are also expected to bring the text assigned for that day's class, having read it and being prepared for discussion. If you do have to miss a class it is your responsibility to get the notes you miss from another student. ***I strongly prefer that, unless they are absolutely necessary for note-taking, both cell phones and laptops should be turned off during class.*** Students must be prepared to discuss the texts in a thoughtful manner.

Critical reading, writing and analytical skills cannot be learned from books alone. Asking questions about the readings and contributing to class discussions will help you better understand

the material, hone your critical and interpretive skills and prepare you well for upper-year classes where participation will account for part of your final grade. -

Attendance will be taken on a random basis, and absences will be noted. *Students who miss 3 or more classes per term will not be able to pass the course, as all course requirements must be fulfilled for successful completion of the course.*

Contact:

The best way to get in contact with me is by email at collett.tracey@carleton.ca. I will respond to emails in a timely fashion (usually within 24 hours, though it could be longer on weekends) and especially to those that ask clear, precise and specific questions. - I am also available to meet with students to discuss any aspect of the course during my office hours, and if you are unable to make it to my office hours, we can reschedule a time to meet that is convenient to both of us.

Suggestions:

It is strongly recommended that you take notes on the lectures and discussions, and keep a record of the passages we discuss in class. Writing in the margins of your books and marking off key passages as you read is also a good idea.

Handing In Assignments:

Assignments are due in class on the dates indicated. However, they can be handed in without penalty until 8:00 a.m. the morning after the due date, via the English Department's drop box, located on the 18th floor of Dunton Tower. *Please do not slip the assignment under my office door. Emailed or faxed assignments are not acceptable and will not be marked.* Keep a back-up copy of every assignment you hand in as an insurance policy in the unlikely event that your essay is misplaced.

Late Penalty:

Deadlines must be met. Late essays are not normally accepted (for many reasons, not the least of which is that it is inherently unfair to those who do work hard to meet deadlines). If you have a valid reason for missing a deadline, and if I know in advance, your essay may be accepted. Except in rare cases for which corroborating documentation can be provided (such as a medical emergency or the death of an immediate family member), assignments which are accepted and handed in after the due date will be penalized by 1/3 of a letter grade per day. For example, a B+ essay due on Monday but handed in on Tuesday afternoon would drop to a B. If it wasn't handed in until Wednesday it would receive a B-, etc. Saturday and Sunday count as 1 day each, so if you find yourself in the position of finishing up your late essay on Saturday afternoon and don't want to lose 1/3 of a grade for Sunday too, email me the completed assignment immediately and submit an identical hard copy to the drop box on Monday.

Extensions:

Requests for extension may be granted in some instances, but only for compelling reasons. Any such request must be made in writing or in person no later than 48 hours prior to the due date of the assignment. Requests for “retroactive” extensions (i.e. requests made on or after the due date of the essay) will not be considered.

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.

Request for Academic Accommodation:

You may need special arrangements to meet your academic obligations during the term. For an accommodation request the processes are as follows:

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).

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.

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.

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 Calendar:

September	11	Introduction
	18	Introduction to Little Mag Publishing & the Modernists
	25	Seminars begin: <i>Direction</i> Magazine & Ray Souster
October	2	The Setting: Montreal
	9	The McGill Movement, <i>Preview</i>
	16	<i>First Statement & Northern Review</i>
	23	Fall Break - No class
	30	First Statement Press
November	6	<i>Contact</i> Magazine
	13	Contact Press
	20	<i>Delta, Yes</i>
	27	Delta Canada
December	4	Last Class <i>Papers due</i>