

Carleton University
Fall 2019
Department of English

ENGL 4806A
The Giller Prize in Context

Prerequisite for ENGL 4806A is 4th-year standing or permission of the department.
Tuesdays 11:35-2:25 PM / DT 1816

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Office Hours: TBA

This is a seminar about literary prizes. We will study the politics of literary prize culture in Canada, but also elsewhere, with case studies of the Scotiabank-Giller Prize, Canada Reads, the CODE Burt Award for First Nations, Inuit and Metis Young Adult Literature, the Booker Prize, the Caine Prize for African Writing, and the Nobel Prize in Literature. How are prizes funded? Why are banks, corporations, and NGOs backing literary prizes? What social, political, and economic considerations come into play when decisions are made? Assignments will include study of a prizewinning book of your choice. Most of our class time will be discussion, either as a whole or in small groups. Minimal lecturing. Students will play a significant role in shaping discussion.

Course texts:

Cherie Dimaline, *The Marrow Thieves*
Esi Edugyan, *Washington Black*

These two novels are available at Haven Books. All other readings will be via cuLearn, weblink, or ARES library reserves.

Learning outcomes:

- Develop knowledge of the history, purposes, politics, and controversies surrounding literary prizes.
- Develop knowledge of the Canadian literary book industry, and also of book industries globally.
- Develop knowledge of cultural theory addressing prestige and taste.
- Develop a sophisticated vocabulary for discussing what makes some books into prizewinners.
- Develop confidence and competence in leading a group in lively discussion.
- Develop confidence in independent self-directed research into literary prizes.
- Develop skills in extended expository essay writing.

Evaluation:

Brief case study of a prizewinning book (oral only)	15%
Discussion leadership (leading discussion one class)	35%
Research essay proposal (2 pages, due 11.19)	10%
Research essay (12 to 15 pages, due 12.10)	40%

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.

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 form of intellectual theft. It is a serious offence that cannot be resolved directly with the course’s instructor. The Associate Deans of the Faculty conduct 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 failure of the assignment, failure of the entire course, or suspension from a program. For more information please go to: <https://carleton.ca/registrar/academic-integrity/>

Requests 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:

Pregnancy obligation

Please contact your instructor 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, visit the Equity Services website: carleton.ca/equity/wp-content/uploads/Student-Guide-to-Academic-Accommodation.pdf

Religious obligation

Please contact your instructor 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, visit the Equity Services website: carleton.ca/equity/wp-content/uploads/Student-Guide-to-Academic-Accommodation.pdf

Academic Accommodations for Students with Disabilities

If you have a documented disability requiring academic accommodations in this course, please contact the Paul Menton Centre for Students with Disabilities (PMC) at 613-520-6608 or pmc@carleton.ca for a formal evaluation or contact your PMC coordinator to send your instructor your Letter of Accommodation at the beginning of the term. You must also contact the PMC 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 your instructor as soon as possible to ensure accommodation arrangements are made.

Survivors of Sexual Violence

As a community, Carleton University is committed to maintaining a positive learning, working and living environment where sexual violence will not be tolerated, and its survivors are supported through academic accommodations as per Carleton's Sexual Violence Policy. For more information about the services available at the university and to obtain information about sexual violence and/or support, visit: carleton.ca/sexual-violence-support

Accommodation for Student Activities

Carleton University recognizes the substantial benefits, both to the individual student and for the university, that result from a student participating in activities beyond the classroom experience. Reasonable accommodation must be provided to students who compete or perform at the national or international level. Please contact your instructor 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. <https://carleton.ca/senate/wp-content/uploads/Accommodation-for-Student-Activities-1.pdf>

Schedule:

09.10 Introduction

09.17 Taste and Prestige

- Janice Radway, from *A Feeling for Books*
- Pierre Bourdieu, “The Field of Cultural Production: or, the Economic World Reversed”

09.24 The Literary Prize

- Claire Squires, “Literary Prizes and Awards”
- James English, “Winning the Culture Game: Prizes, Awards, and the Rules of Art”

10.01 Canada Reads

- Laura Moss, “Canada Reads”
- Danielle Fuller and DeNel R. Sedo, “A Reading Spectacle for the Nation: The CBC and ‘Canada Reads’”
- Anouk Lang, “‘A Book that All Canadians Should be Proud to Read’: Canada Reads and Joseph Boyden’s *Three Day Road*”

10.08 The Scotiabank-Giller Prize

- Jennifer Scott and Myka Tucker-Abramson, “Banking on a Prize: Multicultural Capitalism and the Canadian Literary Prize Industry”
- Jody Mason, “‘Capital Intraconversion’ and Canadian Literary Prize Culture”

10.15 *Washington Black*

10.22 No Class / Fall Break

10.29 The CODE Burt Award for First Nations, Inuit, and Metis Young Adult Literature

11.05 *The Marrow Thieves*

11.12 The Man Booker Prize

- Graham Huggan, “Prizing Otherness: a short history of the Booker”
- Beth Driscoll, “The Man Booker Prize: Money, Glory and Media Spectacle”
- Sharon Norris, “The Booker Prize: A Bourdieusian Perspective”

11.19 The Caine Prize for African Writing

- Dobrota Pucherová, “‘A Continent Learns to Tell its Story at Last’: Notes on the Caine Prize”
- Ikhide Ikheloa, “The 2011 Caine Prize: How Not to Write About Africa”
- NoViolet Bulawayo, “Hitting Budapest”
- Research essay proposal due

11.26 The Nobel Prize in Literature

- Pascale Casanova, “The Importance of Being Universal”
- Rebecca Braun, “Fetishising intellectual achievement: the Nobel Prize and European literary celebrity”
- The case of Bob Dylan (read the short pieces by Michael Robbins and Joshua Clover – links on cuLearn)

12.03 Prizewinners: your brief case studies