

Carleton University

Department of English Language and Literature

Fall 2017

ENGL 4806A ~ Studies in Canadian Lit. I: "The Giller Effect"

(Pre-requisite - fourth year standing or permission of the department)

Professor: R. Hoey, PhD

**Office Hours: Thursdays and by app't.
(11 - 1)**

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Course Description :

Fall 2017 marks the fourth offering of this seminar course which is a Canadian first in its own right. Throughout the Term, participants study what has become a Canadian literary phenomenon known as "the Giller Effect". They explore its impacts on Canadian writers, culture, and the economy both nationally and internationally.

The Fall of 2017 also marks the twenty-fourth presentation of this prize founded in 1994 by Jack Rabinovitch in memory of his wife, the journalist, Doris Giller (1931-1993). The core and founding principle for this annual prize is "...to present the finest Canadian fiction to a broad and diverse audience. ...".

Consequently, a primary focus for this seminar is to examine the prose submissions and their context. This includes considerations of the nominating publisher and the subsequent jury processes. Originally, the top purse was \$25,000 and the four finalists each collected \$5,000.00. As described on the Scotiabank Giller Prize web site, it was "...in 2005 that the Giller Prize teamed up with Scotiabank to create the Scotiabank Giller Prize. It is the first ever co-sponsorship for Canada's richest literary award for fiction. The purse increased from \$25,000 to \$50,000 and grew again in 2008 to \$70,000. (<http://www.scotiabank.com/gillerprize>). Now in 2017, the winner receives \$100,000.00 and predictably gains a global reputation of various proportions as do the other four finalists who each receive a \$10,000 award. The winners, finalists, and jury members continue to include many award winning writers, in particular, Nobel Laureate, Alice Munro. The prize has been credited with launching and furthering the careers of writers like Joseph Boyden, Vincent Lam, Lynn Coady. The scope of the winning and finalist novels and short stories include authors like Michael Ondaatje, Esi Edugyan, Margaret Atwood, the late Austin Clarke, Elizabeth Hay, Linden MacIntyre and Andre Alexis to name but a few of the authors.

Each Fall, the literary and public communities await the jury's announcement of that particular year's list of 'Giller nominees' which is followed by a short list usually of five finalists. The award's winner is announced and celebrated at a nationally broadcasted Gala in Toronto in November. (Note the web site's schedule of events).

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 Thus, it is in this dynamic context that this seminar members explores not only the phenomenon which is known as “the Giller effect” but also what that phrase might mean and include. Furthermore, considerations are given to what might be significant influences and trends if any since 1994 which may have affected the win. Other queries will speculate about such patterns say to 2020 and how might a Giller nomination affect Canadian writers, publishers and culture - locally? ... nationally? ...internationally? Students who select to follow this course must be prepared to attend and contribute to each weekly session. They must complete the core reading and writing tasks. These details will be clarified during our first session.

Please be aware of the following dates for the upcoming 2017 Giller Prize:

September 18th, 2017 - the announcement of the long list of nominees;
 October 2, 2017 - the announcement of the short list of finalists;
 Oct. 12 to Nov. 1, 2017 - Finalists’ Readings – five sessions including
Wed. Nov. 1, 2017 - Finalists’ Reading at the National Gallery on Sussex Dr.
 Course participants have been invited to attend this Ottawa event.
 Mon. Nov. 20, 2017 - Gala in Toronto to celebrate the finalists winner. (CBC).
 Thursday, Nov. 23, 2017 - #GillerWinner Twitter chat

As announced in mid-January, 2017, the 2017 Jury has five members: Anita Rau Badami, Andre Alexis, Richard Beard, Lynn Coady, and Nathan Englander.

Please note this seminar’s ‘broad strokes’ agenda given the evolving presence of local artists and events especially the FALL ’17 Schedule for the Ottawa Writer’s Festival (WF). For Carleton and University of Ottawa students, most events are free with registration.

Dr. Hoey acknowledges the support of Ms. Elana Rabinovitch, the Executive Director of the Giller Foundation and Dr. D. Staines, University of Ottawa with gratitude.

Please support our small bookstores like Octopus Books, Perfect Books and Books on Beechwood. These gems enable students and writers.

Course Objectives (Six):

- ~ To know the primary history of the Giller Prize in the context of Canadian literary history;
- ~ To know the broad range of the Giller prize winners and finalists;
- ~ To examine the various complexities of social, historical, and political contexts as represented by the winners, the finalists, and the juries’ comments;
- ~ To express one’s assessment of selected Giller winners in oral and written formats;
- ~ To explore the on-going applicability of literary and critical theories (reference other courses);
- ~ To enhance one’s personal awareness and appreciation of Canadian literature particularly in its contemporary realities of individualism, publicity, marketplace, and promotion.

Required Texts: Available from Octopus Books, 116 Third Ave., Ottawa.(613)233-2589
 courseorders@octopusbooks.ca. ALSO check Perfect Books www.perfectbooks.ca
In order of Class reference:

- S-1:** Vassanji, M.G. *The Book of Secrets*. Toronto: McClelland & Stewart, 1994. Print.
 ISBN 97807710-87219
- S-2:** Wright, Richard B. *Clara Callan*. Toronto: Harper Flamingo, 2001. Print.
 ISBN 9781554684809
- S-3:** Hay, Elizabeth. *Late Nights on Air*. Toronto: McClelland & Stewart, 2007. Print.
 ISBN 9780771038129
- S-4:** Thien, Madeleine, *Do Not Say We Have Nothing*. Toronto: Knopf, 2016. Print.
 ISBN 9781770564039.
- S-5:** Student Selection from one of the other winners *OR a choice from the titles
 which are announced on September 18 , 2017. See Web sites + handouts)
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Evaluation:

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| 1. On-going contributions and attendance ** (8 & 7 {5}) | 15% |
| 2. Reading Responses (RR): brief analyses per directions: | 30% |
| Note guidelines: S-1 to S-4. (min. of 3) | |
| 3. Seminar presentation – S-5 (Details given separately/class).... | 25% |
| 4. Research Paper on Seminar Choice (Due by Dec. 7) | 30% |
| (Two copies ...note directions and rationale) | |

Please Note:

- ~ to be eligible to pass, students must complete ALL of the term work;
- ~ please submit print copies of written work and keep electronic copies for possible further consultation;
- ~ all assignments should be submitted in class on the due dates. Never slide any work under an office door; if needed, please use the English Department's drop box (DT 1812);
- ~ IF academic accommodation(s) is/are needed, please give the professor notice as soon as possible to address necessary policies for such accommodation(s). Collaborative resolutions need appropriate timing.
- ~ "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." (FASS Teaching Regulations)
- ~ **like other 4th and 5th year courses, absence from TWO or more classes will result in an attendance grade of 0, without appropriate accommodation/documentation. Please arrive on time and participate in the discussions and questions for seminars.

Accommodations:***For Students with Disabilities:***

Students who require academic accommodation(s) in this course are directed to contact the Paul Menton Centre (ext. 6608). The student must meet with a coordinator to complete a letter of accommodation and then discuss the situation(s) with the professor at least two weeks prior to any evaluation situation such as a test, a deadline for submitting an assignment, or an examination. Please note the deadlines of Nov. 11, 2017. (pmc@carleton.ca)

For Religious Observance:

Students requesting academic accommodation on the basis of Religious observance should make a formal, written request to their Instructor for alternate dates and/or means for satisfying academic requirements. Such requests should be made during the first two weeks class or as soon as possible after the need for the accommodation is known to exist BUT no later than two weeks before the compulsory academic event. Accommodation is to be worked out directly and on an individual basis between the student and the instructor(s) involved. Instructors will make accommodation(s) in a way that avoids academic disadvantages for the student. Any questions and confirmations about a religious event or practice can be checked on the Equity Services web site or by contacting the Equity Services Office. ([http://www2.carleton.ca/equity/.](http://www2.carleton.ca/equity/))

For Pregnancy:

Pregnant students requiring academic accommodations are encouraged to contact an Equity Advisor in Equity Services to complete a letter of accommodation. The student must then make an appointment to discuss her needs with the instructor(s) at least two weeks prior to the first academic event in which it is anticipated that the accommodation will be required. ([http://www2.carleton.ca/equity/.](http://www2.carleton.ca/equity/))

Plagiarism: (Please see Carleton's Academic Integrity Policy which can be found at [https://carleton.ca/registrar/academic-integrity/.](https://carleton.ca/registrar/academic-integrity/)

“Plagiarism is presenting, whether intentional or not, the ideas, expression of ideas or work of others as one’s own.” Plagiarism includes 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. ...” Please note the Site’s range of examples.

Schedule: Fall 2017 (NOTE - TBC - posted in July, 2017)

ENGL 4806A: Studies in Canadian Literature: 'The Giller Effect'

<u>Class</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Topic(s)/Focus/Highlight(s)</u>	
1.	Thurs. Sept. 7	Beginnings...details for written and oral tasks, resources.... *	
		(<u>Long list to be announced on Mon. Sept. 18.</u>)	
2.	Thurs. Sept. 14	Historical Perspectives - Seminar & 'Winner' Selection ... <u>S-1</u>	
3.	Thurs. Sept. 21	Historical Trends and Speculations-1: <u>S-1</u> and <u>S-2</u> Guest: J. Sherman (publishes/book sellers)	(<u>RR #1**</u>)
4.	Thurs. Sept. 28	Historical Trends and Speculations -2: <u>S-2</u> and <u>S-3</u> Guest: Elizabeth Hay (TBC)	
5.	Thurs. Oct. 5	Intro. + Guest: Janice Scammell...research... <u>S-3</u> - Synthesis. **** <u>Short list to be announced on Mon. Oct. 2nd.</u>	
6.	Thurs. Oct. 12	Intro. + <u>S-4</u> ... Synthesis - <u>S1-S4.</u>	(<u>RR #2</u>)
7.	Thurs. Oct. 19	****Ottawa Writers Festival - location TBC. *** <u>Evening</u> event - 6:30-9:30 Indigenous Writes with Chelsea Vowel & "A Newfoundlander in Canada" - Alan Doyle.	
8.	Thurs. Oct. 26	<u>Fall Reading Week</u> --- October 23 -27, 2017 <u>no classes.</u>	
	**** Wed. Nov. 1	- <u>National Gallery Presentation</u> - Readings with the 2017 Finalists.	
9.	Thurs. Nov. 2	Intro.(P) + Sem. 1 Sem. 2 Sem. 3	Synthesis (<u>RR #3</u>)
10.	Thurs. Nov. 9	Intro.(P) + Sem. 4 Sem. 5 ..., Sem. 6	Synthesis
11.	Thurs. Nov. 16	Intro. (P) + Sem. 7 Sem. 8 Sem. 9	Synthesis
12.	Thurs. Nov. 23	Intro. (P) + Sem. 10 Sem. 11.... Sem. 12	Synthesis (<u>RR #4</u>)
13.	Thurs. Nov. 30	Intro. (P)+ Sem. 13 Sem. 14 ... Sem. 15	Synthesis
14.	<u>Thurs.</u> Dec. 7	Session at the National Gallery - the artists' voices: "Looking Back and Scanning Horizons"	Research Paper Due.

- * Initial Details for short writing tasks, Seminar, and Research paper will be discussed.
 ** Note class discussion, given the Writers' Festival's schedule and guests.(P) = Professor.