

Carleton University
Department of English
May-June 2018
M, W: 2:30-5:30
Room: 1816 DT

ENGL 5806/ENGL 4961: Studies in Canadian Literature II/Indigenous Literatures II

Topic: Storying Resurgence through Indigenous Popular Genres

Instructor: Brenda Vellino

*Carleton University is located on the unceded and un-surrendered territory of the Algonquin peoples.

Course Description: Contemporary Indigenous artists from Turtle Island (the territory also known as Canada) have increasingly taken up popular forms such as genre fiction (sci-fi, fantasy), graphic novels, documentary and feature films, stop motion animation film shorts, and spoken word poetry. These new media and popular genres claim Indigenous spaces to decolonize cultural forms, represent complex contemporary social realities, stake political claims, and assert Indigenous cultural sovereignty and resurgence. Whenever possible, our discussion will be informed by Indigenous literary/cultural critics such as Niigaanwewidem James Sinclair, Daniel Heath Justice, Margaret Kovach, Grace Dillon, and Kateri Akwenzi-Damm, as well as selected settler ally critics. This course will enable us to consider the politics and ethics of cultural production and reception within the intersecting conditions of settler colonialism and decolonisation. Our work will be highly context specific, situated by careful attention to specific Indigenous, Inuit, and Metis cultural contexts, social realities, and priorities. Topics may include contemporary Rez life, contemporary urban realities, Indigenous cultural sovereignty, Indigenous relational ethics, Indigenous rebalancing, revitalization and resurgence movements, and the politics of embodiment and Indigenous self-representation, particularly in texts informed by questions of gender and sexuality.

Texts/Authors: Subject to Change

Course Texts: available at Haven Books*

***Pick up Course Reader before first class!!**

- Course Reader (**CR**)
- Aaron Paquette (Cree): *Lightfinder*. Kagedonce, 2014.
- David Alexander Robertson (Cree) and Scott B. Henderson. *Betty: The Helen Betty Osborne Story*. 2015.
- Kelly LaBoucane-Benson (Métis) and Kelly Mellings. *The Outside Circle*. Anansi (2015).

Sci-Fi & Speculative Fiction: Selections from *Walking the Clouds: An Anthology of Indigenous Science Fiction*

Indigenous Fantasy: Aaron Paquette (Cree Metis): *Lightfinder*

Indigenous Erotica: selections from *Without Reservation: Indigenous Erotica*, ed. Kateri Akwenzie Damm (Anishinaabe)

*Additional readings from queer/two spirit art, poetry, and blogs (Kent Monkman, Billy Rae Belcourt, Erica Violet Lee)

Graphic Novels:

The Outside Circle

Betty: The Helen Betty Osborne Story

Indigenous Films:

Jeff Barnaby, Dir. (Listuguj Mi'gmaq First Nation): *Rhymes for Young Ghouls*

Alethea Arnaquik-Baril, Dir. (Inuit): *Angry Inuk*

Shane Belcourt, Dir. (Metis): *Takaronto*

Stop-Motion Animation Shorts:

Amanda Strong (Michif), Spotted Fawn Productions:

*"Ghost Food"

*"Flood"

*With Leanne Simpson (Anishinaabe): "How to Steal a Canoe"

*"Four Faces of the Moon"

Spoken Word: Taqralik Partridge, Rebbecca Thomas, Lindsay Knight, Leanne Simpson

MMIW Honouring Projects: Music, Poetry, Visual Arts: Jamie Black (Metis), the REDress Project; Gregory Scofield (Metis), "She is Spitting a Mouthful of Stars"; Iskwe, "Nobody Knows"

Course Assignments:

- Attendance/Participation: 10%
- 4 Short Text-Theory Response Papers/Creative Format Welcome: 20%
- 1 Indigenous Theory Discussion Paper Short Presentations (graduate students): 20%
- Seminar: 25% (35% for 4th year students)
- Final Project: 25% (35% for 4th year students)