

Carleton University
Fall 2018
Department of English

ENGL 5900F / ENGL 4806A
The Giller Prize in Context

Prerequisite for ENGL 4806A is 4th-year standing in honours English

Mondays 2:35-5:25 / DT 1816

Instructor: Professor Sarah Brouillette
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Office: DT 1904

Office Hours: Wed 1:15-2:15 or by appointment via email

In 2019 the Giller Prize will be 25-years old. In this course we will become deft analysts of the whole industry of media spectacle, speculation, and debate that makes the Giller Prize what it is. We will survey the history of literary prize culture in Canada, but also elsewhere, with case studies of the Man Booker Prize, the Caine Prize for African Writing, and the Nobel Prize in Literature. How are prizes funded? Why are banks and other corporations backing literature in this way? What social, political, and economic considerations come into play when decisions are made? We will also read some selections of prizewinning prose, with an eye to figuring out what makes a writer worthy of official, publicized acclaim.

Course texts:

There is nothing to buy. All readings will be available via cuLearn, weblink, or ARES library reserves.

Evaluation:

Participation	10%
Brief case study of prizewinner	15%
Discussion leadership	30%
Research essay proposal	5%
Research essay	40%

Academic Accommodation:

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

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 <http://carleton.ca/equity/accommodation/academic/students/>

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 above.

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).

Schedule:

09.10 Introduction

09.17 On the Nature of the Literary Field I

- Martha Woodmansee, "The Interests in Disinterestedness"
- Janice Radway, from *A Feeling for Books: The Book-of-the-Month Club, Literary Taste, and Middle-Class Desire*
- Pierre Bourdieu, "The Field of Cultural Production: or, the Economic World Reversed"

09.24 On the Nature of the Literary Field II

- Claire Squires, "Publishing Contexts and Market Conditions"
- Lorraine York, "Literary Celebrity?"
- Andrew Wernick, "Authorship and the Supplement of Promotion"

10.01 The Literary Prize in General I

- Claire Squires, "Literary Prizes and Awards"
- James English, "Winning the Culture Game: Prizes, Awards, and the Rules of Art"
- John Street, "Showbusiness of a Serious Kind': A Cultural Politics of the Arts Prize"

10.15 The Literary Prize in General II

- Gillian Roberts, "Prizing Canadian Literature"
- Brian Bethune, "Who Wins Canada's Literary Prizes – And Why"

10.22 No Class / Fall Break

10.29 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”

11.05 Canada Reads

- Laura Moss, “Canada Reads”
- Danielle Fuller and DeNel R. Sedo, “A Reading Spectacle for the Nation: The CBC and ‘Canada Reads’”
- Danielle Fuller and Julie Rak, “‘True Stories,’ Real Lives: *Canada Reads* 2012 and the Effects of Reading Memoir in Public”
- Anouk Lang, “‘A Book that All Canadians Should be Proud to Read’: Canada Reads and Joseph Boyden’s *Three Day Road*”

11.12 The Man Booker Prize

- Graham Huggan, “Prizing Otherness: a short history of the Booker” (link via library)
- 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”
- Amatoritsero Ede, “Narrative Moment and Self-Anthropologizing Discourse”
- NoViolet Bulawayo, “Hitting Budapest”

11.26 The Nobel Prize in Literature

- Pascale Casanova, “The Importance of Being Universal”
- Julia Lovell, “China’s Search for a Nobel Prize in Literature, 1979-2000”
- Rebecca Braun, “Fetishising intellectual achievement: the Nobel Prize and European literary celebrity”

12.03 Prizewinners: case studies

12.07 Prizewinners: case studies