

Carleton University  
**Fall 2025/Winter 2026 Preliminary Course Outline**  
Department of English

**ENGL 2802A: Indigenous and Canadian Literatures**

**Prerequisites: second-year standing or permission of the Department**

**Instructor: Dr. Sara Jamieson**  
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**\*\*\* This is a preliminary syllabus only—texts and assignments are subject to change.  
A complete version will be available closer to the start of the term. \*\*\***

**Course description:**

ENGL 2802A introduces students to a variety of texts—creation stories, exploration narratives, life writing, poetry, songs, short stories, critical essays, plays, government documents, novels (including a graphic novel), visual art, and film—produced in or about the part of Turtle Island also known as Canada. Putting contemporary works into conversation with writing from the nineteenth and twentieth centuries, the course invites students to recognize and interpret the ways in which generations of authors and artists from both Indigenous and Settler cultures have used stories and language to imagine and re-imagine this place and its peoples in radically different but sometimes overlapping ways.

Classes will consist of lectures and discussion. Lectures will provide historical and cultural context for the readings and will help students to develop their skills in close analysis, research, and essay writing.

ENGL 2802 works to promote the **Learning Outcomes** developed by the Department of English. These outcomes include the ability to:

1. demonstrate cultural literacies that engage with the transnational, multilingual, and historical traditions of literary production in English
2. read and analyze texts accurately, contextually, and critically
3. conduct independent textual research
4. recognize and apply a range of methodological frameworks in a critical and self-reflective manner
5. write clearly and persuasively in a variety of genres, while advancing and supporting arguments
6. express ideas clearly, persuasively, and collegially in a variety of oral formats

**ENGL 2802** is a “**writing attentive**” course, which means that:

- Students will write at least one examination or culminating reflective assignment
- Students will complete a number of writing assignments (including at least one formal essay) in which they are expected to do the following:
  - i. develop an argument across each piece of writing
  - ii. develop complex and persuasive arguments using persuasive, clear and grammatically correct English
  - iii. develop literary reading skills through close analysis of poetry and/or prose passages
  - iv. use and cite evidence from primary texts appropriately, using the MLA documentation style
  - v. develop secondary research and citation skills

A portion of class time will be devoted to developing and improving research and writing skills, including essay-writing skills.

**Preliminary list of required texts (subject to change):**

Richard Wagamese, *Indian Horse*

Sheila Watson, *The Double Hook*

David Chariandy, *Soucouyant*

Djanet Sears, *The Adventures of a Black Girl in Search of God*

Tomson Highway, *The Rez Sisters*

Jillian Tamaki and Mariko Tamaki, *This One Summer*

**Additional readings will be available on through ARES on the library website.**

**Preliminary Assignment Schedule and Mark Breakdown (subject to change):**

**Fall Term:**

- Land/Water Reflection: 10%
- Close Reading Exercise: 15%
- Attendance, Engagement, and Class Contribution: 5%
- December Exam: 15%

**Winter Term:**

- Annotated Bibliography for Research Essay: 10%
- Proposal for Research Essay: 10%
- Research Essay: 15%
- Attendance, Engagement, and Class Contribution:
- April Exam: 15%