

Carleton University
Fall 2026 Preliminary Course Outline
Department of English

ENGL 3501: Literature and Cultures 1900 - Now

Prerequisites: third year standing

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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

Three 20th century novels of urban life, from the 1920s, the 1970s, and the 1990s, about the connections and collisions enabled by the city, living on in the wake of catastrophe, and the refusal of a sacrificial social order. The novels by Woolf, Wiseman, and Morrison represent a current of 20th century writing interested in ambiguity and paradox, the non-linear experience of time, and the porosity of subjectivity. We'll engage in a slow reading practice, which will allow us to address historical context, form, and philosophical questions.

Texts

Please bring a print copy to class.

Virginia Woolf, *Mrs. Dalloway* [1925] (Harper Collins Canada, 1990) \$13.50

Adele Wiseman, *Crackpot* [1974] (McClelland & Stewart, 2023) \$24.00

Toni Morrison, *Jazz* (1992) (Vintage, 2004) \$23.00

Evaluation

There is no take-home essay for this course. Evaluation is through in-class tests and regular in-class writing exercises.