

**Carleton University**  
**Winter 2027**  
**Department of English**

**ENGL 3501B: Literatures and Cultures 1900-Now**

Precludes additional credit for ENGL 3502 (no longer offered).  
Prerequisite(s): third-year standing or permission of the department.

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In this survey of twentieth-century literature, we will study the central preoccupations of its writers through the motif of the journey. As a metaphor for life and discovery, the journey holds a hallowed place in our literary history and is revived in its epic form in defining works of Modernism, such as Marcel Proust's *In Search of Lost Time* and James Joyce's *Ulysses*. But it also figures in shorter works—such as Virginia Woolf's *To the Lighthouse*, Samuel Beckett's *Molloy*, Toni Morrison's *The Bluest Eye*, and Tomson Highway's *Kiss of the Fur Queen*—in which journeys are belatedly fulfilled, mercilessly delayed, or found to lead back to their place of origin. Our readings will crisscross the vast expanse of twentieth-century literature and culture: from the banks of the Vivonne in the French countryside walked by Proust's Narrator to the wanderings of Stephen Dedalus and Leopold Bloom along the river Liffey in Dublin, from the Ramsays' arrival at the lighthouse on an island in the Hebrides to Molloy's labored wanderings through unrecognizable landscapes, from Pecola Breedlove's blighted childhood in Ohio to Champion and Ooneemeetoo Okimasis's enforced exile from their childhood home in northern Manitoba. We will be guided by the questions that bedevil those who embark upon these journeys: What is personal identity? What does it mean to arrive at a destination? What counts as a homecoming? What is our relationship to the past and what does it mean to hold something or someone in memory? Are we free or determined? What do we owe the self and what do we owe others?

**REQUIRED READING**

Marcel Proust, *Swann's Way* (1913) and selections from *Time Regained* (1927)

Virginia Woolf, *To the Lighthouse* (1927)

James Joyce, selections from *Ulysses* (1922)

Samuel Beckett, *Molloy* (1951)

Toni Morrison, *The Bluest Eye* (1970)

Tomson Highway, *Kiss of the Fur Queen* (1998)

## **TEXTS TO PURCHASE:**

Marcel Proust, *Swann's Way*. Translated by C.K. Scott Moncrieff and Terence Kilmartin.  
Revised by D.J. Enright. New York: Modern Library, 2003.  
ISBN: 9780375751547 (**\$27.99**)

Virginia Woolf, *To the Lighthouse*. Broadview. ISBN: 9781551113968/1551113961(**\$17.95**)

Toni Morrison, *The Bluest Eye*. Vintage, 2007. ISBN: 9780307278449 (**\$23.00**)

Tomson Highway, *Kiss of the Fur Queen*, Penguin Modern Classics, 2021. ISBN:  
9780385697217 (**\$22.00**)

## **TEXTS AVAILABLE ONLINE:**

Marcel Proust, *Time Regained*: <https://reserves.library.carleton.ca/ares/>  
(Proust's *Swann's Way* is also [available online](#), but I think you will enjoy it more in print)

James Joyce, *Ulysses*: <https://www.gutenberg.org/files/4300/4300-h/4300-h.htm>

Samuel Beckett, *Molloy*: <https://archive.org/details/in.ernet.dli.2015.125753/page/n13/mode/2up>

## **LEARNING OUTCOMES**

This course is designed with the following learning outcomes in mind. By the time students complete the course, they will be expected to have achieved the following:

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.

## **EVALUATION**

### **Grade Distribution:**

30% unannounced quizzes (15 quizzes of which 10 will count toward the final grade; 5 lowest-earning quizzes will be discarded)

20% first in-class test\*

20% second in-class test\*

30% final exam\*

\*Students signed up with the Paul Menton Centre will write the tests and the exam under the auspices of the McIntyre Exam Centre (MEC).