

Carleton University
Fall-Winter 2026-2027
Department of English Language and Literature

ENGL 2802A: Indigenous and Canadian Literatures

Prerequisites: second-year standing or permission of the department

Instructor: Dr. Sara Jamieson
Email address: sara.jamieson@carleton.ca

I Course Description: English 2802A introduces you to many different kinds of texts, including literary works like novels, poems, short stories, life writing, a play, and a film as well as forms of non-fiction such as exploration narratives, an emigrant guidebook, policy documents, and a critical essay, produced in and/or about the part of Turtle Island called Canada. Moving through a selection of texts from and about different geographical and geopolitical regions, the course invites you to consider how writers from across generations and across cultures use language to imagine and articulate their relationships to land, place, history, and community in sometimes conflicting, sometimes intersecting ways.

II Learning Outcomes: Students in this class will learn to analyze and interpret the formal strategies through which authors articulate divergent relationships to land, place, and history. They will develop their skills in close reading, secondary research, critical thinking, and persuasive argumentation.

III 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.

IV Required Texts: (available at The Campus Store, Carleton University)

David Chariandy, *Soucouyant* (Arsenal Pulp Press, \$19.95)
(a print copy of the novel is on reserve at MacOdrum Library)

Drew Hayden Taylor, *Cottagers and Indians* (Talonbooks, \$16.95)

(a print copy of the play is on reserve at MacOdrum Library; a link to the e-book is posted in ARES)

Margaret Laurence, *The Diviners* (Penguin Random House Canada, \$24.00)

(a print copy of the novel is on reserve at MacOdrum Library)

The prices above are for new, paperback editions. Students are permitted to use e-book or used editions.

All other required readings will be available through ARES, the library's course reserve system. To access ARES readings, go to the ENGL 2802A Brightspace course and select "ARES Reserves" from the drop-down menu under "Tools."

*Important note: Some of these readings deal with subject matter that some readers may find distressing (i.e. gendered and racialized violence, sexual assault, suicide etc.). If this is of concern to you, please do not hesitate to let me know.

V Evaluation:

In-class Writing Activities: 20% (scheduled throughout the year; consult course outline for dates)

Fall Midterm Test: 10% Tuesday, October 20

Close Reading Assignment: 15% due on Brightspace by 12pm on Monday, November 23

December Exam: 15% (scheduled exam period [Dec. 12-23])

Research Essay: 20% (due on Brightspace by 12pm on Monday, March 22)

Final Exam: 20% (scheduled exam period [April 11-23])