

Course Description Form

Course number and section: English 153

Course Topic: Readings in Narrative

Credits: 3

Term: 2

Instructor: Dr. Lisa Grekul

Course Description:

The point of departure for this course is the observation that we, in our daily lives, are inundated with narratives, presented to us not only in the form of literature but also in the form of movies, television programs, news, and social media. How are we influenced by the stories that surround us? What assumptions, values, and beliefs are embedded in them? Students will read, analyze, and write about texts from a variety of literary genres, honing critical thinking skills that can be applied to any narrative, literary or otherwise.

Tentative Reading List:

Poetry by Louise Bennett, Jars Balan, Andrew Suknaski, and Marilyn Dumont.

Short fiction by Edgar Allan Poe, Katherine Mansfield, Charlotte Perkins Gilman, William Faulkner, and Rohinton Mistry.

Monkey Beach (a novel) by Eden Robinson

Maus: A Survivor's Tale, My Father Bleeds History (a graphic novel) by Art Spiegelman

Course Description Form

Course number and section: English 222

Course Topic: Introduction to Canadian Literature

Credits: 3

Term: 1

Instructor: Dr. Lisa Grekul

Course Description:

This course introduces students to the rich tradition of literary production in Canada. Together—via selections of poetry, drama, and prose fiction by writers from different time periods, regions, and ethnocultural backgrounds—we will examine how “CanLit” has engaged with (shifting) ideas about the nation/nationality, as well as intersecting issues (related to, for example, colonialism and decolonization; immigration and assimilation; multiculturalism and transculturalism; ethnicity, “race,” gender, sexuality, and class).

Tentative Reading List:

Excerpts from early explorer non-fiction by David Thompson and pioneer non-fiction by Susanna Moodie

Early 20th-century poetry by Duncan Campbell Scott, E. Pauline Johnson, E.J. Pratt, F.R. Scott

Later 20-century poetry by Margaret Atwood, Di Brandt, Robert Kroetsch, and Al Purdy

Excerpts from *Obasan* (a novel) by Joy Kogawa, *Diamond Grill* (a “biotext”) by Fred Wah, and *Tales from Firozsha Baag* (a short story collection) by Rohinton Mistry.

In the Skin of a Lion (a novel) by Michael Ondaatje

Je me souviens: Memories of an expatriate Anglophone Montréalaise Québécoise exiled in Canada (a play) by Lorena Gale

The Outside Circle (a graphic novel) by Patti LaBoucane-Benson

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Course number and section: English 222

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Credits: 3

Term: 2

Instructor: Dr. Lisa Grekul

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The Outside Circle (a graphic novel) by Patti LaBoucane-Benson

Course Description Form

Course number and section: English 333A

Course Topic: Canadian Fiction: Travel in Canadian Literature and Culture

Credits: 3

Term: 1

Instructor: Dr. Lisa Grekul

Course Description:

In this course, focused on contemporary Canadian fiction, we will examine stories which hinge on travel of some kind (for example, immigration, migration, exile, pilgrimage, adventure/tourism). How are the characters' identities shaped by travel? (We might ask ourselves the same question.) Our reading list invites critical analysis of why some of us travel freely, while others either cannot or are forced to move against their will. Students can expect to engage in wide-ranging, politicized discussions that address questions of power in relation to movement and mobility.

Tentative Reading List:

(All novels)

Hiromi Goto's *Chorus of Mushrooms*

Anita Rau Badami's *The Hero's Walk*

Rawi Hage's *De Niro's Game*

Camilla Gibb's *Sweetness in the Belly*

David Bergen's *The Time In Between*

Sharon Bala's *The Boat People*