

## Course Description Form

Course number and section: ENGL 377 and CULT 305

Course Topic: Reading Canadian Screens

Credits: 3

Term: Winter II

Instructor: Daniel Keyes

### Course Description:

This course focuses on Canadian screen culture by focusing on the Okanagan as setting for screen narratives and site of production for American runaway production and reality TV. It necessarily considers American and Anglo-Canadian cultural imperialism and colonization. Nationalism and national identity, and regionalism have been central to Canadian culture generally, and they are crucial to understanding the context of film and television production and reception in this country and in this region. We will begin this course by viewing one of the earliest Canadian-made film and feminist classic *Back to God's Country* (1919) to explore how Canadian cinema and television originated and continues to flourish on the margins of popular entertainment in Canada leveraging tropes of a gendered cold wild north. Then we will survey 1. the conditions limiting films growth in Canada and the more recent history of production of runaway production in Canada, 2. Okanagan 1980 auteur driven locally shot and based narrative films, 3. Okanagan Film Commission and BC filmmaking and its histories and the Hallmark/Lifetime channel era of the 2000s, 4. Contemporary Okanagan settler whiteness and masculinities, 5. Indigenous Okanagan screen cultures, and 6. Streaming Video on Demand Okanagan cinema

### Tentative Reading List:

Anderson, Benedict. *Imaginary Communities: Reflections on the Origins and Spread of Nationalism*. Revised Edition. Verso, 1991. Pp. 5-7.

Bociurkiw, Marusya. "Affect Theory: Becoming a Nation." *Feeling Canadian: Television, Nationalism, and Affect*. Wilfred Laurier UP, pp. 21-33.

Coles, Amanda. "Unintended Consequences: Examining the Impact of Tax Credit Programmes on Work in the Canadian Independent Film and Television Production Sector." *Cultural Trends*, vol. 19, no. 1-2, 06/2010, pp. 109-124, doi:10.1080/09548961003696120.

Coutanche, Michael, Charles H. Davis, and Emilia Zboralska. "Telling Our Stories: Screenwriters and the Production of Screen-Based Culture in English-Speaking Canada." *Canadian Journal of Communication* vol. 40, no. 2, 2015, pp. 261-280.

Casher, Mike. *Hollywood North: The Feature Film Industry in British Columbia*. UBC Press, 2002.

Gittings, Christopher. *Canadian National Cinema: Ideology, Difference, and Representation*. Routledge, 2002. pp. 7-13; 21-32; 296-299.

Indie Screens. "Hometown Heroes; Canada's Production Sector Depends on a Growing Number of Partners, but Municipal Governments and Regional Film Offices Ensure Success when the Camera Rolls." CMPA. <https://cmpa.ca/indiescreen/hometown-heroes/>.

Pratt, Andy C. "'Imagination Can Be a Damned Curse in this Country': Material Geographies of Filmmaking and the Rural." *Cinematic Countrysides*. Manchester UP, 2018. pp. 127-146.

Rosen, Philip. "History, Textuality, Nation: Kraucuer, Burch and Some Problems in the Study of Textuality." *Theorising National Cinema*. ed. Valentina Vitali and Paul Willemsen. Macmillan, 2006. pp. 17-28.

Sommerlad, E. "Film Geography" *Routledge Handbook of Media Geographies*, Routledge, 2021, pp. 118-131.

Spaner, David, et al. *Dreaming in the Rain: How Vancouver Became Hollywood North by Northwest*. Arsenal Pulp Press, Vancouver, 2003;2004

Tinic, Serra. "Global Vistas and Local Reflections: Negotiating Place and Identity in Vancouver Television." *Television & New Media*, vol. 7, no. 2, 2006, pp. 154-183.

**Possible feature length films:** *Back to God's Country*, David Hartford, 1919; *Pen-Hi Grad*, Sandra Wilson + NFB, 1975; *The Grey Fox*, Phillip Borso, 1982; *My American Cousin*, Sandy Wilson, 1985; *Fido*, Andrew Currie, 2006; *Gunless*, William Phillips, 2010; *Mountain Men*, Cameron Labine 2014; *Anthem of a Teenage Prophet*, Robyn Hays, 2018; *Eddy's Kingdom*, Greg Crompton, 2020; *The Lake / n̄xa?ḡa?itk*, John Bolton, 2021; [Until Branches Bend](#), Sophie Jarvis, 2022; [Drinkwater](#), Stephen Campanelli, 2021, and Hallmark Christmas movies and Lifetime channel movies.

### **YouTube Shorts**

[Kelownaifornia](#), Halanna Van Driel, 2017.  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=I1Ja3LaQJfE&t=54s>

Dollah D - Kelownafornia Ft. Profreshnill & Phillie Tha Kyd (Official Video HD), Tactics Entertainment 2012, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Dj0kWQPPBis>

Kelowna Okanagan Valley, BC / Some People Say This Place Doesn't Exist. Tourism Kelowna, 2016. [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cohNti8\\_SSo](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cohNti8_SSo)

Reel Life. YouTube channel dedicated to uploading old Okanagan amateur films: <https://www.youtube.com/@ReelLifeCanada>

Wilden—Kelowna Communities. Living in Kelowna, BC. 2022. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=u40dTpvyRXQ>

### **National Film Board Documentary**

Okanagan Dreams. Annie O'Donoghue, 2001, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yA4z0Hw2IoQ>

Pen-Hi Grad, Sandra Wilson + NFB <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KW8JRd62-Ko>

Note: Access to film due to restriction on educational licensing may mean we cannot access all these films. I have invited two Vancouver-based filmmakers to talk about their “Okanagan” based films.