

FACULTY OF ARTS
DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH
COURSE OUTLINE

ENGLISH 201 Lecture 16

Winter 2015

COURSE TITLE: Approaches to Literature: Representing Indigeneity in Canada

Instructor: Dr. Paul Huebener

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Office hours: Thursdays 12:30-13:30

Course description:

Through close readings of literary texts which take up matters of indigeneity in Canada, this course will examine different ways in which Indigenous cultures and identities have been represented in Canada, and will offer critical examinations of how such representations speak to cultural concerns including belonging, agency, social justice, and sustainability. This course emphasizes the development of fundamental skills in critical reading and writing.

Texts and readings:

- Emily Carr, *Klee Wyck*. Douglas & McIntyre, 2003.
- Thomas King, *Green Grass, Running Water*. Harper Perennial, 1993.
- Eden Robinson, *Monkey Beach*. Vintage Canada, 2000.
- Tomson Highway, *The Rez Sisters*. Fifth House, 1988.
- Custom course pack.

Assignments and Evaluation:

Grading scheme:

Essay 1 (1,000 words, due in class February 12)	10%
<i>Monkey Beach</i> essay (1,200 words, due in class April 7)	25%
In-class writing assignments (2 x 10%)	20%
Participation and informal exercises	10%
Attendance	10%
Final exam	25%

Essay 1:

On January 27th I will distribute a list of essay topics to choose from, each of which will relate to one or more of the assigned course readings. Your essay of approximately 1,000 words will respond to one of these topics by developing an analytical argument about a particular aspect of the relevant text(s). During our class on January 29th I will provide instructions and strategies for writing a scholarly essay on literature, so make

sure to apply the lessons from this class to your essay. If you are registered in ACWR 203 you should also apply the writing strategies that you have learned in ACWR 203 to this essay. I will of course be happy to help you with the process of selecting and developing a topic during my office hours or through other forms of discussion. Bring your completed essay to class on February 12th. The class discussion on that day will give you a chance to offer your thoughts on the outcome of your project, and to learn about the results of your colleagues' projects.

Monkey Beach Essay:

In this essay of approximately 1,200 words you will analyze Eden Robinson's novel *Monkey Beach*. On February 12th I will distribute a list of specific topics for you to choose from. This assignment affords an opportunity to build on the writing and analytical skills that you put into practice for the earlier essay, and also gives you the chance to improve on any problem areas. Make sure to pay attention to the feedback that I offer on your first essay, as well as the writing and argumentation suggestions that I offer to the group during class. If you are registered in ACWR 203 with Dr. Nancy Ginzer, you will hand in a copy of this essay to Dr. Ginzer in your ACWR 203 class on March 25th (this version of the essay will count towards your ACWR 203 grade). You will then revise your essay based on Dr. Ginzer's comments. If you are not registered in her class, and you would like feedback on a draft of your essay, you are welcome to submit a copy to either of us by March 25th. In either case, bring your completed, revised essay to our English 201 class on April 7th (this revised version of the essay is the one that will count towards your English 201 grade). Our class discussion on April 7th will give you a chance to offer your thoughts on the outcome of your project, to learn about the results of your colleagues' projects, and to share thoughts on which strategies work best for improving one's analytical writing skills over time.

In-class writing assignments:

There will be two graded in-class writing assignments. The first one, on March 19th, will ask you to write on *Green Grass, Running Water*, and the second, on March 31st, will ask you to write on *The Rez Sisters*. In both cases the specific topic will be distributed in class on the day of the assignment. You will have 45 minutes to prepare and write your response in the form of a short essay. Make sure to write clearly.

Participation and informal exercises:

Students will be asked to participate in class by contributing to discussions on the assigned readings, responding to questions raised during these discussions, and taking part in informal writing and analytical exercises. To achieve a strong participation grade, students will need to engage actively and thoughtfully in these aspects of the class. Our class discussions are intended to be a safe place for you to try out new ideas, to point out aspects of the course content that need clarification, and to respond thoughtfully to ideas and questions raised by other members of the class. In order to foster a productive and inviting class environment, students' comments, body language, and other forms of communication should always remain respectful. When disagreements occur, any critiques of others' ideas should begin from a position of respect. I, too, pledge to foster a safe and respectful environment for learning and discussion. Should you feel at any time that the class environment is falling short of these expectations, please talk with me so that we can work to improve the situation.

Attendance:

I will take attendance at the beginning of each class in order to calculate the attendance grade. Please note,

as well, that repeated absences will harm not only your attendance grade but also your participation grade, since you will be unable to participate in our in-class activities if you are absent. If you must miss class for an unavoidable reason such as a medical problem, make sure to discuss this absence with me as early as possible.

Final exam:

This course will have a written final exam, to be scheduled by the university Registrar's office (the exam period runs from April 18th to 29th). Students must be available for examinations up to the last day of the examination period. This exam is a closed-book exam which will ask you to analyze various aspects of the course content, including material from the lectures as well as from the assigned readings. During our final classes on April 9th and 14th I will provide a detailed explanation of the format of the exam, and offer advice for the best ways to prepare.

Other notes on evaluation:

There will be no extra-credit assignments, and there is no specific assignment that must be completed to receive a passing grade on the course.

Writing and the grading thereof will be a factor in all of the graded components except participation. When I assign informal in-class writing exercises, your thoughtful participation in these exercises will contribute to your participation grade, but the writing itself will not be graded.

Assignments submitted after the deadline will be penalized with the loss of a third of a grade (an A- to B+) for each business day (not class) that the assignment is overdue, unless prior arrangements have been made with the instructor.

Please make every effort to take assignments directly to the instructor. If it is not possible to do so, take your assignment to SS 1152 and put it in the dropbox. Your assignment will be date-stamped and placed in the instructor's mailbox. It is your responsibility to keep a copy of all assignments in case of loss by any cause. Assignments cannot be returned by staff in the Department office.

Grading system:

Each assignment will be assigned a letter grade based on the following scale:

90 + %	A+
85 – 89 %	A
80 – 84 %	A–
77 – 79 %	B+
74 – 76 %	B
70 – 73 %	B–
67 – 69 %	C+
64 – 66 %	C
60 – 63 %	C–

55 – 59 %	D+
50 – 54 %	D
0 – 49 %	F

Please note that, according to the University Calendar (F.1), instructors may use their discretion when rounding upwards or downwards when the average of term work is between two letter grades.

The A+ grade will be reserved for truly exceptional work that exceeds expectations in style, correctness, intellectual depth and breadth, sophistication, and originality.

I encourage you to attend class with only a pen, a notepad, the day's reading, and a willingness to engage in discussion. Having said this, electronic devices such as laptop computers may be used for taking notes in the classroom if you wish, but must not be used in such a way as to distract other members of the class. Phones must be set to "Do Not Disturb" mode (or an equivalent function) and placed out of sight during class.

Plagiarism:

Using any source whatsoever without clearly documenting it is a serious academic offense. Consequences include failure on the assignment, failure in the course and possible suspension or expulsion from the university. Please refer to the following information and make sure you are familiar with the statement below on plagiarism.

<http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/k-2-1.html>

Scribe and Muse Club for English Students:

The Scribe and Muse Reading and Writing Club (SMRWC) fosters and champions reading and writing through community service, leadership, and engagement. We strive to enhance the academic and social experience of undergraduate students by promoting academic excellence and interaction between students, faculty, and the community, through social, cultural, and academic events

<http://english.ucalgary.ca/scribe-and-muse-english-club>.

Our email address is smecuofc@gmail.com.

English Department Website:

For more information about courses, programs, policies, events and contacts in the Department of English, please go to our website at <http://english.ucalgary.ca>. Please note that the course outlines posted on the English Department website constitute the official course outline for purposes of appeals. Students should verify any hard copies against this posted version. For courses which employ numerical grades, the official departmental percentage to letter grade conversion scale is also posted on the department website.

Writing support:

The Student Success Centre offers both online and workshop writing support for U of C students.

<http://www.ucalgary.ca/ssc/writing-support>

Guidelines on e-mail Etiquette:

<http://www.enough.utoronto.ca/computeruse/eetiquette.htm>

Library and Research Support:

Melanie Boyd, Librarian for English, offers research support to students, including strategies for finding articles, books, and other library materials. Contact: maboyd@ucalgary.ca

Find *The English Pages* research guide here: <http://libguides.ucalgary.ca/english>

Follow the Department of English on Facebook & Twitter:



Academic regulations and schedules:

Consult the Calendar for course information, university and faculty regulations, dates, deadlines and schedules, student, faculty and university rights and responsibilities. The homepage for the University Calendar is

<http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/index.htm>

Grade appeals:

Consult the following University Calendar link and request advice from the English Department office, SS 1152. Please note that “mere dissatisfaction with a decision is not sufficient grounds for the appeal of a grade or other academic decision.”

<http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/i.html>

Deferral of term work and final examinations:

Should you require an extension for completion of term papers or assignments beyond the deadline of five days after the end of lectures, an Application of Deferment of Term Work form must be completed. The University also has regulations governing the deferral of final examinations. See Calendar:

<http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/g-6.html>,

<http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/g-7.html>.

Academic Accommodation:

It is the students’ responsibility to request academic accommodations. If you are a student with a documented disability who may require academic accommodations and have not registered with Student Accessibility Services, please contact them at 403-220-6019. Students who have not registered with Student Accessibility Services are not eligible for formal academic accommodations. More information about academic accommodations can be found at www.ucalgary.ca/access.

Emergency Evacuation/Assembly Points:

<http://www.ucalgary.ca/emergencyplan/assemblypoints>;

Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act:

<http://www.ucalgary.ca/legalservices/foip/>

“Safewalk” Program:

Campus Security will escort individuals day or night: call 220-5333 for assistance. Use any campus phone, emergency phone or the yellow phone located at most parking lot pay booths.

<http://www.ucalgary.ca/security/safewalk/>

Faculty of Arts Program Advising and Student Information Resources:

Have a question, but not sure where to start? The new Arts Students’ Centre (ASC) is your information resource for everything in Arts! Drop in at SS102, call us at 403-220-3580 or email us at

ascarts@ucalgary.ca. You can also visit the Faculty of Arts website at **<http://arts.ucalgary.ca/undergraduate>** which has detailed information on common academic concerns.

For program planning and advice, contact the Student Success Centre (formerly the Undergraduate programs Office) at (403) 220-5881 or visit them in their new space on the 3rd Floor of the Taylor Family Digital Library.

For registration (add/drop/swap), paying fees and assistance with your Student Centre, contact Enrolment Services at (403) 210-ROCK [7625] or visit them at the MacKimmie Library Block.

Contact for Students Union Representatives for the Faculty of Arts:

arts1@su.ucalgary.ca, arts2@su.ucalgary.ca, arts3@su.ucalgary.ca, arts4@su.ucalgary.ca

Contact for Students Ombudsman's Office: **<http://www.ucalgary.ca/provost/students/ombuds>**

Universal Student Ratings of Instruction (USRI):

"At the University of Calgary, feedback provided by students through the Universal Student Ratings of Instruction (USRI) survey provides valuable information to help with evaluating instruction, enhancing learning and teaching, and selecting courses (**www.ucalgary.ca/usri**). Your responses make a difference - please participate in USRI Surveys."

PLAGIARISM

Plagiarism is an extremely serious offence. Please read the following information carefully. The penalty routinely recommended by the English Department for documented plagiarism is failure of the course in which the offence occurred; academic probation is also routinely applied at the Faculty level. Suspension or expulsion can result from severe or repeated plagiarism.

The University Calendar states:

1. Plagiarism - Essentially plagiarism involves submitting or presenting work in a course as if it were the student's own work done expressly for that particular course when, in fact, it is not. Most commonly plagiarism exists when:

- (a) the work submitted or presented was done, in whole or in part, by an individual other than the one submitting or presenting the work (this includes having another impersonate the student or otherwise substituting the work of another for one's own in an examination or test),
- (b) parts of the work are taken from another source without reference to the original author,
- (c) the whole work (e.g., an essay) is copied from another source, and/or,
- (d) a student submits or presents work in one course which has also been submitted in another course (although it may be completely original with that student) without the knowledge of or prior agreement of the instructor involved.

While it is recognized that scholarly work often involves reference to the ideas, data and conclusions of other scholars, intellectual honesty requires that such references be explicitly and clearly noted.

Plagiarism occurs when direct quotations are taken from a source without specific acknowledgement, or when original ideas or data from the source are not acknowledged. Citing your sources in a bibliography is not enough, because a bibliography does not establish which parts of a student's work are taken from other sources. MLA (Modern Language Association) documentation or other recognized forms of citation must be used for this purpose. Advice on adequate documentation can be found at the following web sites:

<http://www.dianahacker.com/resdoc/>

<http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/747/01/>

DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH STATEMENT ON PRINCIPLES OF CONDUCT

According to the University Calendar, (<http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/j.html>) "The University of Calgary community has undertaken to be guided by the following statements of purpose and values: to promote free inquiry and debate, to act as a community of scholars, ..., to respect, appreciate, and encourage diversity, [and] to display care and concern for community". The Department of English, like the university as a whole, is committed to a "positive and productive learning and working environment." This environment is characterized by appreciation and encouragement of diversity and respect for the dignity of all persons: students, support staff, and faculty. The department will not tolerate unacceptable behaviour, such as threatening gestures, threatening or abusive verbal or written communication (including e-mails), or any conduct that "seriously disrupts the lawful education and related activities of students and/or university staff". Any cases of such misconduct should be reported immediately to the department Head, who, depending on the nature and severity of the incident, may then take further appropriate action.