

FACULTY OF ARTS
DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH
COURSE OUTLINE

ENGLISH 201 L01

Winter 2018

“Where Is Here?” : Place(less)ness at the Margins of the Canadian Canon
MWF 8:00 AM, Room SS 109

Instructor: Jordan Bolay

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Office hours: Wednesday 9:30 AM – 10:30 AM

Homepage/course website: [\[D2L link\]](#)

Course description: Northrop Frye famously asserts that the question of Canadian identity is “less ... ‘Who am I?’ than ... ‘Where is here?’” (*The Bush Garden* 220). In this class, we will examine books that play with, complicate, and challenge notions of place while simultaneously occupying a space at the outskirts of the Canadian canon. We will investigate the relationship between place(less)ness and Canadian literary identity through a variety of poems, novels, and graphic narratives that occupy marginal spaces within the tradition of English literature. Finally, we will discuss the place of these works in relation to the centre of institutional academia and the canon in Canada. Why are these works in the borderlands of what we consider “Canadian Literature” and how tightly does place tie into this notion of national identity?

Goals: This course aims to teach students close reading, essay writing, and basic research skills while introducing them to foundational concepts of literature and Canadian culture. Students will be introduced to a variety of tools, methods, and approaches to interpretation, allowing them to write strong, argumentative, and well-supported essays on creative, interesting, and relevant topics. Students will develop their writing skills in-class, through take-home assignments, and through peer-review. They will learn to write a research proposal, incorporate feedback, respond to secondary sources, and compare/contrast texts. Most importantly, they will discover how invaluable critical thinking is, and how studying literature can serve as a medium for applying that skill to the world around them.

Texts and readings:

Critical Context

Frye, Northrop “Conclusion to a *Literary History of Canada*” from *The Bush Garden* (available online)

Poetry

Kroetsch, Robert *The Hornbooks of Rita K*

van Herk, Aritha *Stampede and the Westness of West*

Fiction

Brossard, Nicole *Le désert mauve* (*Mauve Desert* trans. Susanne de Lotbinière-Harwood)

De Mille, James *A Strange Manuscript Found in a Copper Cylinder*

Engel, Marian *Bear*

Robinson, Eden *Monkey Beach*

New Media

Lemire, Jeff & Downie, Gordon *Secret Path*

Vaughn-James, Martin *The Cage* (available online)

Assignments and Evaluation:

- 10% Participation: students' participation will be evaluated through reading quizzes (total of six, the five best of which will count for grades; 2% each).
- 10% Reading Responses: students will write brief (~1 page) responses to their choice of four of the texts we read. Reading responses will be due on the first day that we discuss a text, allowing students to work around their other classes' schedules.
- 10% In-Class Paper: students will write a brief (500-750 word) in-class essay on the topic of "What makes Canada 'Canada'?"
- 15% Short Essay: students will write a paper (750-1,000 words) on the role of place in one work studied up to this point in the class. This assignment will test students' close reading skills.
- 5% Research Paper Proposal: students must submit a proposal (working thesis and outline) at least two-weeks before the final paper's deadline. After I provide students with feedback, they will workshop their proposals/drafts with their peers.
- 25% Research Paper: students will write a longer paper (1,250-1,500 words) that requires them to do basic research and to compare at least two works from the course.
- 25% Final Exam

Additional Regulations:

This course will have a registrar-scheduled final exam. See the academic calendar for add/drop and exam dates: <http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/academic-schedule.html>. Students must be available for examinations up to the last day of the examination period (Dec 12-22).

Students must complete all assignments in order to receive a passing grade on the course. While attendance is not graded, students will need to be in class regularly to ensure they complete the reading quizzes that make up their participation grade. Students unable to attend class for medical/personal reasons should consult with the instructor as early as possible to discuss alternative options.

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. No assignments will be accepted one week past the assignment deadline without the prior consent of 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 drop box. 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:

In this course, all assignments and exams will be marked on the University of Calgary's four-point Grading System, as described in the Calendar: <http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/f-2.html>.

A+/A (4.0); A- (3.7); B+ (3.3); B (3.0); B- (2.7); C+ (2.3); C (2.0); C- (1.7); D+ (1.3); D (1.0); F (0)

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 and exams is between two letter grades.

Although the A+ is solely an honorific that entails no additional points in the 4-point system, the course instructor will employ this mark to distinguish superlative work that exceeds expectations in style, correctness, intellectual depth and breadth, sophistication, and originality.

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/archives/2015/k-2.html>

<http://people.ucalgary.ca/~hexham/content/articles/plague-of-plagiarism.html>

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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-5.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>

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:

https://library.ucalgary.ca/sb.php?subject_id=52619

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>

Student Accommodations:**ACADEMIC ACCOMMODATIONS**

The student accommodation policy can be found at: ucalgary.ca/access/accommodations/policy.

Students needing an Accommodation because of a Disability or medical condition should communicate this need to Student Accessibility Services in accordance with the Procedure for Accommodations for Students with Disabilities ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/student-accommodation-policy.

Students needing an Accommodation based on a Protected Ground other than Disability, should communicate this need, preferably in writing, to the course instructor.

The full policy on Student Accommodations is available

at <http://www.ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/student-accommodation-policy.pdf>.

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.