

FACULTY OF ARTS
DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH

ENGLISH: 239-11

FALL 2012

Fundamentals of Literary Study: Special Topics
Selling Multiculturalism in Canada

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Office hours: Wednesday @ 11:00am-12:00pm; Friday @ 11:00am-12:00pm; and by appointment

Class time/location: Wed/Fri @ 12:30pm-1:45pm (SS541)

Calendar description:

Emphasizes fundamental skills: how to read a text accurately and critically; how to write logically, clearly, and correctly; how to listen and speak in a formal discussion.

Course description:

In his controversial 1994 book *Selling Illusions: The Cult of Multiculturalism in Canada*, Neil Bissoondath explores the politics of diversity and exploitation in Canada, arguing that “[m]ulticulturalism has, over the years, acquired aspects of a holy cow for many, a cash cow for some.” While the 1971 Multiculturalism Act has shaped the country’s construction of self, critics such as Bissoondath worry that this establishment of an ideological Canadian identity only works to mask the realities of a Canadian government that enacts policies that work contrary to this idealized Canada. In this course, we will investigate the role of multiculturalism in Canadian fiction, drama, and poetry. We will also attempt to examine the texts that we find around us, such as: magazines, movies, television, print ads, etc. We will think about the function of diversity and difference in works that are critical to the Canadian imagination, and representative of the ways that Canada constructs itself. We will engage with these texts in critical ways that will help build skills in both reading and writing, with the goal being a final paper that demonstrates an ability to discuss both sides of the argument around multiculturalism in Canada in the effort to interpret that discussion within works of literature.

Texts and readings:

Michael Ondaatje, *In the Skin of Lion* (1987, 1996)

Smaro Kamboureli, ed., *Making a Difference: Canadian Multicultural Literature*, 2nd Edition (2006)

Claire Harris, *Drawing Down a Daughter* (1982, 2007)

Guillermo Verdecchia, *Fronteras Americanas*, 2nd Edition (2012)

Edgar V. Roberts, *Writing About Literature*, 13th Edition (2012)

We will be working from the editions noted here. Please make sure that you have the correct edition of each text.

Assignments and Evaluation:

- *Reading quizzes (3 of 4 @ 5% each) OR*
- *Mid-term exam (class's preference)* 15%
- *Mid-term essay (submitted through Blackboard)* 15%
- *Final essay (submitted through Blackboard)* 25%
- *Final Take-Home Exam* 25%
- *Participation* 10%
- *Essay Workshop* 5%
- *In-class journals and responses* 5%

There is no Registrar-scheduled exam in this course.

All assignments must be completed in order to receive a passing grade in this course. However, a failing grade on any assignment does not mean failure in the course, so long as all assignments have been handed in.

All assignments will be graded based on understanding of text(s), ability to develop and articulate critical responses to text(s), and accuracy in the use of essay-writing conventions (spelling, grammar, and format).

*It is up to the class to vote at the end of the second class of the term whether or not there will be a midterm exam OR four quizzes throughout the term. The class's decision will be respected and no changes will be made after this initial decision.

Please turn off all unnecessary and disruptive electronic devices during class.

All assignments, including drafts, must be typed, double-spaced, and follow the format of *MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers: Seventh Edition*. Late assignments will lose a third of a grade a day unless an extension has been granted; e.g., a paper submitted two days (not classes) late that might have received A- will drop to a B. Extensions will be granted in exceptional cases only (e.g. illness, family emergency), and supporting documentation must be provided to the instructor on request. Workload is not normally regarded as a reason to grant an extension.

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:

The following grading system is used in English 239:

	Grading Scale
A+	96-100
A	90-95.99
A -	85-89.99
B+	80-84.99
B	75-79.99
B-	70-74.99
C+	65-69.99
C	60-64.99
C-	55-59.99
D+	53-54.99
D	50-52.99
F	0-49

Where a grade on a particular assignment is expressed as a letter grade, it will normally be converted to a number using the midpoint of the scale. That is, A- would be converted to 87.5 for calculation purposes. Discretion is, however, available for borderline cases. F will be converted to zero.

After a final percentage grade for the term's work is calculated, your mark will be converted to the official grading system of the University of Calgary:

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)

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/content/scribe-and-muse-reading-and-writing-club>

Our email address is smrwc@ucalgary.ca.

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>.

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>

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>

Guidelines on e-mail Etiquette:

<https://www.ucalgary.ca/it/help/articles/email/etiquette>

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 a student’s responsibility to request academic accommodation. If you are a student with a disability who may require academic accommodation and if you have not registered with the Disability Resource Centre, please contact their office at 220-8237. Your academic accommodation letters should be provided to your instructor no later than fourteen (14) days after the commencement of this course. Students who have not registered with the Disability Resource Centre are not eligible for formal academic accommodation. <http://www.ucalgary.ca/drc/>

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 Faculty of Arts Program Information Centre (PIC) is your information resource for everything in Arts! Drop in at SS110, call us at 403-220-3580 or email us at artsads@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>

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.