

**FACULTY OF ARTS
DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH
TRANSNATIONAL AND IMMIGRANT POETRY IN CANADA**

ENGLISH 239.06

Fall 2012

Instructor: Colin Martin

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Office hours: TR 08:00 – 09:15

Course description:

Canada, as many have pointed out, is a country of immigrants. While this statement overlooks the obvious influence that First Nations peoples have had in the formation of the country's culture, history, and politics, the point remains that the country itself represents the interests of many peoples from around the world who retain aspects of their cultures even as they adopt new ones in Canada. This class examines poetry written in Canada by poets who deal with the tensions that come from being both of a place and foreign to it, poets who come from transnational and immigrant communities in Canada.

Texts and Readings:

Brand, Dionne. *No Language is Neutral*. McClelland & Stewart

Brandt, Di. *Questions I Asked My Mother*. Turnstone.

Clarke, George Elliot. *Whylah Falls*. Polestar.

Canadian Poetry from the Beginnings to the First World War. Gerson & Davies, eds. NCL.

ENGL239.12 Course Pack. Colin Martin, ed.

Wah, Fred. *Waiting for Saskatchewan*. Turnstone.

Assignments and Evaluation:

- One short paper (15%)
- Five "Five Minute Papers" (FMP) (20%)
- One long paper outline (15%)
- One long paper (30%)
- Course Blog Entries (20%)

A few notes about the assignments:

- The short paper will be 500-600 words (two pages double spaced) and the long paper 1200 words (4-5pp double spaced).
- The FMP will be worth five percentage points each. Only the top four marks will be counted towards the grade, amounting to 20% of the course total.
- The long paper outline must be completed and returned before the long paper will be accepted for grading.
- The papers and outline are due at the beginning of class and the FMPs will take place at the beginnings of class. The blog entries will be due weekly and submitted in hard copy as a portfolio by students at the end of term.
- Assignments submitted after their deadlines will be penalized with the loss of a third of a grade (i.e. an A- to B+) for each calendar day, not class, that they are overdue. Electronic submissions will not be accepted (except for the weekly blog postings).
- *Students must complete both papers in order to get a passing grade in the course.* While no specific minimum requirement is assigned to the other course components, students who do not receive passing grades on those components will have difficulty passing the course.

- **There is no Registrar-scheduled final exam for this course.**

About the class:

The classroom is a unique space dedicated to discourse and debate about the texts and supplementary materials under study. While laptops may be used for note taking, please limit their use to class-work and turn off your phones as you enter the classroom. Come to class equipped with a willingness to engage in discussion with the instructor and your fellow students.

To minimize distraction, be prepared to come to class on time. Because the lessons are short (less than an hour), students who arrive more than 15 minutes late should make arrangements to meet the instructor (generally during office hours) outside of class, or get in touch with other students to find out what material was covered.

The course has an affiliated Blackboard site and all documents relevant to the course will be posted on that site. The Blackboard site also provides a venue for students to communicate with one another in the event that they wish to study or prepare collaboratively. Feel free to use it in this capacity but, when contacting other students, be sure to communicate in ways that respect their time and intelligence. Compose emails carefully and avoid spamming the entire class on a frequent basis.

Please make every effort to take assignments directly to the instructor. If it is not possible to do so, take your assignment to the English Department office at 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.** Any assignments not handed in at the beginning of class will be considered late unless prior arrangements have been made with the instructor.

Grading System:

Each completed assignment will be given a letter or a percentage grade. The final letter grades are keyed to a four-point GPA scale used by the University of Calgary. The University of Calgary letter grade, four-point scale and percentage equivalents are as follows:

A+	96-100%	Outstanding
A	85-95%	Excellent
A-	80-84%	
B+	77-79%	Very Good
B	74-76%	Good
B-	70-73%	
C+	67-69%	
C	64-66%	Satisfactory
C-	60-63%	
D+	57-59%	
D	50-56%	Minimal Pass
F	0-49%	Fail

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.