

FACULTY OF ARTS  
DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH  
COURSE OUTLINE

ENGL 371.28 L01 - Topic in Canadian Literature  
COURSE TITLE: "Calgary as Literary Site"  
Monday/Wednesday: 14:00 to 15:15 EDC 388

Winter 2017

Instructor: Aritha van Herk

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Office hours: Tuesday/Wednesday, 15:30 – 16:30

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**Course description:**

There is no pre-requisite for this course.

In 1983 poet Jon Whyte argued that writers fail to evoke Calgary in fiction and poetry, that this city is in literary terms an invisible place. Since then, Calgary has developed a robust textual identity in terms of its portrayal and situation, although few would accord it the status of iconic location enjoyed by cities like Paris or London. This course will examine how and where Calgary occurs in various literary depictions; it will unpack the role of this city as setting, colloquial space, history, and milieu. Further, it will reflect on Calgary's presence in relation to other Canadian cities. Do the local and the regional perform an essential role for the construction of Canada in literature, and how do they resonate within the larger context of what we read as Canadian Literature? Or does the presence of the local in literature limit the work to a provincial discourse, marginal and insular? This course will examine writing that features Calgary, Alberta, as a petri dish to investigate elements of what could be argued are the absences and characteristics of a regional and national literature and canon. It examines writing that circles Calgary as setting and character, as city and place, as background and influence.

**Learning Outcomes:**

Awareness of Calgary's cultural milieu, place, and history

Critical and Creative reading

Literature as reflection of contemporary issues

Communicating clearly

Writing and reading effectively

## **Texts and readings:**

Course Pack: Will be available from the University Bookstore

Includes:

Edna Alford, "Half-Past Eight" from *A Sleep Full of Dreams*

Rosemary Griebel, "Walking with Walt Whitman Through Calgary's East Side" from *Yes*

Claire Harris, "Seasons" from *Glass Canyons*

Barb Howard, "My Brother's Shit-Kickers" from *Western Taxidermy*

P.K. Page, "The First Part" from *The Hidden Room*

Fred Stenson, *The Story of Calgary*

Fred Stenson, "The Hockey Widow" from *Teeth*

Yvonne Trainer, *Tom Three Persons*

Dronyk & Demeanor, ed. *The Calgary Project: A City Map in Verse and Visual*

Books:

Angie Abdou, *The Bone Cage*

Weyman Chan, *Noise from the Laundry*

Will Ferguson, *419*

Don Gillmore, *Long Change*

Yasmin Ladha, *Blue Sunflower Startle*

Andrew Wedderburn, *Milk Chicken Bomb*

## **Assignments and Evaluation:**

1 short paper (750 words): 15%

Students will be asked, in this short paper, to examine one aspect of how Calgary is represented in a specific work of literature. Essay questions will be provided.

1 mid-term in-class exam: 20%

This mid-term exam will consist of short written answers to questions about the works we have addressed to the mid-term's point.

Long Paper (1000 words): 30%

Students will be asked, in this paper, to address contrasts in the way Calgary is depicted in three works that we have studied in the course. Specific essay questions will be provided.

Take home exam: 25%

This completion exam will consist of short written answers to questions about ALL the works we have addressed over the course. See due date on Class Schedule.

Participation Grade: 10%

This grade will be determined by 5 reading quizzes of 2% each that will be administered randomly over the course. These will determine attendance and reading preparedness. Your attendance and participation are part of your grade. You are expected to attend class and to contribute to class discussion, having read the material under consideration.

There is NO registrar-scheduled exam in this class.

Students **MUST** complete ALL assignments in order to receive a passing grade on the course. One missing assignment will result in a failing grade.

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. Only consent of the instructor, granted for illness and requiring a doctor's note, will obviate this rule.

Please make every effort to give assignments directly to the instructor at the **BEGINNING** of the class they are due. If that is not possible, take your assignment to SS 1152 and put it in the clearly marked 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.**

Assignments will be graded on content, persuasiveness, writing effectiveness, grammar, and coherence.

**Grading system:**

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

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 four-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.

**Guidelines for Electronic Devices**

- a) We will be in a wireless-access classroom. You may take notes and work on a laptop or tablet in class. If the context is relevant, we may use the Internet to search for a particular item of information together. You are to use your laptop or tablet as a tool to accompany the context of what we are learning and discussing. Please do not otherwise surf the net, text message your friends, or do assignments for a different class.
- b) Cell phones and portable media players are to be turned off in class.
- c) I check and answer e-mail regularly, but do not expect me to reply to a query within minutes. I usually answer e-mail messages within 48 hours.

**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](mailto: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:**

<https://gsa.ucalgary.ca/wp-content/uploads/2016/09/Email-Etiquette.pdf>

**Library and Research Support:**

Christie Hurrell, Interim Librarian for English, offers research support to students, including strategies for finding articles, books, and other library materials. Contact: [christie.hurrell@ucalgary.ca](mailto:christie.hurrell@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>.

**Student Accommodations:**

Students seeking an accommodation based on disability or medical concerns should contact Student Accessibility Services; SAS will process the request and issue letters of accommodation to instructors. For additional information on support services and accommodations for students with disabilities, visit [www.ucalgary.ca/access/](http://www.ucalgary.ca/access/).

Students who require an accommodation in relation to their coursework based on a protected ground other than disability should communicate this need in writing to their Instructor.

The full policy on Student Accommodations is available at [http://www.ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/student-accommodation-policy\\_0.pdf](http://www.ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/student-accommodation-policy_0.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](mailto: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](mailto:arts1@su.ucalgary.ca), [arts2@su.ucalgary.ca](mailto:arts2@su.ucalgary.ca), [arts3@su.ucalgary.ca](mailto:arts3@su.ucalgary.ca), [arts4@su.ucalgary.ca](mailto: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](http://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.