

FACULTY OF ARTS
DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH
COURSE OUTLINE

ENGLISH 385 L01 Topics in Aboriginal Literature
COURSE TITLE: Aboriginal Storytelling

Fall 2014

Instructor: Dr. A. Mary Murphy
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Office hours: W 2:00-3:15 or by appointment

Course description: This course will focus on indigenous perspective on storytelling: in particular, how stories convey worldviews and truths often unfamiliar to non-indigenous readers or listeners. We will explore various media: literary texts, film, digital and social media, as well as oral testimony and narrative created by indigenous people in Canada.

Course Objectives: Along with attention to the basics of story (character, setting, plot), we will make particular note of the ways in which course texts make explicit and implicit use of history as an important component of storytelling. Students will develop reading skills to identify historical presences and to investigate how and why a text weaves historical data and events into fictional and non-fictional plots. We will exercise critical skills in our discussions, considering how a story works and understanding that a story is never “just” a story.

Texts and readings:

Campbell, Maria. *Halfbreed*.
Johnston, Basil. *Crazy Dave*.
King, Thomas. *Green Grass, Running Water*.
Robertson, David. *7 Generations*.
Simpson, Leanne. *Islands of Decolonial Love*.

Assignments and Evaluation:

Reading Quizzes: 5@5% each = 25% (24 Sep, 29 Sep, 15 Oct, 29 Oct, 19 Nov)
In-Class Essay = 20% (27 Oct)
In-Class Project: 8-10 minutes; group assignment = 20% (12 Nov, 17 Nov)
Take-Home Essay (1500 words) = 35% (10 Dec; D2L digital dropbox)

Assignment Details:

Quizzes: fact-based; ten minutes at the start of class; quiz #1 more extensive
- Quiz 1 will be completed after class discussions of the text and therefore will be lengthier
In-Class Essay: full class; 750 words
- Topic will be assigned; spelling, grammar, and punctuation as well as development of ideas
In-Class Project: randomly assigned groups of five; 8-10 minute presentations
- D2L will generate groups, and each group will have a D2L discussion area for meetings
Take-Home Essay: MLA presentation and documentation; 1500 words; secondary sources
- Topic will be assigned; spelling, grammar, and punctuation as well as development of ideas

Notes:

There is no Registrar-scheduled exam in this course. There are no extra-credit assignments. Students are not required to complete all assignments in order to receive a passing grade in the course. Assignments submitted after the due date will be penalized with the loss of a third of a grade (an A- to B+) for each business day [not class day] that the assignment is overdue.

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:

In this course, the **in-class essay**, **group project**, and **take-home essay** will be marked on the University of Calgary's four-point Undergraduate 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)

All **reading quizzes** will receive a numerical grade, to be converted using the following scale:

90 + %	A+	4.0
85 – 89 %	A	4.0
80 – 84 %	A–	3.7
77 – 79 %	B+	3.3
74 – 76 %	B	3.0
70 – 73 %	B–	2.7
67 – 69 %	C+	2.3
64 – 66 %	C	2.0
60 – 63 %	C–	1.7
55 – 59 %	D+	1.3
50 – 54 %	D	1.0
0 – 49 %	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/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 smec@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>. 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 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>

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."

Schedule of Readings, Lectures, and Assignments

Date	Reading	Activity
10 Sep	getting started	course intro
15 Sep	<i>Islands of Decolonial Love</i>	discussion, with writing and analysis instruction
17 Sep	<i>Islands of Decolonial Love</i>	discussion, with writing and analysis instruction
22 Sep	<i>Islands of Decolonial Love</i>	discussion, with writing and analysis instruction
24 Sep	<i>Islands of Decolonial Love</i>	reading quiz #1 (5%):
29 Sep	<i>Crazy Dave</i>	reading quiz #2 (5%):
01 Oct	<i>Crazy Dave</i>	discussion, with writing and analysis instruction
06 Oct	<i>Crazy Dave</i>	discussion, with writing and analysis instruction
08 Oct	<i>Crazy Dave</i>	discussion, with writing and analysis instruction
13 Oct	Thanksgiving	no class
15 Oct	<i>Halfbreed</i>	reading quiz #3 (5%):
20 Oct	<i>Halfbreed</i>	discussion, with writing and analysis instruction
22 Oct	<i>Halfbreed</i>	discussion, with writing and analysis instruction
27 Oct	in-class assignment (20%)	full-class period
29 Oct	<i>7 Generations</i>	reading quiz #4 (5%):
03 Nov	<i>7 Generations</i>	discussion, with writing and analysis instruction
05 Nov	<i>7 Generations</i>	discussion, with writing and analysis instruction
10 Nov	Reading Days	No class
12 Nov	in-class projects (20%)	group assignment
17 Nov	in-class projects (20%)	group assignment
19 Nov	<i>Green Grass, Running Water</i>	reading quiz #5 (5%):
24 Nov	<i>Green Grass, Running Water</i>	discussion, with writing and analysis instruction
26 Nov	<i>Green Grass, Running Water</i>	discussion, with writing and analysis instruction
01 Dec	<i>Green Grass, Running Water</i>	discussion, with writing and analysis instruction
03 Dec	essay prep	take-home essay (35%); D2L dropbox 10 Dec

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.