



**FACULTY OF ARTS
Department Of English**

COURSE OUTLINE

ENGLISH 473: Canadian Literature Since 1950

Fall 2021

TR 11:00-12:15 via Zoom

Instructor	Suzette Mayr (she/her/they/them)
Email:	smayr@ucalgary.ca
Web Page:	D2L (access via MyUofC portal)
Office Hours:	Tuesdays, 3:30-4:30 pm via Zoom or by appointment Meeting ID: 961 2960 5329 Password: 716376

Welcome to the University of Calgary

On behalf of the University of Calgary Department of English, I would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge the traditional territories of the people of the Treaty 7 region in Southern Alberta. The City of Calgary is also home to Métis Nation of Alberta, Region III.

Course description

In the introduction to their anthology, *Canadian Literature in English: Texts and Contexts*, Cynthia Sugars and Laura Moss pose three questions about Canadian literature: "What, if anything, is distinctive about Canadian Literature (and, by extension, how does one define the qualifier 'Canadian')? What is the connection between literature and nation? How does Canadian literature fit within an international literary context?" (xv). This course will explore examples of Canadian literature from 1950 to the present, with the aim of attempting to find answers to these questions.

Course learning outcomes

Upon successful completion of this course, students will:

1. Have developed familiarity with the general historical developments of Canadian literature since 1950, and aligned those literary developments with changing social, political, and other contexts;
2. Be able to demonstrate intermediate-level knowledge of a range of literary writings from Canadian literature;
3. Understand and interpret literary texts in relation to their historical and cultural contexts;
4. Be able to pay close attention to the language of a literary text;

5. Write a convincing academic paper using the conventions of English as an academic discipline;
6. Engage in meaningful conversations about literature with peers.

Texts and readings (available from the UCalgary bookstore)

Wilson, Ethel. *Swamp Angel* (novel)
Pollock, Sharon. *Blood Relations* (play)
Blais, Marie-Claire. *Mad Shadows* (novella)
Kogawa, Joy. *Obasan* (novel)
Highway, Thomson. *The Rez Sisters* (play)
Whitehead, Joshua. *Jonny Appleseed* (novel)
Bickersteth, Bertrand. *The Response of Weeds* (poetry)

Additional primary or secondary texts may be assigned.

Learning technology requirements

Students will need to have technology that allows them to access Zoom in class time, such as a laptop computer or smartphone. There is a D2L site for this course which contains required readings and other relevant class resources and materials (see d2l.ucalgary.ca).

Assessments and evaluation

Readings will be assigned for most classes, and I expect assigned work to have been read before we discuss it in class. **Students will be assigned two essays and several in-class quizzes. This course also includes a Registrar-scheduled, open-book final exam.** Students must be available for examinations up to the last day of the examination period. The examination period for Fall 2021 is December 13-22, 2021.

Assignments submitted after the deadline will be penalized (with the loss of a third of a grade for each day [not class] that the assignment is overdue). No assignments will be accepted three weeks past the assignment deadline without the prior consent of the instructor.

If you would like to discuss any class- or class assignment-related issues, please do not hesitate to attend my Zoom office hours or make a Zoom appointment with me. I will not edit your work, but I will discuss more general topic- and writing-related issues with you. All assignments must be completed in order to receive a passing grade in the course (exception: please see the note below on in-class quizzes). There are no extra-credit assignments in this course.

Please submit assignments electronically via Dropbox on the course D2L site. The specific criteria for the class are as follows:

Essay #1 (800-1000 words), due Friday, Oct. 08: 30%
Essay #2 (2000-2500 words), due Friday., Nov. 05: 40%
Final Exam (date TBA): 25%
Participation/In-class Quizzes (throughout the semester): 5%

Attendance and participation expectations / In-class quizzes

Class participation consists of regular attendance and active participation in class discussion, demonstrating knowledge of the assigned text(s) being discussed. In-class reading quizzes will be administered throughout the semester as additional assessment of student engagement with the assigned reading. The lowest quiz grade will be dropped and the remaining quiz grades averaged to determine your grade for this component of the course. This is to account for unfortunate absences from class, such as those due to illness. Consequently, **there will be no rewrites or alternate scheduling of quizzes** except in the case of accommodation arranged ahead of time through Student Accessibility Services. The Student Accessibility Services website is available [here](#).

Email and electronic submissions policy

I am happy to reply to short, specific questions via email and will answer as promptly as possible (usually it takes me approximately one week to respond to a given email). However, I cannot guarantee that you will have a reply within a specific amount of time. If you have detailed questions on the course material it is more appropriate to see me during Zoom office hours, or make an appointment to meet with me via Zoom.

Conduct

Students, employees, and academic staff are also expected to demonstrate behaviour in class that promotes and maintains a positive and productive learning environment. As members of the University community, students, employees, and academic staff are expected to demonstrate conduct that is consistent with the University of Calgary Calendar, the Code of Conduct and Non-Academic Misconduct policy and procedures, which can be found at: <http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/k.html>

Policy on use of electronic devices

The use of laptop and mobile devices in class is acceptable when used in a manner appropriate to the course and classroom activities. Please refrain from accessing websites and resources that may be distracting to you or for other learners during class time. Students are responsible for being aware of the University's [Internet and email use policy](#).

Grading System

In this course, all essays, exams, and presentations will be marked on the University of Calgary's four-point Grading System, as described in the undergraduate Calendar:

<http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/f-1-1.html>

90 + %	A+	4.0	67 – 69 %	C+	2.3
85 – 89 %	A	4.0	64 – 66 %	C	2.0
80 – 84 %	A–	3.7	60 – 63 %	C–	1.7
77 – 79 %	B+	3.3	55 – 59 %	D+	1.3

74 – 76 %	B	3.0	50 – 54 %	D	1.0
70 – 73 %	B–	2.7	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.

A range: Outstanding or Excellent Work

The essay’s thesis is clearly stated and obvious; ideas are original and focused; all main points are clearly stated and supported with specific examples from the primary and/or secondary texts; ideas are organized logically and flow easily; if applicable, research draws from reputable sources and uses the sources appropriately; writing has either minimal or no spelling and grammatical errors; “Works Cited” page is correctly formatted and in good order. This paper goes above and beyond the regular requirements for the assignment.

B range: Good Work

The essay topic is clear, and the essay has a definite thesis; ideas may show some glimmers of originality; specific examples from the text are used to support the main arguments; spelling and grammatical errors are at a minimum; the research sources used are for the most part reputable; perhaps some sections could be more clearly stated but clarity overall is not a problem; formatting errors at a minimum.

C range: Satisfactory Work

The essay’s thesis is not as clear as it could be or is incomplete; ideas are not necessarily original but are still competent; essay needs work with recurring spelling and grammatical errors; occasional muddled logic; some points not clearly supported by evidence from the text; the essay contains other errors that perhaps get in the way of keeping the central argument as tight as it could be; too many formatting errors are distracting for the reader.

D range: Minimal Pass

Language is often unclear because of grammatical errors; thesis is unclear or muddled or missing; topic wanders into unrelated or extremely tangential territory; research sources are questionable or nonexistent; ideas are unsupported or unfocused; the flow between ideas hard to discern; the essay contains sloppy formatting.

F: Unsatisfactory

Writing has no cohesion and ideas are scattered or unclear; main topic hard to discern; no textual support for central arguments; major grammatical errors interfere with clarity.

Academic Integrity

This course, like all courses at the University of Calgary, holds students to high standards of honest and responsible scholarship. Please consult the [Academic Integrity website](#) for a detailed description of university policies, which will be enforced in this course. Cases of suspected academic misconduct will be referred to the Associate Dean of Arts for a ruling.

Plagiarism is a type of academic misconduct. Plagiarism occurs when a student presents the ideas, expression of ideas, or work of another person as their own. Another equally serious form of plagiarism occurs when a student submits something they have written themselves for credit in two or more courses without first securing written permission from all those course instructors. Consequences for plagiarism include failure on the assignment, failure in the course, and possible suspension or expulsion from the university. Using any source whatsoever without clearly documenting it is a serious academic offense.

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](#) must be completed. It is the student's responsibility to initiate this process with the instructor. The University also has regulations governing the [deferral of final examinations](#).

Grade appeals

To pursue a Reassessment of Graded Term Work or a Reappraisal of an Academic Assessment, Consult the [University Calendar](#) and request advice from the English Department at engl@ucalgary.ca. Please note that mere dissatisfaction with a grade is not sufficient grounds for an appeal.

[English Department Website:](#)

For more information about courses, programs, policies, events and contacts in the Department of English.

Scribe and Muse Club for English Students

The [Scribe and Muse Reading and Writing Club](#) fosters and champions reading and writing through community service, leadership, and engagement. Our email address is smecuofc@gmail.com.

Writing support

[The Student Success Centre](#) offers both online and workshop writing support for U of C students.

[Academic regulations and schedules](#)

Student Academic Accommodations

The Student Accessibility Services website is available [here](#). University accommodation policies can be found at the following links:

<https://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/b-6-1.html>

<https://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/b-6.html>

<https://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/b-6-2.html>

Program Advising and Student Information Resources is done through the Faculty of Arts Students' Centre. Office location: SS102; phone: 403-220-3580; email: ascarts@ucalgary.ca
Website: <http://arts.ucalgary.ca/undergraduate>

Instructor's Intellectual Property

Course materials created by instructors, including presentations, posted notes, labs, case studies, assignments, and exams, remain the intellectual property of the instructor. These materials may not be reproduced, redistributed or copied without the explicit consent of the instructor. The posting of course materials to third party websites such as note-sharing sites without permission is prohibited. Sharing of extracts of these course materials with other students enrolled in the course at the same time may be allowed under fair dealing.

Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy

Student information will be collected in accordance with usual classroom practice. Students' assignments will be accessible only by the authorized course faculty and teaching assistants. Private information related to the individual student is treated with the utmost regard by the faculty at the University of Calgary.

Sexual violence policy

<https://www.ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/sexual-violence-policy.pdf>

Other important information

- [Wellness and Mental Health Resources](#)
- [Student Success](#)
- [Student Ombuds Office](#)
- [Student Union \(SU\) Information](#)
- [Graduate Students' Association \(GSA\) Information](#)
- [Emergency Evacuation/Assembly Points](#)
- [Safewalk](#)

Universal Student Ratings of Instruction (USRI)

Please participate in [USRI Surveys](#) toward the end of the course. The feedback they provide helps us evaluate teaching, enhance student learning, and guide students as they select courses.