

**FACULTY OF ARTS**  
**DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH**  
**ENGLISH 509.40-01 RETHINKING PRAIRIE LITERATURE**  
**WINTER 2014**

Location: SS 1153

Time: MWF 1:00 - 1:50 pm

Instructor: Dr. Jason Wiens

Office: SS 1128

Phone: 220-4662

E-mail: jlwuens@ucalgary.ca

Office hours: T noon - 3 pm

**Course description:**

This course invites students to rethink Canadian prairie literature – that is, literature written in Alberta, Saskatchewan, and Manitoba – in a number of ways, including rethinking how the canonical texts might be critically approached; rethinking the canon itself; and rethinking assumptions about regionalism in general, including the relationship of geography to writing. Students will read novels, short fiction, poetry, drama, and critical / theoretical essays on prairie literature and regionalism.

**Texts and readings:**

Martha Ostenso, *Wild Geese*  
Frederick Philip Grove, *Settlers of the Marsh*  
Sinclair Ross, *As For Me and My House*  
Margaret Laurence, *A Bird in the House*  
Beatrice Culleton, *In Search of April Raintree*  
Thomas King, *One Good Story, That One*  
Brad Fraser, *Poor Superman*

There will also be readings on Blackboard, including poetry, essays, and short fiction. A recent film will also be on the syllabus, Guy Maddin's *My Winnipeg* (2007).

**Assignments and Evaluation:**

Attendance and Participation:	10%
Critical Edition Assignment	25%
Presentation (oral and written components)	35%
Final Essay	30%

There will be no Registrar-scheduled exam in this course.

Participation will be a measure of your attendance at and preparation for each class. The critical edition assignment will ask students to prepare a critical apparatus for one of the texts on the course, of the student's choice. This critical apparatus will include a 3-4 page critical introduction to the text grounded in relevant research that helps situate the text in its historical

moment, followed by 10 sample editorial notes providing key historical or explanatory information on specific words or phrases in the text. As an example of a critical introduction, a student might provide some historical information on the Great Depression to contextualize *As For Me and My House*, or on the Trickster figure in aboriginal belief systems to contextualize *One Good Story, That One*. The presentation will ask students to present on a critical / theoretical essay in relation to a primary text. This oral presentation should be between 10 and 15 minutes long (worth 10%); one week after the presentation, the student will submit a revised version of the presentation in essay form (5-7 pages), worth 25%. For the final essay, students will develop their own research topic based on course readings and discussions. Students are encouraged, though not required, to clear the essay topic with the instructor before proceeding. This essay will be 10-12 pages long.

The critical edition assignment, the presentation, and the final essay *all must be on different texts*. The deadlines for these assignments will vary, in order to spread the work over the course of the semester (see the course schedule).

Further details on these papers will be given in class, early in term, as will various deadlines.

You do not have to complete all assignments to receive a passing grade in this course. Assignments submitted after the deadline will be penalized (e.g. with the loss of a third of a grade for each day [not class] that the assignment is overdue). Extra-credit assignments will not be offered.

*Note: Please make all efforts to take assignments directly to the instructor. If it is not possible to do so, take your assignment to SS1152 and place it in the drop-box. Your assignment will then be date-stamped and placed in your instructor's mailbox. Please keep a copy of your assignment in case of loss by any cause. **Assignments cannot be returned by staff in the Department office.** E-mailed submissions will not be accepted and will be deleted.*

### **Note regarding technologies:**

Please turn off all communication devices during class. Laptop computers are acceptable in class as long as they do not present a distraction to others. I reserve the right to ban computers from the class if anyone's computer presents a distraction. I am happy to answer inquiries via e-mail but please note that proper e-mail etiquette should be followed, and that what you consider 'urgent' may not be considered urgent by others. I will not respond to inquiries over e-mail regarding matters I have addressed in class. You are encouraged to meet someone in the class early in term and exchange e-mails so you can help one another if one person misses a class.

### **Note regarding textbooks:**

Much of this class will involve close readings from literary texts. As such, students are required to have the texts to be discussed with them in class. Students who consistently do not have the texts with them in class will receive a grade of '0' for participation, after a written warning from the instructor.

## Grading system:

The following grading system is used in this course:

A+	90+	
A	85-89	A=87
A-	80-84	A=82
B+	77-79	B+=78
B	74-76	B=75
B-	70-73	B-=72
C+	67-69	C+=68
C	64-66	C=65
C-	60-63	C-=62
D+	55-59	D+=57
D	50-54	D=52
F	0-49	F=25

University of Calgary's official grading system

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/scribe-and-muse-english-club>.

Our email address is [smec@ucalgary.ca](mailto: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>

**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: [maboyn@ucalgary.ca](mailto:maboyn@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](http://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](mailto: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 3<sup>rd</sup> 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.