

FACULTY OF ARTS
DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH
COURSE OUTLINE

ENGLISH 605.40 (Studies in National or International Literatures)

Winter 2015

Tuesdays, 10:00 – 12:45

COURSE TITLE: Completed Field Notes: the Writings of Robert Kroetsch

Instructor: Aritha van Herk

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Office hours: Tuesdays, 14:00 – 15:00; Wednesdays, 16:00 – 18:00

Homepage/course website: <https://english.ucalgary.ca/profiles/aritha-van-herk>

Course description:

The writings of Robert Kroetsch altogether comprise an astonishing achievement. In his life, he authored thirteen collections of poetry, nine novels, hundreds of essays, several book-length intellectual interviews, and multiple theoretical excursions so influential that they have been quoted more than virtually any other in Canada. “The fiction makes us real” (*Creation*, 63) is merely one such example, although there are many others. His body of work alone declares his weight and importance, but despite that, his influence within Canadian Literature is still oddly peripheral (relegated to an almost fetishistic postmodernity), and he is a writer much-quoted and frequently discussed but not read from a broad perspective. There is no doubt that Kroetsch models the writer as intellectual presence within 20th century Canadian literature, asking questions that continue to resonate for our cultural present. Further, his poetry, fiction, criticism and non-fiction offer rich ground for theoretical and methodological scrutiny.

This course sets out to study the work of this author, and while we will not in a semester-long course be able to study in depth ALL his publications, students are encouraged to read Kroetsch’s entire *oeuvre* before the class begins. Our critical analysis will focus on the collected poems, the literary essays, and six of the novels. As well, the class will be introduced to and will consult Kroetsch’s archival materials, which are held in Special Collections in the TFDL.

Key research questions for this course include: historical writing within Canada and its regional declension; creative explorations into the creation of a national or local character; the complications of gendered reading; spatial and historical peregrinations; creative and critical cross-fertilization; the friction between the rural tradition and the urban present; the nature of western Canadian writing; the writer’s papers as archival site; writing’s engagement with multiple genres; the challenges of evaluating a writer’s “completed” work.

Texts and readings are those that are STARRED* in the complete list below.

Primary Works by Robert Kroetsch:

Novels

But We Are Exiles (1965)
**The Words of My Roaring* (1966)
**The Studhorse Man* (1969)
Gone Indian (1973)
**Badlands* (1975)
**What the Crow Said* (1978)
**Alibi* (1983)
The Puppeteer (1992)
**The Man from the Creeks* (1998)

Poetry

The Stone Hammer Poems (1975)
The Ledger (1975)
Seed Catalogue (1977)
The Sad Phoenician (1979)
The Criminal Intensities of Love as Paradise (1981)
Field Notes: Collected Poems (1981)
Advice to My Friends (1985)
Excerpts from the Real World: A Prose Poem in Ten Parts (1986)
**Completed Field Notes: The Long Poems of Robert Kroetsch* (1989)
**The Hornbooks of Rita K* (2001)
The Snowbird Poems (2004)
**Too Bad: Sketches Toward a Self-Portrait* (2010)

Non-Fiction and Criticism

Alberta (1968)
The Crow Journals (1980)
**Labyrinths of Voice: Conversations with Robert Kroetsch* (1982)
Letter to Salonika (1983)
**The Lovely Treachery of Words: Essays Selected and New* (1989)
**A Likely Story: The Writing Life* (1995)
Alberta (revised) (1993)
Abundance: The Mackie House Conversations about the Writing Life (2007) (with John Lent)

Assignments and Evaluation:

In-Class Presentation: 20%

This presentation must, coherently and eloquently, explicate a distinctive or characteristic (to Kroetsch) linguistic, historical or regional aspect within one of his works.

Short Paper (1000 words) discussion paper: 20%

This short discussion paper must apprehend and discuss the deployment of place in any one of Kroetsch's works.

Long (4000 words) research paper: 40%

This research paper will examine in detail one of the threads traced throughout and within Kroetsch's *oeuvre*. The student will identify and limit her/his topic in consultation with Professor van Herk. Students may choose to undertake archival research in their long/research paper.

Class participation (discussion and preparedness): 10%

Class participation is measured on the basis of germane contribution to discussion, and on each student's preparedness and engagement with the work, as well as ability to speak eloquently.

Weekly contributions to Critical Bibliography: 10%

Every week, each student is expected to post one bibliographical entry (with brief explication), which might be a useful paper on Kroetsch or other critical, historical, or theoretical references relevant to his writing.

There is no exam in this class.

All assignments must be complete for students to pass this course.

Late assignments will be penalized.

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.**

Students must submit written assignments to me in paper form.

Students must post their weekly contributions to the Critical Bibliography on D2L.

Grading system:

I assign letter grades as per the university's standard format as laid out in the system below.

A+	4.00	Outstanding, absolutely exceptional work
A	4.00	Excellent - superior performance showing comprehensive understanding of the subject matter.
A-	3.70	Very good performance
B+	3.30	Good performance
B	3.00	Satisfactory performance
B-	2.70	Minimum pass for students in the Faculty of Graduate Studies
C+	2.30	All grades below "B-" are indicative of failure at the graduate level and cannot be counted toward Faculty of Graduate Studies course requirements. Individual programs may require a higher passing grade.

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>

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/graduate>. 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: 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 Department of English's graduate website for courses, departmental deadlines, and other related program information at <http://english.ucalgary.ca/node/245>. Consult the Faculty of Graduate Studies Calendar for university and faculty regulations, dates, deadline, fees, and schedules, student, faculty and university rights and responsibilities. The homepage for the Faculty of Graduate Studies Calendar is <http://grad.ucalgary.ca>.

For registration (add/drop/swap), paying fees and assistance with your Student Centre, contact the Graduate Office at 403 220 5484 or visit us in Social Sciences Tower 1148 in the first instance.

For program planning and advice, contact the Graduate Program Administrator at enggrad@ucalgary.ca to make an appointment with Dr. Aruna Srivastava, Graduate Program Director.

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/>

Contact for the Graduate Student Association: <http://gsa.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.