

**English 3571G Be/Longing: Global Literature in Canada
Winter 2023**

Class meets
Tuesdays 1:30-3:20pm
Thursdays 2:30-3:20pm
in
FNB 1240

Western University is located on the traditional lands of the Anishinaabek, Haudenosaunee, Lūnaapéewak, and Neutral peoples, on lands connected to several Treaties including Treaty 6 London Township, Treaty 7 Sombra Township, Treaty 21 Longwoods and the Dish with One Spoon Covenant Wampum. This place continues to be home to diverse Indigenous peoples who are recognized as contemporary stewards of the land and vital contributors to society. Consider what must follow from understanding that settlers are Treaty people, too.

Instructor: D. Palmateer Pennee

Office: UC 3432

Office Hours: tba + by appointment arranged via dpennee@uwo.ca

Course Description:

Where is “here” for writers of diasporic heritages living in Canada? How might writing from or of “elsewhere” inform individual and collective understandings of what it means to live in Canada or to be/not be “Canadian”? Do questions of national “identity” matter, or matter in the same ways, as they did in Canada’s actual and literary pasts? How might other forms of identifying within and against “Canada” inform understandings of “be/longing”? How might the literature of “newcomers” to Canada *after* official multiculturalism help us to answer such questions and formulate new ones? Realities of global conflict and global capitalism, past and present, not only inflect realities of migration, refugeeism, and citizenship; they also raise questions about the adequacies of such policies as “multiculturalism,” such terms as the “mosaic” and “diaspora,” and such concepts as nationalism itself, all of which reflect and refract national narratives of “identity”. This course will study a rich variety of answers to the questions raised above and to new questions arising as we study together.

Prerequisite(s): At least 60% in 1.0 of English 1020-1999 or permission of the Department.

Extra Information: 3 hours, 0.5 course.

Required Reading (titles will be studied in the order listed below):

Nino Ricci, *Lives of the Saints* (1990)

David Chariandy, *Soucouyant* (2007)

Kim Thúy, *Mãn*, (2013 in French original; English translation by Sheila Fischman 2014)

Sharon Bala, *The Boat People* (2018)

Hassan Ghedi Santur, *The Youth of God* (2019)

Lee Maracle, *Talking to the Diaspora* (2015)

Selected shorter creative and secondary sources available through Western Libraries access under copyright and located in our OWL course site Resources.

Recommended Reading:

David Harvey, *A Brief History of Neoliberalism* (this book provides a useful account of the interrelations of state-political and economic power in the final decades of the twentieth century and is a key resource for understanding the contexts behind the conditions under which migrations have accelerated in the last several decades and into the present)

Methods of Assessment:**Format:**

Please submit work in Word (not pdf), according to MLA format, 9th edition (no title page; your name, etc. in top left corner; double-spaced, etc.). See the Purdue OWL (Online Writing Lab) MLA site for easy to follow MLA, 9th edition overview and instructions:

https://owl.purdue.edu/owl/research_and_citation/mla_style/mla_style_introduction.html

File Names:

Please name your files by Surname and type of assignment (e.g., my submissions for the course under Option One below would be named Pennee 10% Paper; Pennee 20% Paper; or for Option Two, Pennee 30% Paper; and so on).

Where to Submit your work:

Submit work to your Drop Box in OWL (remember to complete the “Please select a copyright status” portion of the screen for each item submitted, i.e., “I own/share the copyright” followed by “Continue” (bottom left of screen) for upload of your papers to be successful.

Due Dates:

Due dates are variable within the “not later than” windows provided below, except for the final assignment, which has a fixed due date for its three parts. All work must be completed by the final day of classes (for us, April 6), unless granted academic consideration by your Academic Counsellor. There is no final examination for this course.

Two Options for 30% of your grade:

Option One (2 small-scale close readings of graduated length and weight):

10% 500-word analysis of a short passage from required readings, due not later than end of Week 4, Friday February 3 by 11:55pm to your Drop Box in OWL (passages will be assigned for those who do not wish to choose their own)

20% 1,000-word analysis of (a) passage(s), *due not later than end of Week 6, Friday February 17 by 11:55pm* to your Drop Box in OWL (passages will be assigned for those who do not wish to choose their own)

OR (for those students who prefer one larger to two smaller assignments)

Option Two (1 larger-scale close reading essay for same weight as above):

30% 1,500-word analytical essay of assigned passage(s) (e.g., a chapter) **or** other key passage(s) of your choice *discussed with instructor in advance not less than three days*

before the due date, and due not later than end of Week 6, Friday February 17 by 11:55pm to your Drop Box in OWL

No research is required for any of the papers above; however, if you use research for ideas to prepare and write your work, document it accordingly.

Remaining Assignments for 70% of your grade:

- 35% 2,000-2,500-word analytical research essay (topics will be provided; topics of your own choosing are encouraged and must be discussed with instructor not less than one week before the due date), due not later than end of Week
- For those of you who would like to study “grey literature” resources for analytical essays (such as Goodreads, Twitter, author websites, author interviews, book reviews in non-academic venues, etc.), consult the instructor early with your ideas.
- 35% Final Assignment in Three Parts (in one Word document) based on Required Readings This assignment takes the place of a registrar-scheduled final examination, which means it needs to be submitted before the end of classes. Submit as a file labelled with your Surname Final Assignment (e.g., mine would be Pennee Final Assignment), not later 11:00am Tuesday 4 April:
- Part 1:** ONE question or prompt (for an analytical essay-style answer) for an imaginary final examination for our course.
- Part 2:** A 2-page Rationale for your question or prompt (explain how/why it would be good exam question or prompt); and
- Part 3:** One Sample Essay Answer (mostly but not entirely in outline form) to your own Question or Prompt. (See more detailed instructions in OWL Resources>Assignment Handouts Folder.)

In class on Tuesday 4 April, we will read, discuss, and rank the sample questions/prompts. Part of assessing the questions will be to discuss how we would consider answering them (with which readings and in what ways). Our class list is small enough that we should know each other well enough by Week 12 to work comfortably in groups to do the rankings, then present each group’s rankings and rationale for their rankings to the class.

This final assignment fulfills the learning objectives for our course and for a comprehensive final examination: it assesses knowledge, comprehension, analysis, application, and synthesis of the course materials (for exam purposes), and it adds evaluation as a final course objective in the task of ranking the anonymized questions submitted by everyone in class.

This final assignment requires—and rewards—engagement with the required readings from the beginning of the course as well as synthesis of course materials and potential re-shuffling of ideas from earlier in the term as the term progresses. Anyone who attends class regularly, completes all the readings on time for informed listening/speaking in class, and understands the materials both in detail and more abstractly, should do well in this assignment (as you would in a final examination).

This final assignment also provides a final review/overview of the required readings to consolidate everyone's learning through your own preparation of questions and through the study of others' (anonymized) questions in class on Tuesday 4 April. This assignment assesses knowledge, comprehension, analysis, application, synthesis, and evaluation—all key learning objectives for our course. Note that the instructor's evaluation of this final assignment is independent of class rankings (because I will have access to your rationales and your sample answers).

There will be book prizes for the top-ranked three most productive questions☺

Official Things You Need to Know:

Students are fully responsible for looking at and being familiar with the information posted on the department website at

<http://www.uwo.ca/english/undergraduate/Student%20Information.html>.

Attendance

Attendance is mandatory in all classes and tutorials. In cases of excessive absenteeism (e.g. more than 9 unexcused hours for a half course, 18 for a full course), which are not accounted for by either academic consideration or accommodation, students may be debarred from taking the final examination, and will receive an official warning to this effect by or before the course drop date (see Senate policy). In classes with or without final exams, students who do not attend class will receive 0% for course participation grades. Unless other policies dictate a different set of penalties in specific English and Writing Studies programs, this will apply to all department programs.

Intellectual Property/Copyright

All instructor-written materials (e.g. PowerPoints, lecture notes, oral lectures) for this course are created solely for students' personal use within the course, and remain the instructor's intellectual property. Further reproduction, fixation, distribution, transmission, dissemination, communication, or any other uses, without securing the consent of the copyright owner (the course instructor) may be an infringement of copyright. You may not distribute, email, or otherwise communicate these materials to any other person. These limitations extend to recording, photographing, or sharing lectures (online or in-person) and lecture material without permission. Posting the instructor's content from this course to online course sharing sites like OneClass or Course Hero without permission is both an infringement of intellectual property law and a violation of academic integrity guidelines. The instructor will pass these cases on to the Western University Ombudsperson or their Department Chair as appropriate.

Additional Information

Late work is penalized at the rate of 10% of the weight of the late work per day including weekend days (e.g., an assignment worth 30% would lose 3% per day late).

Email may not be read after 6pm or on weekends, but I generally try to respond quickly.

You are welcome to use laptops/devices in the classroom to take notes, and/or to access online readings, and/or to do quick searches during discussion. You are also encouraged to take notes

by hand: research demonstrates that hand-written notes tend to be remembered longer than notes taken using a keyboard.

Accommodation Policies

Students with disabilities work with Accessible Education (formerly SSD) which provides recommendations for accommodation based on medical documentation or psychological and cognitive testing. The accommodation policy can be found here: [Academic Accommodation for Students with Disabilities](#).

Students seeking academic accommodation on medical grounds for any missed tests, exams, participation components and/or assignments worth (either alone or in combination) 10% or more of their final grade must apply to the Academic Counselling office of their home Faculty and provide documentation. Academic accommodation cannot be granted by the instructor or department.

Documentation shall be submitted, as soon as possible, to the Office of the Dean of the student's Faculty of registration, together with a request for relief specifying the nature of the accommodation being requested. The Student Medical Certificate (SMC) can be found at https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/medicalform.pdf.

The full policy is set out here:

https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/accommodation_medical.pdf.

Religious Accommodation:

Students should consult the University's list of recognized religious holidays, and should give reasonable notice in writing, prior to the holiday, to the Instructor and an Academic Counsellor if their course requirements will be affected by a religious observance. Additional information is given in the [Western Multicultural Calendar](#).

Academic Offences

Scholastic offences are taken seriously and students are directed to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitutes a Scholastic Offence, at http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/scholastic_discipline_undergrad.pdf

Plagiarism:

Students must write their essays and assignments in their own words. Whenever students take an idea or passage from another author, they must acknowledge their debt both by using quotation marks where appropriate and by proper referencing such as footnotes or citations. Plagiarism is a major academic offence.

Plagiarism Checking:

All required papers may be subject to submission for textual similarity review to the commercial plagiarism detection software under license to the University for the detection of plagiarism. All papers submitted for such checking will be included as source documents in the reference database for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of papers subsequently submitted to the system.

Use of the service is subject to the licensing agreement, currently between The University of Western Ontario and Turnitin.com <http://www.turnitin.com>.

All instances of plagiarism will be reported to the Chair of Undergraduate Studies. Proven cases of plagiarism will result in a grade of zero for the assignment. Subsequent offences will result in failure for the course.

Support Services

Registrarial Services <http://www.registrar.uwo.ca>

Student Support Services <https://student.uwo.ca/psp/heprdweb/?cmd=login>

Services provided by the USC <http://westernusc.ca/services/>

Academic Support & Engagement <http://www.sdc.uwo.ca/>

Students who are in emotional/mental distress should refer to MentalHealth@Western: <http://www.uwo.ca/uwocom/mentalhealth/> for a complete list of options about how to obtain help.