

Department of English & Writing Studies

Canadian Literature Survey

English 2501E (001)

Fall/Winter 2023-24

NOTE: New text substituted for text currently not available (for winter term reading)

Antirequisites: [English 2354E](#), [English 2356F/G](#) and [English 3774E](#).

Prerequisites: At least 60% in 1.0 of English 1020-1999 or permission of the Department.

Unless you have either the requisites for this course or written special permission from your Dean to enroll in it, you may be removed from this course and it will be deleted from your record. This decision may not be appealed. You will receive no adjustment to your fees in the event that you are dropped from a course for failing to have the necessary prerequisites.

Course Description

What does literature tell us about the making of a nation and its citizens? Spanning the period from imperial exploration to Confederation to the present day, this course examines Canada's vibrant literary culture in relation to the making of both well-known and lesser known mythologies of what "Canada" is and who "Canadians" are. Students will encounter a diverse range of genres and authors, from accounts of early explorers to canonical writers to current internationally acclaimed and award-winning writers. The course includes a number of BIPOC (Black, Indigenous, and People of Colour) and Queer writers.

Classes proceed by a combination of short lectures and guided discussions, for which students prepare by reading in advance of class and considering the assigned study questions (study questions for required readings can be found in the OWL course site, in Resources). Recommended readings, particularly on historical and literary historical contexts, will facilitate understanding before and after class discussion (recommended readings will be available through Course Readings and sometimes via links in OWL Resources).

The OWL course site is the communications hub for our course beyond the classroom. When you receive e-mail from the OWL course site, read it promptly please. Handouts for assignments, the weekly schedule, the course outline, etc., will all be housed in the OWL course site. All out-of-class assignments will be submitted to the Dropbox in the OWL course site.

Objectives:

By the end of the course, successful students will be able to:

- **know** (i.e., to identify, recognize, recall), **comprehend**, and **analyze** examples of Canadian Literature and examples of affiliated contextual texts (government documents, literary criticism, etc.);
- **apply**, **synthesize**, and **communicate** your knowledge, comprehension, and analyses in discussion and in writing;
- **evaluate** others' analyses of the materials studied and materials similar to what we have studied;
- **understand** how to write your research essay so that will be *in conversation with* other readers-as-scholars;

- **improve** and **develop** writing skills through frequent, short written analyses and the longer research essay;
- **scrutinize** your own writing for accuracy, brevity, and clarity of style;
- **conduct research** in Western Libraries information ecosystem;
- **prepare a bibliography** in the most recent MLA (Modern Language Association) format (9th edition);
- **prepare an annotated bibliography** of best sources for your research paper;
- **write a research paper** that is in conversation with current scholarship in literary studies;
- **understand** how literary scholarship represents the discipline of literary studies in university settings, i.e., how scholars produce disciplinary knowledge about literature, through particular methods and within frameworks (or theories); and
- **appreciate** how, when studied for form and content at once, literary works both *reflect* and *refract* knowledge about Canada.

Course Materials

Note: Western's Bookstore has the required novels for this course in the recommended editions (so that we can all be on the same page, literally, for in-class discussions): some of the texts may be available in used copies of the recommended editions. Your instructor also recognizes that cheaper copies of required texts may be available in e-book or used editions online or in local used bookstores; just be aware that our page numbers will probably differ.

L.M. Montgomery, *Rilla of Ingleside* (1921)

Margaret Atwood, *Surfacing* (1972)

Timothy Findley, *The Wars* (1977)

Joy Kogawa, *Obasan* (1981)

Fred Wah, *Diamond Grill* (1996)

Replaced with Ali Hassan, *Is There Bacon in Heaven?* 2022

David Chariandy, *Brother* (2017)

Other required readings in poetry, short stories, excerpts from longer works, government Acts, scholarship on selected texts, etc., will be accessible via Western Libraries' Course Readings service at no cost beyond the fees you already pay in your tuition for such access. You will be able to access our Course Readings via Western Libraries' homepage or directly from our OWL course site.

Methods of Evaluation

The grade for the course will be arrived at as follows:

Across the Fall and Winter Terms:

30% for Informed Participation, measured by i) signs of preparedness for class in the form of one-paragraph responses to a Study Question, submitted before class; and ii) informed contributions to class discussions or one-on-one conversation with the instructor during office hours.

Your preparedness for informed class participation will take the form of 3 RATS (Readiness Achievement TextS) in each term, i.e., a total of 6 fully-developed paragraph responses to 6 Study Questions across the year. This written form of participation in course work ensures that people who are not comfortable speaking in class are not penalized by a more typical participation grade. You also always have and are encouraged to use the opportunity to show your engagement with the course readings and classmates' ideas during class time and office hours.

RATS study questions will be available for all classes to help you prepare for class, but you will be in charge of choosing a Study Question to answer *and* when to submit your choice of 3 RATS each term. You are strongly advised to spread the due dates for your RATS out across the term (e.g., Weeks 2, 4, 6, or Weeks 3, 5, 7) to benefit from feedback. If you submit all 4 in the final couple of weeks of each term, you run the risk of not getting feedback in time to help you improve your writing and analytical skills.

A further note on participation in class: the instructor does not take attendance, but be aware that absenteeism will be observed and may adversely affect your ability to succeed in the course. Students who for whatever reason are reluctant to participate in class will nevertheless be able to show their engagement with the course materials through their written RATS and, if desired, through conversing with the instructor in the less public space of office hours. Conversely, students who speak often in class but without evidence of having read the required readings, will not necessarily improve their participation grade beyond what they earn through their written RATS. Wherever you may be on the spectrum of introversion to extroversion, or discomfort and comfort with speaking in class, you are in charge of your own participation grade. Asking good questions about the readings can also constitute evidence of engagement with the readings!

Fall Term: In addition to the 3 RATS submissions for this term, you will submit one short analytical essay:

10% for a 1,000-word essay (a close reading of some aspect of a single work of literature to discuss a topic that will be provided)

Winter Term (for 60% of the course grade):

35% Research Essay of 2,500-3,000 words PLUS required components of the research and writing process:

Required Components (i.e., the final essay will not be graded if any of these components is not completed) to be deposited in a single folder in your Drop Box entitled Research Essay:

- Identifying your choice of one of the required novels and an appropriate topic for a research essay on that novel;
- Preparing a preliminary bibliography, with a list of search terms and search strings and identification of search tools used to prepare the bibliography;
- Preparing critical annotations of the 2 or 3 most useful sources you find in your searches (sometimes the most useful sources are found after your preliminary bibliography is done, and that's okay!);
- Reflecting (in a written Afterword to your essay) on your process when your essay is completed (including discussion of sources that became important but were not annotated at that earlier stage of work); and
- Handing in, of course, the final essay itself.

Together, these required stages of work will chart the development of your search skills and require you attend to the relationship between your searches for resources, the study of your sources, and your analysis of your chosen novel. You will be attending to the iterative nature of research: reading, thinking, rereading, writing, thinking, rereading, rewriting process. In other words, together these required components will facilitate the success of your final draft: as such, each component will receive feedback but not a discrete numerical grade. The final draft of your research essay is worth 35% because the essay itself is the holistic measure of your engagement in and learning from the full research-and-as-writing process.

25% Comprehensive Final Examination

This course is worth 1.0 credits; the final examination ensures both *broad knowledge* of readings and ideas from fall and winter study and *depth of engagement* with materials studied across both terms. You will be thankful at exam time for all those Study Questions all year and for the RATS! Regular attention to the Study Questions and completing the RATS *really will help you to learn and remember* the course materials.

Parameters for the final examination will be provided and discussed in advance of the examination itself, so that you can be prepared to do well with minimal performance anxiety. The exam will be similar to a “take-home” exam except you will write the exam in the timeslot scheduled by the Registrar’s office. This kind of real-world demonstration of knowledge and skills in a fixed time-frame provides excellent experience for being prepared, managing your time, and deploying your knowledge and skills in the workplace or any context that comes with on-the-spot challenges to demonstrate your know-how.

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

Formatting and Handing in Out-of-Class work: All out-of-class written work must be formatted according to the MLA 9th edition. All out-of-class written work must be submitted to your OWL Dropbox. You do not need to install anything on your PC or laptop to use the OWL Dropbox: it is already a feature of OWL. (This instructor does not use the Assignments tool in OWL because it is not sensitive to students having a choice of due dates for the same category of assignment.)

Late penalties: if you need an extension, ask for it in advance. Late papers for which no extension has been sought or no academic consideration approved will lose marks at the rate of 10% of the value of the late assignment per day or part thereof late. For example, an essay worth 15% that is submitted 1.5 days late will lose 3 marks (10% of 15% is 1.5; 1.5 x 1 day and part of one day late is 1.5 + 1.5 = 3 marks). (Your paper would be worth a maximum of 12% prior to grading.)

Email: the instructor generally responds quickly via e-mail, but will not necessarily respond to e-mails after 6pm or on weekends. (Would you expect to be able to speak by phone with your professor after 6pm or on the weekend? Probably not. Consider e-mail the same way.)

Office Hours: Unless announced otherwise (e.g., when everyone needs to meet with me to discuss their choice of novel and topic for their research essays), you do not need to book a time during office hours to meet with the instructor. Just drop in! Office hours are a chance to ask questions that you didn't think of during class, or to follow up on a discussion that you wanted to contribute to but didn't feel comfortable talking in the classroom that day, or to seek clarification of ideas that come up in class, or to help develop your understanding of a topic, an idea, a reading, a figurative device, by "trying it out" on someone else, etc. Or, you can just stop in to say hello and share how things are going for you during the term! If you have a scheduling conflict with Office Hours, e-mail the instructor to arrange an alternative time to meet.

Laptops/devices: You are advised to bring a laptop or tablet to class for access to course readings that are online (i.e., if you choose not to print readings from Course Readings or prefer to read on screen rather than use paper). You are welcome to take notes on your device, though research has shown that handwriting helps us to remember the material more effectively.

Reminder about Participation: the instructor does not take attendance, but be aware that absenteeism will be observed and may adversely affect your ability to succeed in the course (be aware of the official policy on Attendance, which appears above).

Trigger Warnings: Your instructor does not use trigger warnings and is not a trained therapist. Western offers ready access to counsellors for any ongoing needs you may have from incidents in your life that may be triggered by course readings. By definition, critical thinking cannot occur, cannot be developed or accomplished, without encountering unfamiliar things and sometimes familiar things that become uncomfortable or difficult through a critical encounter with the course readings. Negative affects may arise from some of our readings, even for those who do not expect trigger warnings.

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 Integrity Tutorial

All students are required to enroll in and complete the Centre for Teaching and Learning's Academic Integrity Tutorial. To access the tutorial, please use the link provided in the Resource tab in the course OWL site. Once the tutorial has been completed, you will receive a downloadable certificate. You must upload the certificate and submit it through the course Assignments tab in order to complete this assignment. The tutorial must be completed by Friday in the second week of term. This tutorial is mandatory in order for you to complete and pass the course. If you have completed the tutorial already for another course, you may upload the same certificate for this course; you do not need to repeat the tutorial.

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.

Statement on Gender-Based and Sexual Violence

Western is committed to reducing incidents of gender-based and sexual violence and providing compassionate support to anyone who has gone through these traumatic events. If you have experienced gender-based or sexual violence (either recently or in the past), you will find information about support services for survivors, including emergency contacts, [here](#). To connect with a case manager or set up an appointment, please contact support@uwo.ca.

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.

Timetable (a weekly schedule will be available in the OWL Course Site not later than the first week of classes):

As noted above, a total of 4 assignments are due in the fall term:

- 3 RATS (recommended timetable is to submit them in Weeks 2, 4, 6 or Weeks 3, 5, 7, though the choice of due dates is yours: none will be accepted after the last day of classes of the fall term)
- 1 x 1,000-word analytical essay due approximately the middle of term

As noted above, 4 assignments are due in the winter term, plus a comprehensive final examination (scheduled by the Registrar's office):

- 3 RATS (recommended timetable is to submit them in Weeks 2, 4, 6 or Weeks 3, 5, 7, though the choice of due dates is yours: none will be accepted after the last day of classes of the winter term)
- 1 x 2,500-3000-word analytical research essay (with multiple components spread across the winter term): due date Week 10 (in time to be graded and returned to you well before your final examination)

The Final Examination for the course will be scheduled by the Registrar's Office and announced by that office late in the winter term. There is no exam in December for this course 😊