

Department of English & Writing Studies

**English 4571G-001**

**Seminar in Canadian Literature:**

**The Economics, Politics, and Aesthetics of Canadian Poetry to the First World War**

Winter 2024

<b>January 9</b>	<b>Introductory: Initial Economic, Political, and Aesthetic Contexts;</b> Kelsey, “Now Reader Read . . .”
<b>January 16</b> <i>Adventures</i>	<b>Explorers and Fur Traders:</b> Samuel Hearne, <i>A Journey . . .</i> Alexander Mackenzie, <i>Voyages . . .</i> , Alexander Henry, <i>Travels and</i> (excerpts, handout)
<b>January 30</b> <i>Hill,</i>	<b>Local Pride in Lower Canada:</b> Brooke, <i>The History of Emily Montague</i> (excerpts, handout) Cary Abram’s <i>Plains</i> , Mackay, <i>Quebec</i> <i>Bayley, Canada</i>
<b>February 6</b>	<b>(Agri-) Culture in the Maritimes:</b> Goldsmith, <i>The Rising Village</i> , and Howe, <i>Acadia</i>
<b>February 13</b>	<b>Improvement in Upper Canada:</b> Strachan, “Verses . . . 1802” (handout) and Burwell, <i>Talbot Road</i>
<b>February 17-25</b>	<b>Spring Reading Week</b>
<b>February 27</b>	<b>Alternative Visions of Colonial Canada:</b> Kidd, <i>The Huron Chief</i> and John Richardson, <i>Tecumseh</i>
<b>March 5</b>	<b>Pre- and Post-Confederation Visions of Canada:</b> McLachlan, <i>The</i> <i>Emigrant</i> and Crawford, <i>Malcolm’s Katie</i>
<b>March 12</b>	<b>“Americanitis” and Its Cures:</b> selection of poems by Lampman, Roberts, and Carman (handout)
<b>March 19</b>	<b>Utopias and Dystopias:</b> Lampman, “The Land of Pallas,” “The City of the End of Things” (handout), <i>The Story of an Affinity</i>
<b>March 26</b> and	<b>Post-Confederation French Canada and Indigenous Peoples:</b> Duncan Campbell Scott, <i>In the Village of Viger</i> (excerpts, handout) “Indian” Poems (handout)
<b>April 2</b>	<b>Early Canadian Poets and Poetry Among Twentieth-Century Writers</b> (handout)

**Assignments:**

One short essay, a seminar presentation, a research essay, and a preparatory bibliography/works cited for the research essay for the last are required.

**The short essay** (approximately 750 words) will be on a work or works of your choice on the syllabus, and should focus on and “unpack” an aspect of the work(s) that you regard as significant and worthy of commentary. It must be submitted before or on February 13. (You are encouraged to submit your essays well before this deadline, which, like objects in a rearview mirror, are closer than they appear.) The choices of authors and works for **the seminar presentations** will be circulated shortly after the beginning of term and the presentations delivered after Reading Week.

**The research essay** (2,000-2,500 words, plus Works Cited) may emerge from the seminar presentation, or focus on a related or different topic. **The preparatory bibliography/works cited** must be submitted at least a week before the research essay. The research essay itself may be submitted at any time after March 4, and **no later than a week after the final seminar, which is on April 2.**

**Policy on Late Essays:**

Anyone who has a valid reason for not meeting an essay deadline must give me that reason before the due date and arrange for an extension. Otherwise, late essays will be penalized at a rate of 2% a day to a maximum of 10 days, including weekends, after which they may not be accepted.

**Methods of Evaluation:**

The brief essay will be worth 15%, the seminar presentation 20%, research essay 45%, and the preparatory bibliography/works cited 10%, with the remaining 10% based on attendance and participation.

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**Statement on 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”:

[http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic\\_policies/appeals/scholastic\\_discipline\\_undergrad.pdf](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](mailto: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.

**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.

**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](#).

**Aims and Intended Outcomes:** The principal aims and intended outcomes of the course are: (1) to give students an overview of early Canadian literature and art, with some attention to related pictorial material; (2) to introduce students to a variety of historical contexts; (3) to help students to strengthen their writing and research skills and to apply them to the study of literature; and last, but by no means least, (4) to enable students to deepen their understanding, appreciation, and enjoyment of early Canadian literature.