English 5711FA: Contemporary Newfoundland Literature

Course Location: RB 3027

Class Times: Tuesdays 8:30-11:30 am

Should you require information or documents in another format, please let us know. We are happy to help you. Contact me or the Department of English Administrative Assistant.

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Instructor Information

- Instructor: Dr. Douglas Ivison
- Office: RB 3038
- Telephone: 346-7825
- Email: divison@lakeheadu.ca
- Office Hours: Wednesdays and Thursdays 10-11:30 am

Course Description

Newfoundland writers have achieved remarkable critical and commercial success, in Canada and beyond, in the past thirty years or so. Newfoundland, which has often been dismissed as a cultural backwater since Confederation in 1949, is now celebrated as the source of some of Canada’s best writers, despite or because of Newfoundland’s complex and ambivalent position within Canada and Canadian literature. In this course, we will discuss a selection of recent Newfoundland fiction and poetry, as well as film and TV. We will situate Newfoundland writing in relation to theoretical discussions of postcoloniality, globalization, cosmopolitanism, regionalism, nationalism, the local, space and place, minority discourse, ethnicity, history, commodification, marginality, and other topics.

Required Course Texts

- Michael Crummey, *Hard Light*. Brick
- Bernice Morgan, *Random Passage*.
- Michael Winter, *This All Happened*. Anansi.

Course Schedule

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Primary Text</th>
<th>Secondary Text(s)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>September 4</td>
<td>none</td>
<td>Mathews, Richler, Whalen</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>September 11</td>
<td><em>Random Passage</em></td>
<td>Fuller</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>September 18</td>
<td><em>Hard Light</em></td>
<td>Massey</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>September 25</td>
<td><em>The Colony of Unrequited Dreams</em></td>
<td>Wylie</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>October 2</td>
<td><em>Merrybegot</em></td>
<td>Delisle</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>October 9</td>
<td>No Class – Fall Study Break</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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October 16  
October 23  
October 30  
November 6  
November 13  
November 20  
November 27  

Kit’s Law  
The Town That Forgot How to Breathe  
The Grey Islands  
February  
Annabel  
This All Happened  
Conference Presentations

Crocker, MacCannell  
Chalykoff  
Bhabha  
Appadurai  
Pollock  
Bogue

Friday, Nov. 9: Last day to drop classes

Assignments and Evaluation

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Due date</th>
<th>Value</th>
<th>Length</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Seminar</td>
<td>TBD</td>
<td>25%</td>
<td>30 minutes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Critical Presentation</td>
<td>TBD</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>10-15 minutes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Conference Presentation</td>
<td>November 27</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td>15 minutes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Film Analysis</td>
<td>October 2</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>750 words</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Research Essay</td>
<td>December 11</td>
<td>30%</td>
<td>3000 words</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Participation</td>
<td>Throughout term</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Assignment Policies

- All assignments are individual assignments and cannot be completed collaboratively.
- Assignments are due in class on the dates indicated. If you do not hand in your paper in class, have it date stamped by security and submit it either to the English department office (RB3029) or to my office. Always keep a copy of your essay until the marked copy has been returned.
- If you require an extension, you must ask for one by email BEFORE the due date.
- Unless you ask for (and receive) an extension, late essays will be penalized by 3% per day. No assignments will be accepted more than two weeks late.
- Missed presentations will be assigned a mark of 0. If you will be unable to attend class when scheduled to present, please contact me as soon as possible to discuss possible alternate arrangements.

Details of Assignments

Seminar

You will present a 30-minute seminar on an assigned text. You must meet with me at least once prior to your presentation in order to discuss the focus and format of your presentation. You will be assessed not only on your presentation but on your ability to respond to questions and comments. Your seminar does not have to be a formal paper, but should provide a coherent, structured, clearly organized discussion of the text.
may incorporate a/v elements (slide show, video clips, etc.) but are not required to do so.

**Critical Presentation**

You will give a 10-15 minute presentation on a critical/theoretical reading. You are not expected to provide a thorough critique or summary of the reading, but to identify key issues and questions worthy of further discussion and to highlight what you determine to be the most important and relevant points made by the reading. For theoretical readings, you should focus on the aspects that are of particular relevance to our consideration of Newfoundland literature. No additional research is required for this assignment.

**Conference Presentation**

In our final class (Nov. 27), each student will present a 15-minute presentation on the text or texts that will be the subject of their Research Essay. You should incorporate some secondary sources into this presentation, but the focus should be on your analysis of and argument about the text.

**Film Analysis**

You will write a 750-word analysis of a film related to Newfoundland. These will be available in the folder in the grad room. Your analysis should focus on the representation of Newfoundland and Newfoundlanders in the film. No secondary sources are required for this assignment, but you should acknowledge any secondary sources that you consulted in writing this assignment.

**Research Essay**

You will write a 3000-word research essay on a Newfoundland text or texts of your choice. You may choose a text from the course or another Newfoundland text (subject to my approval). You may not write on the text that was the subject of your Seminar, but may write on the film that was the subject of your Film Analysis. The essay should present a more fully developed and researched version of the work presented in your Conference Presentation. As this is a Research Essay, any essay that does not incorporate secondary sources will be limited to a maximum mark of 69 no matter how brilliant.
Marking Standards

All assignments will be marked in accordance with the English Department Marking Standards.

Plagiarism

Plagiarism is the unacknowledged use of someone else's words and/or ideas. Not acknowledging your debt to the ideas of a secondary source, failing to use quotation marks when you are quoting directly, buying essays from essay banks, copying another student's work, or working together on an individual assignment, all constitute plagiarism. Resubmitting material you've submitted to another course is also academic dishonesty. All plagiarized work (in whole or in part) and other forms of academic dishonesty will be reported to the Dean, who is responsible for judging academic misconduct and imposing penalties. The minimum penalty for academic misconduct is a 0 on the assignment in question. It might also be subject to more severe academic penalties. See the Code of Student Behaviour.

Course Policies

- I will take attendance every class. If you miss a class, you are responsible for all material covered in class, and are responsible for knowing about information given out in class. Absence from class is not an acceptable excuse for missing an assignment. Please note that the schedule is subject to change, and as a result due dates may change. Frequent absences from class will have an adverse impact on your participation mark.
- In graduate seminars, the expectation is that students will regularly attend class and be prepared to actively participate in class discussion.

University Policies

- Students in this course are expected to conform to the Code of Student Behaviour.
- **Accommodations:** Lakehead University is committed to achieving full accessibility for persons with disabilities in accordance with the terms of the Ontario Human Rights Code. This occurs through a collaborative process that acknowledges a collective obligation to develop an accessible learning environment that both meets the needs of students and preserves the essential academic requirements of the course. Part of this commitment includes arranging academic accommodations for students with disabilities to ensure they have an equitable opportunity to participate in all of their academic activities. If you think you may need accommodations, you

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2. https://www.lakeheadu.ca/academics/academic-support/skills-for-success/responsibilities
are strongly encouraged to contact Student Accessibility Services (SAS)\(^4\) and register as early as possible.

This course outline is available online through the English Department homepage\(^5\) and the Desire2Learn or My Courselink\(^6\) site for the course.

**Critical Readings**


\(^{4}\) http://studentaccessibility.lakeheadu.ca
\(^{5}\) https://www.lakeheadu.ca/academics/departments/english
\(^{6}\) https://mycourselink.lakeheadu.ca/d2l/home
