English 107 – Issues in Canadian Literature
Winter 2008

Instructor: Sally Heath
Email: seheath@uwaterloo.ca
Office Hours: Mondays, 5:30 – 6:30 pm or by appointment
Classes: Mondays, 7:00 pm – 9:50 pm ML246

Course Description
The purpose of this course is to address some of the topics that have emerged to prominence on the Canadian literary scene. This course will be organized around the concept of “narratives,” and will examine issues related to exploration, immigration, as well as natural, regional, national, indigenous, multicultural, and postmodern identities through a variety of genres. Important theoretical, political, and cultural movements relevant to the course will be investigated by students to complement a reading of primary texts. This course is designed to be interactive, requiring participation and input from class members. The course will also emphasize the development of analytical reading and writing skills through both in-class workshops and journal writing assignments.

Course Objectives
By the end of this course, students should be able to:
• Identify and describe relevant issues in Canadian literary history
• Expand their knowledge of Canadian authors and their works
• Develop confidence in their own interpretation of literary texts
• Develop a greater understanding of the conventions of academic writing in the English discipline and apply that knowledge to their own written work

Required Texts
Bennett, Donna and Russell Brown. A New Anthology of Canadian Literature in English.
Coupland, Douglas. JPod.
ENGL107 Coursepack.

Recommended Resource Texts
The MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers.
The Little, Brown Handbook.

Mark Distribution
Contextual Seminar 10%
Reading Journal 10%
Reading Quizzes 10%
Midterm 15%
Essay 25%
Final Exam 30%
Contextual Seminar (10%)
Throughout the term, each student will design and participate in a short (10-15 minute) group presentation on the contextual and theoretical issues that are relevant to understanding the texts we are studying. Your group will be required to prepare a 1 page handout for the class. The information you include in both your handout and in your oral presentation is eligible for the midterm and the final examination. The contextual presentation is worth 10% of your final mark. The same mark will be allotted to each group member, so it is up to you to ensure that all members are contributing equally.

Reading Journal (10%)
Each week, you will be required to prepare a one page (double-spaced) reading journal in response to a prompt provided in class. The purpose of this journal is to get you to devote some time to thinking about the text(s) prior to class and to prepare you for class discussion. This portion of your mark is also designed to allow you more opportunities to hone your literary interpretation skills. Each journal is worth 1.25% (x8=10%) and will be based on acceptable completion of the assignment. You will note that there are 9 journal due dates throughout the term; you may choose one week not to hand in a journal. Reading journals will be submitted in class on the date they are assigned and cannot be handed in late or through email.

Reading Quizzes (10%)
Throughout the term, on six separate occasions, we will begin class with a short reading quiz. Each quiz will consist of a few (2-4) basic questions concerning the text we are looking at that day in class. If you have read the text(s) for class that day, you will be able to answer all the questions. Each quiz is worth 2%, for a total of 10% of your final mark. The lowest of your six quiz marks will be dropped. Quizzes can not be made up in the event of an absence, but a missed quiz can be used as the dropped mark. The quiz component of the course is designed to ensure that all students come to class prepared.

Midterm (15%)
There will be an in-class midterm on February 11. This short test will cover all texts taught up to this point in term, as well as lecture material, information from seminar presentations, and material from class discussions. The purpose of this midterm is to test your knowledge and comprehension of course material and to give you feedback on your performance in the course thus far. Question format will be short answer and passage identification. The midterm is worth 15% of your mark and will take approximately 90 minutes.

Essay and Self Assessment (25%)
You will be required to write an original paper based on two of the primary texts from the course. The essay will be 1500-1750 words in length (6-7 pages) and incorporate 1-3 secondary resources. You will be able to choose your own topic, but suggestions will be given in class to facilitate your brainstorming. Your paper is due on April 7th. The essay is worth 20% of your final mark. Late essays will be penalized 3% per day, including weekends. In addition to your essay, you will be required to complete a self-assessment exercise (5%) as part of this assignment. We will have several in-class writing workshops to help you improve your understanding of the conventions of academic writing in the English discipline.
Exam (30%)
The final component of the course is a final exam to be scheduled in April. There will be no exam deferrals without official medical documentation. The exam will cover all course material, and is worth 30% of your final mark.

Course Policies
- **Attendance in classes is a mandatory component of the course. Students who are absent from more than 4 classes will not receive a passing grade.**
- Course assignments will not be accepted after the due date, except in legitimate and documented circumstances. Any requests for extensions must be made in writing, one week prior to the due date, outlining the extraordinary circumstances necessitating additional time. **No extensions without penalty will be granted after the due date.**
- In-class assignments (midterm, presentation, exam) must be written or given at assigned time, unless prior arrangements have been made.
- **Grades in this course will be earned during the term. I will not alter final grades after the course is over. If you are concerned with achieving a certain grade in this course, please contact me early in the term so that we can discuss this.**

Note for Students with Disabilities:
The Office for Persons with Disabilities (OPD), located in Needles Hall, Room 1132, collaborates with all academic departments to arrange appropriate accommodations for students with disabilities without compromising the academic integrity of the curriculum. If you require academic accommodations to lessen the impact of your disability, please register with the OPD at the beginning of each academic term.

Plagiarism and Academic Offences:
Note on avoidance of academic offences: All students registered in the courses of the Faculty of Arts are expected to know what constitutes an academic offence, to avoid committing academic offences, and to take responsibility for their academic actions. When the commission of an offence is established, disciplinary penalties will be imposed in accord with Policy #71 (Student Academic Discipline). For information on categories of offences and types of penalties, students are directed to consult the summary of Policy #71 which is supplied in the Undergraduate Calendar (section 1; on the Web at [http://www.adm.uwaterloo.ca/infocal/UW/policy_71.html](http://www.adm.uwaterloo.ca/infocal/UW/policy_71.html)). If you need help in learning how to avoid offences such as plagiarism, cheating, and double submission, or if you need clarification of aspects of the discipline policy, ask your course instructor for guidance. Other resources regarding the discipline policy are your academic advisor and the Undergraduate Associate Dean. Also see “How to Avoid Plagiarism and Other Written Offences: A Guide for Students” [http://watarts.uwaterloo.ca/~sager/plagiarism.html](http://watarts.uwaterloo.ca/~sager/plagiarism.html).

Students who believe that they have been wrongfully or unjustly penalized have the right to grieve; refer to Policy #70, Student Grievance, [http://www.adm.uwaterloo.ca/infosec/Policies/policy70.html](http://www.adm.uwaterloo.ca/infosec/Policies/policy70.html). If you need more information on how to avoid plagiarism, please speak to me and/or consult “How to Avoid Plagiarism and Other Written Offences: A Guide for Students and Instructors” [http://watarts.uwaterloo.ca/~sager/plagiarism.html](http://watarts.uwaterloo.ca/~sager/plagiarism.html).
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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Activity</th>
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<tr>
<td>March 17th</td>
<td>Class Cancelled&lt;br&gt;Devote time to Essay Research!</td>
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<td>March 24th</td>
<td>Introduction to <em>The Canadian Postmodern</em> (coursepack)&lt;br&gt;Douglas Coupland, <em>JPod</em></td>
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<td>March 31st</td>
<td>Douglas Coupland, <em>JPod</em></td>
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<td>April 7th</td>
<td><em>Postmodern Narratives</em>&lt;br&gt;Reading Journal #8&lt;br&gt;Seminar #7</td>
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<td><em>Reading Journal #9</em>&lt;br&gt;<em>Writing Workshop #4</em></td>
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<td>ESSAYS DUE&lt;br&gt;IN CLASS&lt;br&gt;Course Wrap Up</td>
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