Department of English Language and Literature
University of Waterloo
Winter 2007

Course Syllabus for English 216, Canadian Multicultural Literature

Instructor: Professor Linda Warley
Class Time and Place: RCH 206, Tu, Th 11:30 – 12:50

My office: Hagey Hall 251
My extension: 35379
My email: lwarley@watarts.uwaterloo.ca
Office hours: Tu, Th 10:00 – 11:20

Note: This course is managed through UW-ACE: you should get into the habit of checking there for announcements and additional course materials that I might post during the semester.

Course Description: Welcome to English 216! In this course we will study literary works in several genres—poetry, fiction, and life writing—written by Canadian authors who also trace their identities to another nation, be that a First Nation or somewhere else in the world. Most of the authors belong to ethnic minority groups, but the range of their literary subjects and styles varies greatly. As a working principle in the course, we will examine, through intensive study of literature, the official discourse of Multiculturalism as it is used in Canadian society and culture.

Book List: (all are required)

Kamboureli, Smaro, ed. Making a Difference: Canadian Multicultural Literatures in English
Lee, SKY. Disappearing Moon Café
Ondaatje, Michael. Running in the Family

Assignments and due dates (more detailed descriptions below):

Mid-term exam 30%
Essay 30%
Final exam 40%
**Class schedule:**

Jan. 4 Welcome to the course

9 *The Discourse of Canadian Multiculturalism*
Neil Bissondath from *Selling Illusions: The Cult of Multiculturalism in Canada*

11 *First Nations Literature*
Beth Brant “This is History”

16 Thomas King “The One About Coyote Going West”

18 Marilyn Dumont “Letter to Sir John A. MacDonald,” “The Devil’s Language,” “Still Unsaved Soul”

23 *African Canadian Literature*
Fugitive and Non-Fugitive Slave Narratives (all)

25 George Elliott Clarke “The Symposium”
Wade Compton “O,” “Discourse on the Halfrican Nation”

30 Dionne Brand from “No Language is Neutral”
Marlene NourbeSe Philip “Discourse on the Logic of Language”

Feb. 1 *Asian Canadian Literature*
Hiromi Goto “Stinky Girl”

6 Larissa Lai “The Salt Fish Girl”

8 SKY Lee *Disappearing Moon Café*

13 SKY Lee *Disappearing Moon Café*

15 **Mid term exam**

20 Reading week

22 Reading week

27 *South Asian Canadian Literature*
Ven Begamudré “Mosaic”

Mar. 1 Yasmin Ladha “Beena”

6 Michael Ondaatje *Running in the Family*

8 Michael Ondaatje *Running in the Family*

13 Shyam Selvadurai “Pigs Can Fly”

15 Rohinton Mistry “Swimming Lessons”

**Term essay due**
20 Other ethnicities; other ‘places’
Mary Di Michele “Life is Theatre,” “Afterword: Trading in on the American Dream”
22 Tess Fragoulis “Dear Mr. Bail”
27 Di Brandt “foreword,” “Zone:<le Détroit>”
29 David Bezmozgis “An Animal to the Memory”

Apr. 3 Last class and exam preparation

Course assignments:

1. Mid-term exam
This in-class test will evaluate your knowledge of the primary works and the lecture material learned to that point in the course. It will be in short essay form.

2. Term essay
Assigned essay topics will be distributed during the second week of class. You will choose one of the topics and write an 8-page analytical essay (double-spaced, 12pt. font, 1-inch margins, with no separate title page). The essay must be about the literary texts that are on the syllabus; however, please feel free to read ahead of the class schedule. Indeed, it is often more interesting to write about literary works that we have not yet discussed in detail in class. The essay must be formulated around an argument (a thesis) and focus on the analysis of the language of the texts analyzed (including the language of any non-fictional texts you study).

On UW-ACE you will also find a downloadable document that gives general advice about writing essays in English courses.

Hand in both a hard copy and an electronic copy of your essay. Post the electronic file in the drop box on UW-ACE on the due date, March 15, 2007.

4. Final exam
The exam will be scheduled during the winter exam period and will test material learned throughout the entire course.

Course Policies:

Classroom work
Attendance is mandatory, and you are expected to arrive in class well prepared, having read and thought carefully about the material to be discussed that day.
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 OPD at the beginning of each academic term.

Academic integrity
All students registered in the courses of the Faculty of Arts are expected to know what constitutes academic integrity, to avoid committing academic offences, and to take responsibility for their 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/infosec/Policies/policy71.htm. If you need help in learning what constitutes an academic offence; how to avoid offences such as plagiarism, cheating, and double submission; how to follow appropriate rules with respect to “group work” and collaboration; or if you need clarification of aspects of the discipline policy, ask your TA and/or your course instructor for guidance. Other resources regarding the discipline policy are your academic advisor and the Undergraduate Associate Dean.

The Internet has made plagiarism and other forms of cheating much more tempting; it has also made it easier to detect. I will investigate and report to the Associate Dean all cases of suspected plagiarism. Proven cases will result in academic penalty, proportional to the extent of the infraction, and could include an official written reprimand from the Associate Dean that will be placed in your file. Please consult the following web site, “Avoiding Academic Offences” for a comprehensive explanation of plagiarism and how to avoid it http://arts.uwaterloo.ca/arts/ugrad/academic_responsibility.html

Students who believe that they have been wrongfully or unjustly penalized have the right to grievance: refer to Policy #70, Student Grievance, http://www.adm.uwaterloo.ca/infosec/Policies/policy70.htm.

Late essays and missed exams
If you miss the mid-term you must provide medical documentation to substantiate your incapacity to write the test on the scheduled day. The essay is due in class on the due date. Please note that I do not grant extensions except in emergency circumstances (being busy with other courses does not count as an emergency). If there is an emergency contact me immediately in person (i.e. by phone or by coming to my office hours—do not just send an email). If you decide to hand in your essay after the due date, the late penalty is 3% per day, including weekends.

Unbreakable rule: I do not accept any essays at all after the last day of classes