# Course Outline

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Course Website: [http://artsonline.uwaterloo.ca/~wsiemerl/](http://artsonline.uwaterloo.ca/~wsiemerl/)

(CR) = Course Reserves

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week/ Date</th>
<th>Topic/ Texts</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>(1a) Jan 3</td>
<td>Introduction</td>
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| (1b) Jan 5 | Nation  
Benedict Anderson, *Imagined Communities*  
Introduction and Ch. 5 (CR) |
| (2a) Jan 10 | Race, Nation, Ethnicity  
Kathleen Kerr in Patricia Waugh, *Literary Theory and Criticism*, Ch. 25 (CR) |
| (2b) Jan 12 | Diaspora  
Robin Cohen, *Global Diasporas*, Introduction (CR)  
(Report on Ch. 7: Caribbean 124-34 only) |
| (3a) Jan 17 | Diaspora  
Stewart Hall, “Cultural Identity and Diaspora” (Ch. 9 in *Theorizing Diaspora*) (CR)  
Dionne Brand, *A Map to the Door of No Return* 1-29 |
| (3b) Jan 19 | Diaspora: Roots vs Routes  
Michael Bucknor and Daniel Coleman, *Introduction: Rooting and Routing Caribbean-Canadian Writing* (background: complete issue) |
| (4a) Jan 24 | Postcolonial Criticism  
Bill Ashcroft, Gareth Griffiths, Helen Tiffin, *Empire Writes Back*, Introduction (log into library account first, or use CR) |
| (4b) Jan 26 | Postcolonial Criticism  
Elleke Boehmer in Waugh, Ch. 24: Postcolonialism (CR) |
| (5a) Jan 31 | Race  
W.E.B. Du Bois, Ch. 1 from *The Souls of Black Folk*  
Ian F Haney López, “The Social Construction of Race” (CR) |
(5b) Feb 2 Memory and Trauma
   Roger Luckhurst in Waugh, Ch. 32 (CR)

(6a) Feb 7 Freud, “Mourning and Melancholia”

(6b) Feb 9 Dionne Brand, A Map to the Door of No Return

(7a) Feb 14 Dionne Brand, A Map to the Door of No Return

(7b) Feb 16 QUIZ TEST
Feb 20-24 READING WEEK

(8a) Feb 28 Lawrence Hill, The Book of Negroes (Book I: 1-95)

(8b) Mar 1 No class

(9a) Mar 6 Melancholia
   Maureen Moynagh, “The Melancholic Structure of Memory in Dionne Brand's At the Full and Change of the Moon” (log into library account first)

(9b) Mar 8 Haunting
   Marlene Goldman and Joanne Saul, “Talking with Ghosts: Haunting in Canadian Cultural Production” University of Toronto Quarterly 75.2 (2006)
   Cynthia Sugars and Gerry Turcotte, “Introduction: Canadian Literature and the Postcolonial Gothic,” Unsettled Remains: Canadian Literature and the Postcolonial Gothic (CR)

(10a) Mar 13 Witnessing
   Ian Baucom, Spectres of the Atlantic 173-8 (log into library account first, or use CR)

(10b) Mar 15 Practice and Agency
   Michel de Certeau, The Practice of Everyday Life, Introduction (CR)

(11a) Mar 20 Lawrence Hill, The Book of Negroes

(11b) Mar 22 Lawrence Hill, The Book of Negroes

(12a) Mar 27 Human Rights
   Paul Gilroy, Darker than Blue: On the Moral Economies of the Black Atlantic, Ch. 2: 55-73 (CR)

(12b) Mar 29 ESSAY DEADLINE
   Final Discussion

EXAMINATION PERIOD: April 9-22
ENGL 470a: Contemporary Critical Theory  
Winter 2012, TUES + THURS 1- 2:20, HH 227  
Prof. Winfried Siemerling  
Office Hours: Tuesday 2:30-3:30 and Thursday 2:30- 3:30; HH 222 – ext 32118

The aim of this course is to relate large-scale issues of postcolonial theory such as nation, diaspora, and race to critical terms concerning individuals such as the subject, subjection, melancholy, practice, agency, and human rights. Students will be introduced to critical texts that explore these terms and elucidate them from a number of perspectives. In addition, you will also be asked to read two literary texts in view of possible applications of these terms, and connections between them. By the end of the class, you should be able to use the concepts under study competently with reference to the literary texts introduced in the class, to make connections to other texts and areas you are familiar with, and produce a theoretically informed in-depth analysis of one or several literary texts or a discussion of a topic in critical theory with detailed reference to literary texts.

Required Texts:

Dionne Brand, A Map to the Door of No Return (Vintage Canada)  
Lawrence Hill, The Book of Negroes (Harpers Perennial)

Other required texts are available via the Course Website on Course Reserve.

Optional Background Text (several chapters are available on Course Reserve):
Waugh, Patricia, Literary Theory and Criticism (Oxford UP)

Evaluation:

10 % Leading discussion or report in class  
20 % Quiz test  
30% Term paper (approximately 2,000 words/8-10 pages)  
30% Final exam  
10% Participation

The penalty for late term papers is 2% for each day.

Academic Integrity: In order to maintain a culture of academic integrity, members of the University of Waterloo are expected to promote honesty, trust, fairness, respect and responsibility.  
[Check http://www.uwaterloo.ca/academicintegrity/ for more information.]

Discipline: A student is expected to know what constitutes academic integrity, to avoid committing academic offences, and to take responsibility for his/her actions. A student who is unsure whether an action constitutes an offence, or who needs help in learning how to avoid offences (e.g., plagiarism, cheating) or about “rules” for group work/collaboration should seek guidance from the course professor, academic advisor, or the Undergraduate Associate Dean. When misconduct has been found to have occurred, disciplinary penalties will be imposed under Policy 71 – Student Discipline. For information on categories of offenses and types of penalties, students should refer to Policy 71 - Student Discipline, http://www.adm.uwaterloo.ca/infosec/Policies/policy71.htm. For typical penalties check Guidelines for the Assessment of Penalties, http://www.adm.uwaterloo.ca/infosec/guidelines/penaltyguidelines.htm.
**Grievance:** A student who believes that a decision affecting some aspect of his/her university life has been unfair or unreasonable may have grounds for initiating a grievance. Read Policy 70 - Student Petitions and Grievances, Section 4, [http://www.adm.uwaterloo.ca/infosec/Policies/policy70.htm](http://www.adm.uwaterloo.ca/infosec/Policies/policy70.htm). When in doubt please be certain to contact the department’s administrative assistant who will provide further assistance.

**Appeals:** A student may appeal the finding and/or penalty in a decision made under Policy 70 - Student Petitions and Grievances (other than regarding a petition) or Policy 71 - Student Discipline if a ground for an appeal can be established. Read Policy 72 - Student Appeals, [http://www.adm.uwaterloo.ca/infosec/Policies/policy72.htm](http://www.adm.uwaterloo.ca/infosec/Policies/policy72.htm).

**Academic Integrity website (Arts):** [http://arts.uwaterloo.ca/arts/ugrad/academic_responsibility.html](http://arts.uwaterloo.ca/arts/ugrad/academic_responsibility.html)

**Academic Integrity Office (UW):** [http://uwaterloo.ca/academicintegrity/](http://uwaterloo.ca/academicintegrity/)

**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.