

Course Outline

COURSE TITLE: Canadian Studies

COURSE NUMBER: ENG 315-3

COURSE INSTRUCTOR: Jim Foster

DATE: January '81

Description:

"No one can tell yet what mask to carve for Canada, which type to choose--a pulp savage or a bank teller, a civil servant or a broke hustler or a signalman helping to keep the peace in Cyprus or the Gaza Strip--whether the face should be serene and adventurous, or withdrawn and introspective. No one can tell for certain yet whether Canada is one nation or two. The country reveals itself only slowly even to those who love it most, and much of its character still remains ambiguous."

- Douglas LePan

This course will concentrate on Canadian issues and themes as they have been revealed by Canadian writers of every kind: missionaries, soldiers, explorers, journalists, and especially poets and novelists. We will attempt to identify several dominant mentalities that have helped to shape our concept of ourselves and our neighbours. We will examine the problems of isolation and survival as they appear from group to group, generation to generation and region to region.

Texts:

1. The Oxford Anthology of Canadian Literature
2. Two novels to be selected from those listed by the instructor
3. Themes in Canadian Literature - select one from library

Assignments:

1. Students may expect short readings in preparation for class discussion. At times, short assignments may be required in connection with such readings. At other times, a quiz may be given at the beginning of class.
2. Students will prepare a major term project to be handed in no later than the tenth week.(or seminar)
3. Students will prepare two book reports on novels selected from a list to be handed out by the instructor.

Notes:

1. Students who attend fewer than 80% of the schedule classes forfeit their "make-up" privileges.

2. The final grade will be based on the following items:

Tests or Preparatory Assignments	Book Reports
Term Project	Participation in Discussions
Final Examination as Make-up	

Although tests and assignments will be graded according to the criteria described in the previous handout, students should recognize that the level of their effort greatly influences their final mark.

Minimum Level: Possible "C"

1. The student attends at least 80% of all classes.
2. Assignments are selected from the "C" category and written at an adequate level.
3. Although the student volunteers few answers and comments in class, he/she is able to answer content-related questions, thereby indicating that he/she has read the material assigned.

Adequate Level: Possible "B"

1. The student attends 90% of the classes.
2. Assignments are selected from the "B" category and treated in depth. The written work shows that the student has read beyond class assignments.
3. The student's answers in class show a thoughtful analysis of readings--more than a mere understanding of content. The student sometimes volunteers comments on, or asks questions about the readings.

Superior Level: Possible "A"

1. The student attends virtually all classes.
2. Assignments are selected from the "A" category. Not only is the material treated in depth, but the writing is fluent and mature. Excerpts are chosen carefully and notations are scholarly, thereby indicating substantial reading beyond required material. The student may volunteer to lead a seminar on the topic he has chosen for his major report.
3. The student's answers in class show a thoughtful analysis of assigned readings and his/her comments generally reveal some reading beyond the assignments for class.

Canadian Studies

"No one can tell yet what mask to carve for Canada, which type to choose - a pulp savage or a bank teller, a civil servant or a broke hustler or a signalman helping to keep the peace in Cyprus or the Gaza Strip -- whether the face should be serene and adventurous, or withdrawn and introspective. No one can tell for certain yet whether Canada is one nation or two. The country reveals itself only slowly even to those who love it most and much of its character still remains ambiguous." - Douglas LePan

This course will concentrate on Canadian issues and themes as they have been revealed by Canadian writers of every kind: missionaries, soldiers, explorers, journalists, poets, and novelists. We will attempt to identify several dominant attitudes that have helped to shape our concept of ourselves and our neighbours. We will examine the problems of isolation and survival as they appear from group to group, generation to generation, and region to region.

Women's Studies

Although it is a historical fact that women participated fully in the colonization and development of Canada and that, alongside their men, they were forced to confront and overcome the hardships and perils associated with a frontier existence, until 1929 it was the ruling of common law that "Women...are not persons in matters of right and privilege." Equal in hardship but unequal in privilege. Presumably, the outmoded thinking that maintained such a system is now obsolete. But do traces of it still exist?

This course will attempt a critical look at the contributions of women, past and present, to Canadian life, and at the major issues that they have confronted in their quest for a full share of the rights and responsibilities that all Canadians take for granted. It will attempt, as well, to evaluate both the successes and the failures of that quest.

Future Studies

This course is designed to encourage inquiry and to provoke serious thought and discussion of the implications of scenarios for the future. How, for example, ought we to organize our affairs, our lives, in view of diminishing stocks of petroleum - based energy resources? What sorts of choices do we encounter when we consider the potential inherent in electronic micro-circuitry? How, in short, will we live into the future? What will be its design?

Students are expected to actively participate through reading, research, lectures, and discussion.

TO: ALL STUDENTS IN SECOND YEAR

You are required to complete Advanced Reading and Writing (ENG. 315) in order to graduate. This course, which carries three credits, is offered in the fourth term of all programs excepting only MRC where it is offered in third term.

Three options are available this coming semester - Canadian Studies, Future Studies, and Women's Studies.

Please read the course descriptions (over), indicate your preference on the form below, and immediately hand it to your contact instructor, program co-ordinator, or department chairman. Alternatively you may return the form to the Applied Arts office (E 360). Students will be placed in the course of their choice on a first-come, first-served basis whenever possible.

Students with Grade 13 English credits should check with the Co-ordinator, Language & Communication, in E 470 at a convenient time prior to the Christmas holiday.

ENG. 315 - PREFERENCE FORM

(PLEASE PRINT)

NAME: _____

LAST NAME

FIRST NAME

PROGRAM: _____

Selection for Advanced Reading and Writing (ENG. 315) - place an "X" in the appropriate Box.

Canadian Studies

Future Studies

Women's Studies

FORMS MUST BE RETURNED BY THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 20TH