



APPLIED ARTS DIVISION
A Survey of First Nations Literature in English
English 230
3 Credit Course
Fall Semester, 2016

A SURVEY OF FIRST NATIONS LITERATURE IN ENGLISH

INSTRUCTOR: Maureen Long, B.A., B.Ed., M.A.

OFFICE HOURS: Monday 12:30-2:30

OFFICE LOCATION: A2005

CLASSROOM: 1440

E-MAIL: mlong@yukoncollege.yk.ca

TIME: 9:00 to 12:00

TELEPHONE: 668-878

DATES: Friday

COURSE CALENDAR DESCRIPTION

This course examines English-language writing by First Nations authors. The syllabus emphasizes twentieth-century fiction, poetry and drama.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

An initial look at selected traditional narratives provides cultural and historical context. From there, lectures and discussions focus mainly on twentieth-century works that adopt and transform the traditions of First Nations oral storytelling.

COURSE PREREQUISITES

Six credits of first-year English composition and literature (e.g., ENGL 100 and 101) or instructor's permission.

COURSE TRANSFER

CAMO ENGL 200L (3)
FDU ENGL 2XXX (3)
SFU ENGL 2XX (3)
TRU ENGL 2XX0 (3)
TRU-OL ENGL 2XX1 (3) *or*
TRU-OL FNST 2XX1(3)
TWU ENGL 200 L (3)
UAF ENGL Elec. (h) (3)

UBC ENGL 2nd (3)
UBCO ENGL 2nd (3)
UNBC ENGL 2XX (3)
UVIC ENGL 200 lev (1.5)
VIU ENGL 221 (3)

UR ENGL 310 (3)

Updated November 9, 2016
Changes may be made prior
to the start of classes.

For further information about transferability please contact the School of Liberal Arts.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

Upon successful completion of the course, which includes timely submission of *all* assignments, students will be able to

- identify elements of plot, character, setting, tone, and theme in literary works
- analyze texts in terms of gender, class, race, ethnicity, and sexual orientation, with a particular focus on issues of importance to First Nations peoples
- apply standard literary terminology in their discussions of works of literature
- recognize literary devices and explain their effects
- think, speak, and write critically (i.e., analyze, interpret, synthesize, and evaluate)
- perform undergraduate research into the background and context of a literary work
- present ideas in well-organized, thoughtful, and polished essays, and do post-secondary level research into literary subjects

COURSE FORMAT

Works should be read at home, prior to discussion in class. English 230 involves lectures, class discussions, reading aloud, and group work. Students may have the opportunity to experience some of the literature in live or film versions; however, these opportunities may occur outside of scheduled class time.

ATTENDANCE

Attendance is crucial. Discussion and participation are particularly important in English 230, so you are expected to attend regularly and punctually. In addition, the midterm and final exams focus on specific aspects of and passages from the literary works that we have discussed in class. If you do miss a class, it is your responsibility to find out what you missed and to complete any work assigned.

ASSESSMENTS

The written assignments for this course consist of two essays (5 to 6 pages), a seminar presentation, and a short summary of the presentation topic. There will be a midterm exam during the term as well as a three-hour final exam scheduled during the exam period.

EVALUATION

2 Essays, worth 15% & 20% (5 to 6 pages)	35
Seminar (10 to 15 minutes) & Summary (2 to 3 pages)	20
Midterm Exam	15
Final Exam	30
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	100%

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***Note on Submitting Assignments and Late Assignments**

In fairness to all students, no individual extensions will be granted in this course. Assignments are due by the end of the day, in paper copy, on the assigned due date. I prefer that you hand assignments in at the beginning of class, but I will accept them until the end of the day on the due date. I do not accept emailed assignments. After midnight on the due date, the paper will be considered late. Late assignments will be assessed a penalty of 2% per school day. Assignments will not be accepted after 10 school days (2 weeks).

TEXTBOOKS

Boyden, Joseph. *Three Day Road*. Toronto, ON: Penguin Random House, 2005. Print.

Campbell, Maria. *Halfbreed*. Halifax, NS: Goodread Biographies, 1983. Print.

King, Thomas. *Medicine River*. Toronto: Penguin Canada, 1989. Print.

Handouts of Short Stories and Poems (I will photocopy and handout in class)

ACADEMIC AND STUDENT CONDUCT

Information on academic standing and student rights and responsibilities can be found in the current Academic Regulations that are posted on the Student Services/ Admissions & Registration web page.

PLAGIARISM

Plagiarism is a serious academic offence. Plagiarism occurs when students present the words of someone else as their own. Plagiarism can be the deliberate use of a whole piece of another person's writing, but more frequently it occurs when students fail to acknowledge and document sources from which they have taken material. Whenever the words, research or ideas of others are directly quoted or paraphrased, they must be documented according to an accepted manuscript style (e.g., APA, CSE, MLA, etc.). Resubmitting a paper that has previously received credit is also considered plagiarism. Students who plagiarize material for assignments will receive a mark of zero (F) on the assignment and may fail the course. Plagiarism may also result in dismissal from a program of study or the College.

YUKON FIRST NATIONS CORE COMPETENCY

Yukon College recognizes that a greater understanding and awareness of Yukon First Nations history, culture and journey towards self-determination will help to build positive relationships among all Yukon citizens. As a result, to graduate from ANY Yukon College program, you will be required to achieve core competency in knowledge of Yukon First Nations. For details, please see www.yukoncollege.yk.ca/yfnccr.

ACADEMIC ACCOMMODATION

Reasonable accommodations are available for students requiring an academic accommodation to fully participate in this class. These accommodations are available for students with a documented disability, chronic condition or any other grounds specified in section 8.0 of the Yukon College Academic Regulations (available on the Yukon College website). It is the student's responsibility to seek these accommodations. If a student requires an academic accommodation, he/she should contact the Learning Assistance Centre (LAC) at (867) 668-8785 or lassist@yukoncollege.yk.ca.

Schedule for English 230

Autumn 2016

Note: Unless otherwise noted, all readings are handouts except for the three books by Boyden, Campbell, and King.

- September 9** **Introductions and Housekeeping**
Course description, assignments, and expectations
What is First Nations literature?
An introduction to Orature and *How People Got Fire*, short film set in Carcross and based on a traditional story by Kitty Smith, "How Indians Got Fire"
- September 16** **Oral Tradition, Traditional Songs, and E. Pauline Johnson**
Preparation Traditional Orature & Traditional Songs
- E. Pauline Johnson, "The Cattle Thief," "Shadow River," "The Corn Husker," and "The Song My Paddle Sings"
- Thomas King, "'You'll Never Believe What Happened': The Truth About Stories"
[You might want to listen to Thomas King as you read, but we will listen in class: "'You'll Never Believe What Happened' Is Always a Great Way to Start'" from *The Truth About Stories: A Native Narrative*. The first lecture is available online at CBC.]
- September 23** **Storytelling**
Preparation - Harry Robinson, "Captive in an English Circus" and "Coyote Challenges God"
- Marion Tuu'luq "A Story of Starvation"
- John McLeod, "The Shivering Tree"
- Ruby Slipperjack, "Blueberry Days"
- Beth Brant, "A Long Story," and "Coyote Learns a New Trick"
- September 30** **The Metis and Maria Campbell's *Halfbreed***
Preparation - Howard Adams, "The Basis of Racism"
- Emma LaRocque, "A Personal Essay on Poverty"
- Maria Campbell, *Halfbreed*

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- October 7** **More Maria Campbell and Metis Poetry**
- *Halfbreed* continued
- Marilyn Dumont, "Squaw Poems," "Circle the Wagons," "monument, cowboys & Indians, tin cans, and redwagons," "jig dream," and "Broadway"
- October 14** **Trickster**
Preparation - Thomas King, "What Is It About Us That You Don't Like?" from *The Truth About Stories*
- Tomson Highway "The Lover Snake"
- Thomas King, *Medicine River*

October 14: ESSAY #1 DUE

- October 21** **MIDTERM EXAM (120 minutes)**

- October 28** **Thomas King's *Medicine River***
Preparation - Thomas King, *Medicine River*

- November 4** **Lost People and Identity**
Preparation - Rita Joe, "I Lost My Talk"
- Jeannette C. Armstrong, "History Lesson," "Indian Woman," and "Threads of Old Memory"
- Drew Hayden Taylor, "Pretty Like a White Boy"
- Beth Cuthand, "Shake 'N Bake," "Zen Indian," and "Post-Oka Kinda Woman"
- Emma Lee Warrior, "Compatriots"

Reminder: Thursday, November 10 is the last day to withdraw from credit courses without academic penalty

- November 11** **REMEMBRANCE DAY: No Classes**

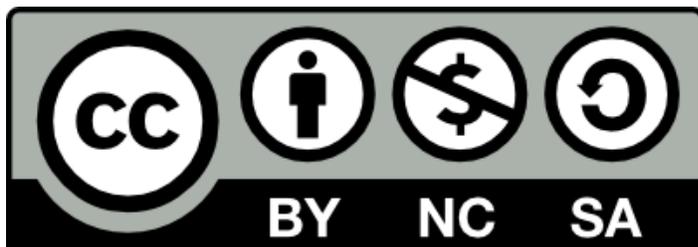
November 18 **Native Portrayal in Films, First Nations Film Making, & an Introduction to Joseph Boyden**
Preparation Watch *Reel Indian*
- Joseph Boyden's *Three Day Road*

November 25 **Joseph Boyden, *Three Day Road***
Preparation *Three Day Road*, continued

December 2 **LAST CLASS—Conclude *Three Day Road* and Review for Final Exam**

December 2: ESSAY #2 DUE

December 7 to 20: Exam Period
FINAL EXAM: DATE AND LOCATION TBA



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