

**APPLIED ARTS DIVISION
ENGL220 (20251)
3 Credit Course
Winter, 2020**



COURSE OUTLINE

ENGL220

The North in Canadian Literature

3 CREDITS

PREPARED BY: Dr. Drew Lyness, English Instructor
DATE: December 1, 2019

APPROVED BY: Andrew Richardson
DATE: January 1, 2020

APPROVED BY ACADEMIC COUNCIL: Click or tap to enter a date
RENEWED BY ACADEMIC COUNCIL: Click or tap to enter a date



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The North in Canadian Literature

INSTRUCTOR: Dr. Drew Lyness

OFFICE HOURS: Open office hours in the ASC. Other times by appointment.

OFFICE LOCATION: A2005

CLASSROOM: C1511 / video-conference

E-MAIL:

TIME: Fridays 9am-noon, blended face-to-face / Zoom video delivery for distance students

TELEPHONE: (texting welcome)

DATES: January - April

COURSE CALENDAR DESCRIPTION

This course takes a critical look at literary representations of the North. We will read poetry, novels, short stories, nonfiction essays, digital and visual material in our quest to understand the North. Images, myths and symbols emerging from literary representations of the North will be analysed closely, and then connected to the communities in which we live.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Major issues for consideration:

- 1) How is 'the North' defined? Where is North?
- 2) How has the North and the land been represented from the outside?
- 3) How is North represented by writers with a transient relationship to the region?
- 4) How have Indigenous peoples been represented in the North?
- 5) How do Indigenous peoples represent themselves in the North?
- 6) How does 'the imaginary North' influence the North?

PREREQUISITES

English 100 and 101 or equivalent, or permission of the instructor.

RELATED COURSE REQUIREMENTS

This course will be offered in a 'blended' format combining a face-to-face class on the Ayamdigut campus with a 'Zoom' video connection for distance students. There is also an online course site which will contain readings, audio-visual texts, and assignments. Weekly online discussions will be a requirement. Every effort will be made to ensure consistent connectivity to the communities, with backup phone connections when needed. All students will be connected to appropriate supports and services.

EQUIVALENCY OR TRANSFERABILITY

For more information about transferability please refer to the BC Transfer Guide or contact the School of Liberal Arts office (867) 668-8770.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

Upon successful completion of the course, students will be able to

- **present and assess different definitions of North both as a geographical location and as a place of the imagination**
- **recognize the primary, recurring themes and images in literature about the North**
- **analyse representations of the North and its people as presented by First Nations, Inuit, local, and outside authors**
- **perform post-secondary level analysis of northern literature from the major genres in English literature—poetry, fiction (novel and short story), drama, and essay**
- **apply standard literary terminology in their discussions of works of literature**
- **recognize literary devices and motifs, and explain how these contribute to a literary work**
- **present ideas in well-organized, thoughtful, and polished essays, and do post-secondary level research into literary subjects**

COURSE FORMAT

As a blended 'face-to-face' / distance course, the format of this course will be flexible to accommodate students in the communities as well as Ayamdigut. Class time will generally be devoted primarily to discussion and to student presentations with a Zoom video connection. There will also be short lectures on specific concepts or theoretical traditions. All readings and audio-visual material will be assigned in advance and uploaded to Moodle and should be read before class. We will engage in weekly online discussions. We will frequently respond to current events and news cycles, so keep an eye on all kinds of media this term! We will ensure all students have access to appropriate student supports as needed.

ASSESSMENTS:

Attendance & Participation (**This is a child friendly course!**)

Please attend all classes! This is a 200 level Humanities course, and as such discussion, debate, discourse and participation are important to our learning. If you have children, on days when alternative childcare arrangements fall through, please feel free to bring them to class!

Assignments:

Twice during the semester, you'll submit a 2-3 page **response paper** on that day's assigned readings. You are free to decide for which days you'll write, but you must turn in both response papers by Friday of Week 13. It's up to you to decide what's important enough for a 2-3-page reflection. In some cases, it might be useful to spend your 2-3 pages making sense of the reading. Over the course of the semester, we'll accumulate a collection of themes, terms and concepts that will help us to critically consider 'the North' as represented in literature, film and television.

There will also be **weekly online discussions** which will be graded pass/ fail upon completion. Your writing tasks will be aimed at relating the readings to those concepts, comparing them to previous texts, testing theories out on a particular work, or offering a close reading of a particular passage.

In addition, each student will be responsible for **introducing and presenting the readings for one week**. Presentations should include a visual component in the form of media or slides and be a **minimum of 20 minutes**. Your task is to offer opening observations of your text, give some background information about the author or genre, and then introduce a few questions to get us going. During presentations, each student will also briefly introduce the class to **one work not on the syllabus** that they believe connect to the texts, and to their experience of the North. You should take no more

than 10 minutes to tell us about this text and make a compelling case for its place in our course. You may interpret 'text' widely to include not only traditional literature, but also film, video, art, music, multimedia - the possibilities are almost limitless.

You will write one longer (8-10 page) **synthesis essay** for the course on a topic that you devise yourself. Topic proposals for that final essay are due any time before Week 11. You'll be free to revise your topic, in consultation with me, until the end of Week 13.

Tests

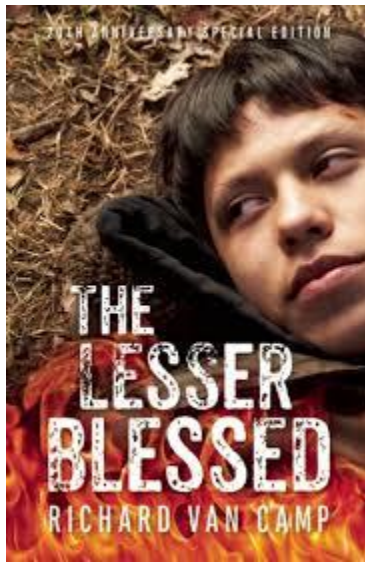
There will be no Midterm exam in this course. We will schedule a group examination in our final class session.

EVALUATION:

Assignments	
Two short response papers.....	10% (5% each)
Online discussion postings.....	10%
Individual presentation.....	25%
Final synthesis essay.....	30 %
Group exam project	25%
Total	100%

REQUIRED TEXTS

There are two books to purchase for this course. Both are available in the campus bookstore, and online in the usual places. All other texts will be posted on Moodle.



The Lesser Blessed by Richard Van Camp (1996)



Split Tooth by Tanya Tagaq (2018)

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 a student submits work for credit that includes the words, ideas, or data of others, without citing the source from which the material is taken. Plagiarism can be the deliberate use of a whole piece of work, but more frequently it occurs when students fail to acknowledge and document sources from which they have taken material according to an accepted manuscript style (e.g., APA, CSE, MLA, etc.). Students may use sources which are public domain or licensed under Creative Commons; however, academic documentation standards must still be followed. Except with explicit permission of the instructor, resubmitting work

which 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): lac@yukoncollege.yk.ca**.

TOPIC OUTLINE