

**APPENDIX C: Jennifer Andrews**  
**Sample Canadian Literature syllabus, ENGL3698 (UNB, 2017-2018)**

Department of English, University of New Brunswick, 2017-2018

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**English 3698: English-Canadian Literature from 1970 to the Present**  
**Fall 2017, Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays, 10:30-11:20am**  
**Tilley #5**

**Course Description:**

This survey of English-Canadian literature begins in 1970, during a time of rising cultural nationalism, most overtly celebrated with the cross-centennial celebrations of the 100-year anniversary of Confederation (in 1967) and marked by an increasing desire to differentiate Canada from its neighbor south of the border, displacing anxieties about British colonialism with efforts to counter American cultural imperialism. The 1960s had also been a period of flourishing leftist political ideas and civil rights movements which led to deeper explorations in the 1970s and beyond of the significance of democracy, the importance of equal rights for women, African-Canadian and other ethnic and racial minorities and the need to reconceive of historical and contemporary relations between the Canadian government and Indigenous peoples. In this course, we will consider the social, economic, political, and cultural contexts of Canada's development through literature over the past fifty years, paying particular attention to key thematic and formal movements that have shaped how writers understand and depict Canada, including the proliferation of thematic criticism, the emergence of postmodern and postcolonial frameworks and texts, and the attention paid to multiculturalism in an effort to reflect the increasing heterogeneity of the nation, as well as its failure to represent Canada's diversity. In more recent years, debates about appropriation of voice, environmental concerns, definitions of citizenship and belonging (particularly for diasporic populations), human rights, and the challenges of globalization in a world where religious conflicts and the generation of profits through multinational capital continue to shape English-Canadian literature. Part of our task will be to reflect on where English-Canadian literature has come from and to understand its present and future.

This course is discussion-based. Attendance and participation are necessary and required. You are expected to come to class, having read the assigned material and ready to engage in class discussions; you must have the relevant text with you in order to ensure that we can talk about the assigned readings in detail.

Attendance is compulsory and explanations are needed when you are unavoidably absent (an e-mail note and if needed, a doctor's note). Students who are absent without a valid excuse for more than two classes per term can expect that their course mark will suffer. In addition, the

Department of English policy is that no student can pass a UNB Fredericton English course without attending at least 50% of the classes for the course, and that all written work for the course must be submitted, even if it is too late to pass the individual assignment. **In other words, if you fail to hand in any of the written assignments, you will automatically fail the course.**

**Course Texts (required to purchase):**

*Please purchase these at the beginning of the year if possible—the bookstore will send stick back as the term progresses, often with little or no notice!\**

- 1) *Canadian Literature in English: Texts and Contexts, Volume II.* Eds. Laura Moss and Cynthia Sugars. Toronto: Pearson, 2009.
- 2) *In the Skin of a Lion* by Michael Ondaatje. Toronto: Knopf Canada, 1996.
- 3) *The Unnatural and Accidental Woman* by Marie Clements. Vancouver: Talonbooks, 2005.
- 4) *Skim* by Mariko and Jillian Tamaki. Toronto: Groundwood, 2008.

**Course Schedule:**

September 8	Course introduction (syllabus, introductions)
September 11-13	<b>ENGLISH-CANADIAN IDENTITY POLITICS—PART I</b> Chief Dan George—“A Lament for Confederation” (p.251-252) Al Purdy—“The Country North of Belleville,” “Lament for the Dorsets” and “Grosse Isle” (p.272-276, 277-279, 281-283)
September 15	<b>*Last day to add Fall term courses; last day to drop Fall term courses without mark on record</b>
September 15-18	<b>ENGLISH-CANADIAN IDENTITY POLITICS—PART II</b> Alice Munro—“Meneseteung” (p.334-351) Austin Clarke—“Canadian Experience” (p.358-370) Northrop Frye—Conclusion to a <i>Literary History of Canada</i> (p.252-255)
September 20-25	<b>REGION AND NATION—PART I</b> Robert Kroetsch—“Elegy for Wong Toy,” “Stone Hammer Poem,” and “On Being an Alberta Writer” (p.317-321, 323-331) Alden Nowlan—“What Colour Is Manitoba?” (p.351-352, 355-358) George Grant—From <i>Lament for a Nation</i> (p.268-271) Margaret Atwood—From <i>The Journals of Susanna Moodie</i> —“Disembarking at Quebec” and “Thoughts from the Underground” (p.433-436, 441-442, 445-446)
September 27-29	<b>REGION AND NATION—PART II</b> Daphne Marlatt—From <i>Stevenson</i> and “prairie” (p.485-489)

- Dennis Lee—From *Cadence, Country, Silence: Writing in a Colonial Space* (p.470-476)  
 bp Nichol—“The Long Weekend of Louis Riel”  
 and “landscape: 1” (p.510-512)
- October 2-6**      **INDIGENEITY IN CANADA—NATION TO NATION RELATIONS**  
 Maria Campbell—“Jacob” (p.476-484)  
 Thomas King—“Borders” (p.578-588)  
 Jeannette Armstrong—“History Lesson” and “The Disempowerment  
 of First North American Native Peoples and Empowerment Through  
 Their Writing” (p. 596-598)  
 Marilyn Dumont—“Letter to Sir John A, MacDonald” (p.642-643,  
 645)
- October 11-16**      **DIASPORIC VOICES—PART I**  
 From *The Canadian Multiculturalism Act, 1988* (p.544-545)  
 M. NourbeSe Philip—“Discourse on the Logic of Language” (p.589-  
 591, 593-596)  
 Fred Wah—From *Diamond Grill* (p.557-563)  
 Charles Taylor—From *The Politics of Recognition* (p.545-551)
- \*Essay I due on Monday, October 16
- October 18-23**      **DIASPORIC VOICES—PART II**  
 Dionne Brand—From *Inventory* (p.629-631, 634-637)  
 Rohinton Mistry—“Squatter” (p.610-629)  
 Neil Bissondath—From *Selling Illusions* (p.637-642)
- October 25-Nov 6**      **NARRATING THE IMMIGRANT NATION**  
 Michael Ondaatje—*In the Skin of a Lion*
- October 27**      Library Visit (meet Philip Taber in Learning Lab on first floor of  
 Harriet Irving Library; attendance will be taken)
- November 8**      \*MIDTERM TEST (in class, closed book)
- November 10**      Reading Day—no class!
- November 13-17**      **BURIED HISTORIES**  
 Armand Garnet Ruffo—From *Grey Owl*—“Archie Belany, 1930-31”  
 (p.647-648, 652)  
 Michael Crummey—“Bread” and “What’s Lost” (p.667-669)  
 George Elliott Clarke—“Bio: Black Baptist/Bastard”  
 and “Antiphony” (p.658-660, 661-663)
- November 20-24**      **STORIES OF INDIGENOUS WOMEN**  
*The Unnatural and Accidental Woman* by Marie Clements

**November 27-29**      **ECOLOGY & GLOBALIZATION**  
**Rita Wong—“nervous organism” and “canola queasy” (p.692-694)**  
**Anne Carson—“Audubon” (p. 606-607, 609-610)**

**\*Essay II due on Monday, November 27**

**December 1-4**      **SKIMMING THE SURFACE—GRAPHIC NOVELS AND  
IDENTITY POLITICS**  
**Mariko & Jillian Tamaki--*Skim***

*Evaluation (with due dates):*

**In-class “Who’s the Professor Now?” Presentation** (5 mins maximum, scheduled throughout the term) 15%

**First Essay** (1200-1500 words, due Monday, October 16) 15%

**Second Essay** (2000-2500 words, due Monday, November 27) 30%

**Attendance and Active Participation** (includes **unannounced reading quizzes** and Library Session attendance) 10%

**Midterm Test** (50 minutes, in class, closed book, Wednesday, November 8) 25%