

# Department of English, Film, and Theatre

University of Manitoba



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## 2011-2012 Honours Seminars

### ENGL 4630 National and Global Imaginaries (3)

Dr. Brydon

This course will introduce students to the various ways in which literary texts have engaged and contributed to the development of national and global imaginaries. We will ask: what does it mean to be at home in the world? What does it mean to derive one's identity from one's nationality? How do cosmopolitanism and nationalism interact in literary theory and practice? What are the strengths and limitations of "methodological nationalism"? We will read a variety of theoretical texts and fictive imaginings to consider the different ways in which they engage these questions.



### ENGL 4630 Insides and Outsides in North American Aboriginal Literature (3)

Dr. Cariou

Students will focus on the recent movement of indigenous literary separatism, represented by critics such as Craig Womack, Robert Allen Warrior, and Daniel Heath Justice. These critics posit that Aboriginal literature should be read from within the cultural contexts of its production. This course will examine the representation of these issues in the literature and the criticism. We will also examine critical works by indigenous literary separatists and by several critics representing postmodern, postcolonial, psychoanalytic and diasporic perspectives on the subject.



### ENGL 4630 Heroes and Heroines in Early English Literature (3)

Dr. Finnegan

Students will focus on the time-line from the mid-eighth century A.D. to the end of the fifteenth and take a stab at defining "hero" and "heroine". Questions we shall ask: does our central concept (s) change over time, from, say 780 to 1382; how does one even find a heroine-- if such a category exists-- in a society where authority is patriarchal and, in some/many cases, celibate. The highlights of our adventure into the past may well be the reading of "Beowulf," "Gawain and the Green Knight," Chaucer's "Wife of Bath's performance" and Margery Kempe's viva voce defense of herself.



### ENGL 4640 Controlling Canada—Constructing Nation and Literature (3)

Dr. Calder

Scandal, sensation, and shame are not words usually associated with early Canadian literature, but they are an appropriate description of many tensions underlying early attempts to represent a new national space. This course examines a range of literary works published before 1900 to see how they contribute to, challenge, and seek to alter discussions about the appropriate means of representing and constituting this new nation. Who is allowed in, who must be kept out, and how are these positions articulated in literature? And how do these positions, transformed and refigured, continue to shape discussions today?



### ENGL 4640 Transatlantic Visions—America in the 18<sup>th</sup>-Century Literary Imagination (3)

Dr. Perkins

"In the beginning," John Locke wrote, in what has become a much-quoted passage, "all the world was America." Throughout the eighteenth century, many British writers looked to America for a vision of what Britain had been or might become, and in this class, we will read a wide selection of work in which America is framed – either by British observers or by Americans themselves – for a European audience. Topics that we will cover will include representations of wilderness and "exotic" landscapes; representations of Native Americans in both fiction and supposedly "factual" accounts; representations of Quebec and of the struggle for colonial dominance; and debates about the social and cultural implications of emigration and of post-independence American society. Our readings will incorporate a range of genres, from travel literature to polemical essays to patriotic verse and satiric fiction.



### ENGL 4640 Modernism and Travel Writing (3)

Dr. Tromly

The course will examine the importance of travel writing to a cultural movement sometimes considered in terms of the play of perception, not the movement of bodies. We will begin by exploring the most familiar trope of modernist dislocation – the movement of Anglo-American artists among European cosmopolitan centres – in light of the sometimes-ambiguous categories of exile and tourism. Our discussion will turn to writing about non-Western spaces, and we will examine the significance of exoticism, imperialism, and primitivism to modernist aesthetics and politics. The line of investigation will open the question of how travel writing mitigates the current critical movement to understand modernism as a symptom of globalization.



### ENGL 4640 Victorian Mean Streets—Crime, Poverty, and the Underclasses (3)

Dr. Young

Throughout the nineteenth century, Britain grappled with the social challenges posed by rapid industrialization and urbanization. One of the major problems addressed in the literature of the period is the proliferation of urban poverty and urban crime. In this seminar, we will examine Victorian representations of urban poverty and crime in novels, social commentaries, and political tracts. In this way, we will attempt to understand the experience of the Victorian mean streets from diverse perspectives, including those of the poor themselves.

