

Department of English & Writing Studies

**Topics in Canadian Literature**  
**Creativity and the Local: A Community Engaged Learning Course**  
**English 3777F (001)**

Fall 2016

**Instructor:** Manina Jones

**Date/Time:** Wednesday 6:30pm-9:30pm

**Location:** Talbot College 303

**Antirequisite(s):** [English 3775E](#).

**Prerequisite(s):** At least 60% in 1.0 of [English 1020E](#) or [1022E](#) or [1024E](#) or [1035E](#) or [1036E](#) or both of [English 1027F/G](#) and [1028F/G](#), or permission of the Department.

Unless you have either the requisites for this course or written special permission from your Dean to enroll in it, you may be removed from this course and it will be deleted from your record. This decision may not be appealed. You will receive no adjustment to your fees in the event that you are dropped from a course for failing to have the necessary prerequisites.

Course Description

This course examines the literature of Southwestern Ontario since 1970, considering Alice Munro and others who find inspiration in London, Ontario and the surrounding area for fiction, poetry, and drama. Students will develop critical, creative, and experiential perspectives and will work with community partners, exploring course concepts in a real-world setting.

This is a Community Engaged Learning course. By engaging students, staff, and faculty in meaningful experiential learning opportunities, CEL helps meet community defined needs while promoting students' sense of civic engagement and social responsibility. These partnerships help extend Western's reach beyond campus and foster excellence and innovation in teaching and learning.

Community-engaged learning will give you an opportunity for a "hands-on" experience with local culture, how – and by whom -- it is created, developed, and nurtured. CEL provides an opportunity to engage with the practical realities of organizations that enrich culture in the London area. By contributing to the work of community partners, you will develop an understanding of the planning, organization, and promotion that cultural events and activities involve. You will develop transferrable professional skills, interact with social and institutional structures, learn about possible career paths, and gain experience in the cultural sector.

This course will meet, not only on the Western University campus, but in a variety of locations themed to works on the course, including Museum London and Eldon House (a heritage house). You can get to these locations easily by the LTC. If you have questions or concerns about getting to a site, please let me know. We will also have visitors in class. Remember that when you're attending class and working on CEL projects – on campus or off -- you are the public face of the University. Please treat all our partners with courtesy and respect. Attendance in *all* class meetings is a core component of the course.

**Objectives:**

**BASIC LEARNING GOALS ...**

- **Enrich your knowledge and understanding of local literature and culture, and your own place in it.** Considering different definitions, aims, and approaches to self- and community-based creative expression in local literary culture. Taking into account a variety of historical, cultural, generic, and social contexts, we will consider how and why the local imagination matters.
- **Actively engage with other students and your community,** especially through Community Engaged Learning, which will offer the opportunity to team up with a community partner in a group project to explore, understand and support aspects of local culture.
- **Develop professional abilities such as teamwork, project organization, communications and technology skills, project management.**
- **Develop your creativity.** Assignments for this course will sometimes offer you the opportunity to develop and demonstrate your writing and thinking skills in formats beyond the conventional research essay. They will require thoughtfulness, reflection, and care: don't be afraid to discuss your plans with me so we can make sure you're approaching an assignment in the most productive and beneficial way.
- **Develop your critical vocabulary, conceptual range, and methodological scope.** The course aims to introduce you to concepts, terms, and methodologies for reading and understanding literary texts in multiple dimensions (eg., aesthetic, formal, social, political, cultural) which you can put to work in your own thinking and writing and living critically, creatively, knowledgeably, and responsibly.
- **Think with more precision.** The course will help you refine your critical and analytical thinking skills, to take your immediate personal reactions to literary texts and issues and submit them to the tools of a discipline.
- **Read more carefully.** As an instructor, it's my goal to model and foster precise, detailed, reflective reading, to help you realize a heightened appreciation of how literary effects are achieved and why they are important. This will include the ability to identify, understand and analyse such terms as genre, style, plot, character, point of view, imagery, theme, setting, irony, tone, symbols and consider how they function differently in a variety of cultural and historical contexts.
- **Write and speak more effectively.** This course will support you in developing valuable oral and written communication skills in a variety of formats. This includes both spontaneous and prepared verbal expression. You will work on the clear and organized presentation of ideas with an awareness of audience and disciplinary/generic/professional conventions. You will practise the construction of an argument with an effective thesis and a logical development supported by evidence from the text(s) under discussion.
- **Develop your ideas in relation to those of others.** This means that you will participate in dialogue with others in the class and with your community partner. I will convey multiple perspectives and encourage you to engage with and evaluate alternative views. You should work toward articulating your own perspective and being able to defend, modify, supplement it in relation to other thinkers.

### Course Materials

1. A collection of materials available through OWL.
2. Donoghue, Emma. *Landing*. Orlando: HarperCollins, 2007.
3. Lemire, Jeff. *The Complete Essex, Kent*. Marietta, GA: Top Shelf, 2009. ([Kindle](#) edition is \$8.30)
  - We read *Book I: Tales from the Farm*.
4. McKay, Don. *Lependu*. London, ON: Brick Books, 1978. ([E-book](#) edition is \$8.00)
5. Reaney, James. *The Donnelly's*. Hamilton: Dundurn Press, 2008. ([Kindle](#) edition is \$9.59)
  - We read *Part I: Sticks and Stones*.

### Methods of Evaluation

The grade for the course will be arrived at as follows:

Assignment	Length	Value	Due Date
Attendance & Participation	-	10%	-
Mental map exercise	1000 words	15%	Oct. 5
Critical Reflections	4 x 500 words each	5%	Oct. 12
		5%	Oct. 26
		5%	Nov. 3
		5%	Nov. 23
CEL Project Final Project Report*	approx. 1000 words + deliverable	15%	Dec. 7
CEL Project Presentation*	20 minutes	5%	Dec. 7
Final Examination	3 hours	35%	TBA

\*collaborative group work

### Basic Expectations

- ✿ **Come to class, take notes, and participate in discussion.** Assignments will assess your analytical skills, your understanding and recall of literary texts and material developed in lecture and class discussion.
- ✿ **Do the reading.** Complete the week's reading before you come to class.
- ✿ **Learn to collaborate.** This course involves working as a group and working with communities beyond the university. You will thus be asked to work as part of a team, to develop strategies for collegial relationships and a sense of responsibility to others.
- ✿ **Check OWL regularly.** Essential information will be posted on OWL, including information on cancelled classes, resources, weekly expectations, lectures, assignments, tests, and the exam.
- ✿ **Be respectful.** Treat other students, members of the teaching team and community partners with respect; you should expect them to do likewise.
  - **Use electronic devices courteously.** If you have material on any electronic device that is distracting to you or those around you, you will be asked to leave the class.
- ✿ **Complete assignments promptly.** Be sure you note due dates, and read instructions carefully.
- ✿ **Pull your weight.** This class involves community engaged learning and group work. In taking it, you commit to be responsible about meeting times and responsibilities outside class hours and to contribute to your group project in a way that is fair, honest, and accountable to your collaborators.

A student must receive a passing grade for both term work and the final examination in order to receive a passing grade for the course. This applies to all courses in all programs offered by the department. Students whose term and final exam grades average 50% or above, even though one of the two is a failure, shall receive a default grade of 48%. **Please note:** The department of English & Writing Studies does not release final grades. All undergraduate grade reports will be available online from the Office of the Registrar.

Students are fully responsible for looking at and being familiar with the information posted on the department website at <http://www.uwo.ca/english/undergraduate/info%20for%20students.html#grade>.

**Submit your papers on time.** Papers submitted after the due date without prior permission will be deducted 2% per day late, *including* weekends. Papers handed in after the assignment has been returned to other students will not normally be accepted. See the Department of English web page for information on **Academic Relief**.

**Tentative Schedule of Readings and Topics:**

Date	Reading or Topic
Wed. Sept. 14	<b>INTRODUCTION: What is the local?</b> Reaney, "Maps" and "The Wild Flora of Elgin County" (on OWL) ✓ <b>Guest Speaker: Lisa Boyko (Student Success Centre) – "Community Engaged Learning"</b>
Wed. Sept. 21	<b>(CON)TRACTS &amp; PARALLEL LIVES</b> Rogers, " <a href="#">Forever</a> ," " <a href="#">Sky Woman Falling</a> – Part 3," (video; text on OWL) Hassan, and Jordan, " <a href="#">Parallel Histories</a> " (on OWL) ✓ <b>Guests: CEL Community Partners, first meeting</b>
Wed. Sept. 28	<b>LANDINGS</b> Donoghue, <i>Landings</i> ; Brand, from <i>Land to Light On</i> (on OWL) • <b>Guest Speaker: Prof. Ian Rae (King's UC) "Alice Munro and the Huron Tract"</b>
Wed. Oct. 5	<b>ARCHIVES</b> <span style="float: right;"><b>Mental Map DUE</b></span> Munro, "Meneseung" • Field Trip: Weldon Archives Reading Room, WL140A
Wed. Oct. 12	<b>DEFAMILIARIZATION</b> <span style="float: right;"><b>Critical Reflection DUE</b></span> Munro, "Epilogue: The Photographer;" Dewdney, from <i>A Paleozoic Geology of London, Ontario</i> ; Alexis, from <i>Lambton, Kent</i>
Wed. Oct. 19	<b>SOUTHERN (ONTARIO) GOTHIC I: HAUNTED HOUSE?</b> • <b>Field Trip: Eldon House</b> Hassan, from <i>Trespassers and Captives</i> ; Kemp, from <i>The Dream Life of Teresa Harris</i> ; Poetry London, from <i>Possessions</i>
Wed. Oct. 26	<b>CLASS VISIT: Governor General's Award Winning poet, DON MCKAY</b> <span style="float: right;"><b>Critical Reflection DUE</b></span> McKay, <i>Lependu</i>
Wed. Nov. 2	<b>SOUTHERN (ONTARIO) GOTHIC II</b> TVO, "Ontario Writers Go Goth;" Reaney, <i>Sticks and Stones</i> (Part 1 of <i>The Donnellys</i> )
Wed. Nov. 9	<b>LONDON, ONTARIO &amp; THE AVANT GARDE</b> <span style="float: right;"><b>Critical Reflection DUE</b></span> Curnoe and Davey, from <i>Deeds/Abstracts and Deeds/Nations</i> • <b>Field trip: Museum London Regional Collections Tour</b>
Wed. Nov. 16	<b>COLLECTIVE CREATION</b> Ondaatje, <i>The Clinton Special</i> (film)
Wed. Nov. 23	<b>SMALL PRESSES &amp; LOCAL CULTURE</b> <span style="float: right;"><b>Critical Reflection DUE</b></span> • <b>Guest: Kitty Lewis, publisher of Brick Books</b> <b>BIG PRESSES: THE LOCAL AND THE TRANSNATIONAL</b> • <b>Guest speaker: Prof. Nadine Fladd, (U Waterloo):</b> Munro, "The Turkey Season"
Wed. Nov. 30	<b>DRAWING (OUT) THE RURAL</b> LeMire, <i>Essex, Kent Vol. 1: Tales from the Farm</i>
Wed. Dec. 7	<b>Conclusions &amp; Review</b> <b>GROUP CEL PRESENTATIONS &amp; Celebration of Partners</b> <span style="float: right;"><b>CEL Project DUE</b></span>

### Territorial Acknowledgment

This course acknowledges the history of the traditional territory in which Western University operates, and respect the longstanding relationships of the three local First Nations groups of this land and place in Southwestern Ontario. The Attawandaran (Neutral) peoples once settled this region alongside the Algonquin and Haudenosaunee peoples, and used this land as their traditional beaver hunting grounds. The three other longstanding Indigenous groups of this geographic region are The Anishinaabe Peoples (also referred to as the Three Fires Confederacy including; Ojibwe, Odawa, and Pottawatami Nations); The Haudenosaunee Peoples (also known as the Iroquoian people or Six Nations including Mohawk, Oneida, Cayuga, Onondaga, Seneca, and Tuscorora); The Leni-Lunaape Peoples (also referred to as the Delaware and/or Munsee). The three First Nations communities closest in proximity to Western University are the Chippewa of the Thames First Nation (part of the Anishinaabe); the Oneida Nation of the Thames (part of the Haudenosaunee); the Munsee-Delaware Nation (part of the Leni-Lunaape).

### Accommodation

Students seeking academic accommodation on medical grounds for any missed tests, exams, participation components and/or assignments worth 10% or more of their final grade must apply to the Academic Counselling office of their home Faculty and provide documentation. Academic accommodation cannot be granted by the instructor or department. Documentation shall be submitted, as soon as possible, to the Office of the Dean of the student's Faculty of registration, together with a request for relief specifying the nature of the accommodation being requested. The UWO Policy on Accommodation for Medical Illness and further information regarding this policy can be found at

[http://uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic\\_policies/appeals/accommodation\\_medical.pdf](http://uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/accommodation_medical.pdf).

### **Downloadable Student Medical Certificate (SMC):**

[http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic\\_policies/appeals/medicalform.pdf](http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/medicalform.pdf)

### Academic Offences

Scholastic offences are taken seriously and students are directed to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitutes a Scholastic Offence, at

[http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic\\_policies/appeals/scholastic\\_discipline\\_undergrad.pdf](http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/scholastic_discipline_undergrad.pdf)

### **Plagiarism:**

Students must write their essays and assignments in their own words. Whenever students take an idea or passage from another author, they must acknowledge their debt both by using quotation marks where appropriate and by proper referencing such as footnotes or citations. Plagiarism is a major academic offence.

### **Plagiarism Checking:**

All required papers may be subject to submission for textual similarity review to the commercial plagiarism detection software under license to the University for the detection of plagiarism. All papers submitted for such checking will be included as source documents in the reference database for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of papers subsequently submitted to the system. Use of the service is subject to the licensing agreement, currently between The University of Western Ontario and Turnitin.com <http://www.turnitin.com>.

### Support Services

Registrarial Services <http://www.registrar.uwo.ca>

Student Support Services <https://student.uwo.ca/psp/heprdweb/?cmd=login>

Services provided by the USC <http://westernusc.ca/services/>

Student Development Centre <http://www.sdc.uwo.ca/>

Students who are in emotional/mental distress should refer to MentalHealth@Western:

<http://www.uwo.ca/uwocom/mentalhealth/> for a complete list of options about how to obtain help.