

Department of English & Writing Studies
Canadian Literature: Creativity and the Local (CEL)
English 3580G (001)
Winter 2023
DRAFT

Instructor: Manina Jones

Course Day/Time: Mon. 10:30-11:30 am,
Wed. 1:30-12:30 pm

Course Location: Talbot College 201

Delivery Type: In person

Prerequisites: At least 60% in 1.0 of English 1020-1999 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 explores the literary cultures of Southwestern Ontario, examining the ways local writing accesses the public, builds communities, relates people to their environment, and connects local, national, and transnational networks. Students develop critical, creative, and experiential perspectives and employ community engaged learning to develop course concepts beyond the classroom.

Community-Engaged Learning (CEL)

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. Past partners have included: Antler River Poetry/Poetry London, Words Festival, Pendas Productions, Grand Theatre, Original Kids Theatre, London Poetry Slam, Eldon House, Grit Unlimited.

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.

Guest speakers and off-campus meetings: This course may include guest speakers and may sometimes meet at local off-campus locations geared to themes on the course. The latter will be announced in advance and transportation options will be available. All classes are mandatory.

Objectives:

- **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 and imagination of the local 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 skills** 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 and complexity**. The course will help you refine your critical and analytical thinking skills.
- **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.
- **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 in the community, and that 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 (tentative)

Selections from a range of literary texts including Andre Alexis, Dionne Brand, Greg Curnoe, Christopher Dewdney, Emma Donoghue, Jamelie Hassan, Miriam Jordan, Jeff Lemire, Don McKay, Alice Munro, January Rogers, James Reaney, Jenna Rose Sands, Madeline Thien.

Methods of Evaluation

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

Assignment	Approx. Length	Value	Due Date
Class Participation	n/a	5%	
Mental Map Exercise	1,000 words	10%	TBA
Critical Reflection/Report	4 x 500 words each	5%	TBA
		5%	TBA
		5%	TBA
		5%	TBA
Final Group Presentation**	20 minutes + feedback	15%	TBA
CEL Final Project/Report**	Indiv. 1000-1500 words	20%	TBA
	Group 1000-1500 words, plus "deliverable"	30%	

****group mark**

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/Student%20Information.html>.

Attendance

Attendance is mandatory in all classes and tutorials. In cases of excessive absenteeism (e.g. more than 9 unexcused hours for a half course, 18 for a full course), which are not accounted for by either academic consideration or accommodation, students may be debarred from taking the final examination, and will receive an official warning to this effect by or before the course drop date (see Senate policy). In classes with or without final exams, students who do not attend class will receive 0% for course participation grades. Unless other policies dictate a different set of penalties in specific English and Writing Studies programs, this will apply to all department programs.

Intellectual Property/Copyright

All instructor-written materials (e.g. PowerPoints, lecture notes, oral lectures) for this course are created solely for students' personal use within the course, and remain the instructor's intellectual property. Further reproduction, fixation, distribution, transmission, dissemination, communication, or any other uses, without securing the consent of the copyright owner (the course instructor) may be an infringement of copyright. You may not distribute, email, or otherwise communicate these materials to any other person. These limitations extend to recording, photographing, or sharing lectures (online or in-person) and lecture material without permission. Posting the instructor's content from this course to online course sharing sites like OneClass or Course Hero without permission is both an infringement of intellectual property law and a violation of academic integrity guidelines. The instructor will pass these cases on to the Western University Ombudsperson or their Department Chair as appropriate.

Additional Information

Electronic Devices Policy: Laptops and other electronic devices in class must be used appropriately. Respectful use of electronic devices means that the material you have on screen at any time must relate directly to the course material being discussed. Students using electronic devices in inappropriate ways will be asked to leave the class.

OWL: Check OWL regularly. Important information about the course will be posted, including information on cancelled classes and off-site meetings, guest lecturers, resources, weekly expectations, lectures, assignments, tests, and the exam.

Office hours: Your teaching team has scheduled office hours when we wait eagerly for students to drop by. You may also make an appointment for an alternative time. You are free to consult in person or via Zoom.

E-mail: Allow 24 hours for a response and remember that we may not check e-mail in the evenings or on weekends. If you want to have a discussion about lecture material, essay or exam expectations, course readings, or anything that requires an extended conversation, that's best done in person. Do not use email to submit essays.

Submit your papers on time. Papers submitted after the due date without prior permission will be deducted 2% per day late, including weekends. Papers submitted after the assignment has been returned to other students will not normally be accepted.

Academic Integrity. As members of a scholarly community, you have a duty to conduct yourself with honesty and responsibility. Don't be afraid to ask questions about how to identify and employ outside sources in your work. See Academic Offenses (below).

Accommodation Policies

Students with disabilities work with Accessible Education (formerly SSD) which provides recommendations for accommodation based on medical documentation or psychological and cognitive testing. The accommodation policy can be found here: [Academic Accommodation for Students with Disabilities](#).

Students seeking academic accommodation on medical grounds for any missed tests, exams, participation components and/or assignments worth (either alone or in combination) 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 Student Medical Certificate (SMC) can be found at https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/medicalform.pdf.

The full policy is set out here:

https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/accommodation_medical.pdf.

Religious Accommodation:

Students should consult the University's list of recognized religious holidays, and should give reasonable notice in writing, prior to the holiday, to the Instructor and an Academic Counsellor if their course requirements will be affected by a religious observance. Additional information is given in the [Western Multicultural Calendar](#).

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

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>.

All instances of plagiarism will be reported to the Chair of Undergraduate Studies. Proven cases of plagiarism will result in a grade of zero for the assignment. Subsequent offences will result in failure for the course.

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/>

Academic Support & Engagement <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.

Timetable

TBA

Land Acknowledgment

Western's land acknowledgment reminds us that the place we inhabit and the places we learn are complex physical and social spaces with histories that are often unrecognized. Such awareness is a key course objective. Wherever you are when you learn, take a moment to reflect on and respect the unique environments, peoples, and histories of the place you inhabit. Western University is located on the territory of the Anishinaabek, Haudenosaunee, Lūnaapéewak, and Chonnonton (Neutral) peoples, on lands connected with the London Township and Sombra Treaties of 1796 and the Dish with One Spoon Covenant Wampum. This land continues to be home to diverse Indigenous peoples.