

**Department of English  
Western University**

2022

**English 9208A**

D.M.R. Bentley

**The Economics, Politics, and Aesthetics of Canadian Poetry to the First World War  
University College, 3415, Wednesdays 12.30-3.30**

**Instructor:** Professor D.M.R. Bentley

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**Office Hours:** Mondays 11.30-12.30; Thursday 1.00-3.00; other times by chance or appointment.

September 14	Introductory: Initial Economic, Political, and Aesthetic Contexts; Kelsey, "Now Reader Read . . ."
September 21 ...	Explorers and Fur Traders: Samuel Hearne, <i>A Journey . . .</i> Alexander Mackenzie, <i>Voyages ...</i> , Alexander Henry, <i>Travels and Adventures</i> (handout)
September 28	Local Pride in Lower Canada: Brooke, <i>The History of Emily Montague</i> (handout) Cary Abram's <i>Plains</i> , Mackay, <i>Quebec Hill</i> , Bayley, <i>Canada</i>
October 5	(Agri-) Culture in the Maritimes: Goldsmith, <i>The Rising Village</i> , and Howe, <i>Acadia</i>
October 10	<b>THANKSGIVING</b>
October 12	Improvement in Upper Canada: Strachan, "Verses . . . 1802" (handout) and Burwell, <i>Talbot Road</i>
October 19	Alternative Visions of Colonial Canada: Kidd, <i>The Huron Chief</i> and Richardson, <i>Tecumseh</i>
November 1	<b>READING WEEK</b> (October 29-November 6)
November 9	Pre- and Post-Confederation Visions of Canada: McLachlan, <i>The Emigrant</i> and Crawford, <i>Malcolm's Katie</i>
November 16	"Americanitis" and Its Cures: selection of poems by Lampman, Roberts, and Carman (handout)

November 23	Utopias and Dystopias: Lampman, “The Land of Pallas,” “The City of the End of Things” (handout), <i>The Story of an Affinity</i>
November 30	Post-Confederation French Canada and Indigenous Peoples : Duncan Campbell Scott, <i>In the Village of Viger</i> (handout) and “Indian” Poems (handout)
December 7	Early Canadian Poets and Poetry Among Twentieth-Century Writers (handout)

### CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS

#### Assignments:

One short essay, a seminar presentation, a research essay, and a preparatory bibliography/works cited for the research essay for the last are required.

**The short essay** (approximately 750 words) will be on a work or works of your choice, and should focus on and “unpack” an aspect of the work(s) that you regard as significant and worthy of commentary. It must be submitted before or on October 17. (You are encouraged to submit your essays well before this deadline, which, like objects in a rearview mirror, are closer than they appear.) In any case, the short essay **should be handed in no later than 4.00 p.m. on the Monday preceding the seminar on the work(s) with which it deals so that its substance can be assured a place in the group’s discussion.**

The choices of authors and works for **the seminar presentations** will be circulated shortly after the beginning of term and the presentations delivered after Reading Week.

**The research essay** (2,000-2,500 words, plus Works Cited) may emerge from the short essay or the seminar presentation, or focus on a related or different topic. **The preparatory bibliography/works cited** must be submitted at least a week before the research essay. The research essay itself may be submitted at any time after November 14, and **no later than a week after the final seminar, which is on December 7.**

#### Policy on Late Essays:

Anyone who has a valid reason for not meeting an essay deadline must give me that reason before the due date and arrange for an extension. Otherwise, late essays will be penalized at a rate of 2% a day to a maximum of 10 days, including weekends, after which they may not be accepted.

#### Mark Distribution:

The brief essay will be worth 20%, the research essay 50%, and the preparatory bibliography/works cited 10%, with the remaining 20% based on attendance, participation, and the seminar presentation.

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**Statement on 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 the following website: [http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic\\_policies/appeals/scholastic\\_discipline\\_grad.pdf](http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/scholastic_discipline_grad.pdf)

**Graduate Course Health and Wellness:**

As part of a successful graduate student experience at Western, we encourage students to make their health and wellness a priority. Western provides several on campus health-related services to help you achieve optimum health and engage in healthy living while pursuing your graduate degree. For example, to support physical activity, all students, as part of their registration, receive membership in Western’s Campus Recreation Centre. Numerous cultural events are offered throughout the year. For example, please check out the Faculty of Music web page at <http://www.music.uwo.ca/>, the Faculty of Arts and Humanities web page at <https://www.uwo.ca/arts/> and the McIntosh Gallery web page at <http://www.mcintoshgallery.ca/>. Information regarding health- and wellness-related services available to students may be found at <http://www.health.uwo.ca/>. Students seeking help regarding mental health concerns are advised to speak to someone they feel comfortable confiding in, such as their faculty supervisor, their program director (graduate chair), or other relevant administrators in their unit. Campus mental health resources may be found at [http://www.health.uwo.ca/mental\\_health/resources.html](http://www.health.uwo.ca/mental_health/resources.html).

**Contingency Plan for a Resurgence of Covid:**

In the (unlikely) event of a COVID-19 resurgence that necessitates the delivery of the seminar moving away from in-person interaction, affected course content will be delivered synchronously online (i.e., at the times indicated in the syllabus). The grading scheme will **not** change.