

School of Liberal Arts

ENGL220



The North in Canadian Literature

WINTER 2023

3 Credits

Course Outline

INSTRUCTOR	Drew Lyness, Ph.D.	OFFICE HOURS	By appointment
OFFICE	A2005	CLASSROOM	Online / optional in person
E-MAIL	dlyness@yukonu.ca	CLASS TIME	Wednesdays, 1:15- 3:30pm
TELEPHONE	604 789 7765	CRN	20105
Liberal Arts office: Ayamdigut Campus A2501, liberalarts@yukonu.ca, 867-668-8770			

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course takes a critical look at literary representations of the North. We will read novels, short stories, nonfiction essays, poetry, digital and visual material in our quest to understand ‘the North’ - both as a cultural idea as well as a real place. Images, myths and symbols emerging from literary representations of the North will be analysed closely, and then connected to the communities in which we live.

Major issues for consideration:

- 1) How is ‘the North’ defined? Where is North?
- 2) How has the North and the land been represented from the outside?
- 3) How is North represented by writers with a transient relationship to the region?
- 4) How have Indigenous peoples been represented in the North?
- 5) How do Indigenous peoples represent themselves in the North?
- 6) How does ‘the imaginary North’ influence the North?

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Prerequisite(s): English 100 and 101 or equivalent, or permission of the instructor.

EQUIVALENCY OR TRANSFERABILITY

Find course transfer at <https://www.bctransferguide.ca/>

Students are reminded that it is always the receiving institution that determines whether a course is acceptable as an applicable, equivalent course or if it may be transferred to their program for credit. Find further information at: <https://www.yukonu.ca/admissions/transfer-credit>

LEARNING OUTCOMES

Upon successful completion of the course, students will be able to:

- **present and assess different definitions of North both as a geographical location and as a place of the imagination**
- **recognize the primary, recurring themes and images in literature about the North**
- **analyse representations of the North and its people as presented by First Nations, Inuit, local, and Outside authors**
- **perform post-secondary level analysis of northern literature from the major genres in English literature—poetry, fiction (novel and short story), drama, and essay**
- **apply standard literary terminology in their discussions of works of literature**
- **recognize literary devices and motifs, and explain how these contribute to a literary work**
- **present ideas in well-organized, thoughtful, and polished essays, and do post-secondary level research into literary subjects**

COURSE FORMAT

Delivery format

This course is delivered online with one meeting time each week during which students are expected to attend via Zoom and engage with the instructor and other students. If there is interest amongst Whitehorse-based students, we may also meet in person from time to time whilst retaining a Zoom connection for community / remote students. This will be decided during the opening weeks. The Moodle course site will be integral to this course for discussions, material, assignments and engagement.

As a blended online course, the format of this course will be flexible to accommodate students in the communities as well as Ayamdigut. Class time will generally be devoted primarily to discussion and to

student presentations with a Zoom video connection. There will also be short lectures on specific concepts or theoretical traditions. All readings and audio-visual material will be assigned in advance and uploaded to Moodle and should be read before class. We will also engage in weekly online discussions. We will likely respond to current events and news cycles, so keep an eye on all kinds of media this term!

Work and expectations

This class runs in a seminar format. Students are expected to attend class meetings and to engage with both Zoom / in-person and online asynchronous discussions. There will be a short mid-term reflection paper, a longer final paper as well as a term project. Readings and media each week will take somewhere between 30 minutes and 2 hours, depending on content.

EVALUATION

Attendance & Participation (This is a child friendly course!)

Please attend all classes! This is a 200 level humanities course, and as such discussion, debate, discourse and participation are important to our learning. If you have children, on days when alternative childcare arrangements fall through, please feel free to bring them to class. There will be **weekly online discussions** which will be graded **pass/ fail** upon completion. Your writing tasks will be aimed at **relating a piece of media** (film, television, video, podcast) **with the readings, theories and concepts** we have covered in class. You may compare them to previous texts, test theories out on a particular work, or offering a close reading of a particular passage. There will be a writing prompt each week to get you started.

Assignments:

On one week of your choosing during the semester, you'll submit a 2 page **response paper** on that day's assigned texts and topic. You are free to decide for which week you'll write, but you must turn in your short response papers by Friday of **Week 13**. It's up to you to decide what's important enough for a 2-page reflection. In some cases, it might be useful to spend your pages making sense of the reading. Over the course of the semester, we'll accumulate a collection of themes, terms and concepts that will help us to critically consider 'the North' as represented in literature, film and television.

In addition, each student will be responsible for **introducing and presenting a reading(s)**. Presentations should include a **visual component** in the form of media or slides and be **around 15 minutes**. Your task is to offer opening observations of your text, give some context and **background information about the author** or genre, **interpret** and make connections with other texts we have read. Finally, you should introduce a few questions to get us going. **During presentations, each student will also briefly introduce the class to one work not on the syllabus that they believe connects to the texts, and to their experience of the North.** You should take around 5 minutes to tell us about this text and make a compelling case for its place in our course. You may interpret 'text' widely to include not only traditional literature, but also film, video, art, music, multimedia - the possibilities are almost limitless.

Lastly, you will write one longer (8-10 page) **essay** for the course on a topic that you devise yourself. Topic proposals for that final essay are due any time before Week 11. You'll be free to revise your topic, in consultation with me, until the end of Week 13.

Tests

There will be no Midterm exam in this course. We will schedule a group exit-examination in our final class session.

EVALUATION:

Assignments	
Short response paper.....	10%
Weekly online discussion postings / class engagement	20%
Individual presentation.....	20%
Final synthesis essay.....	30 %
Group exam project	20%
Total	100%

TEXTBOOKS & LEARNING MATERIALS

All primary materials will be available on Moodle. Students will be given instructions if there are texts to purchase during the term.

COURSE WITHDRAWAL INFORMATION

Students may officially withdraw from a course or program without academic penalty up until two-thirds of the course contact hours have been completed. Specific withdrawal dates vary, and students should become familiar with the withdrawal dates of their program. See withdrawal information at www.yukonu.ca/admissions/money-matters

Refer to the YukonU website for important dates: www.yukonu.ca/admissions/important-dates

Refunds may be available. See the Refund policy and procedures at www.yukonu.ca/admissions/money-matters

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

Students are expected to contribute toward a positive and supportive environment and are required to conduct themselves in a responsible manner. Academic misconduct includes all forms of academic dishonesty such as cheating, plagiarism, fabrication, fraud, deceit, using the work of others without their permission, aiding other students in committing academic offences, misrepresenting academic assignments prepared by others as one's own, or any other forms of academic dishonesty including falsification of any information on any Yukon University document.

Please refer to Academic Regulations & Procedures (updated bi-annually) for further details about academic standing, and student rights and responsibilities: www.yukonu.ca/policies/academic-regulations

ACADEMIC ACCOMMODATION

Reasonable accommodations are available for students requiring an academic accommodation to fully participate in this class. These accommodations are available for students with a documented disability, chronic condition or any other grounds specified in section 8.0 of the Yukon University Academic Regulations (available on the Yukon University website at www.yukonu.ca/policies/academic-regulations)

It is the student's responsibility to seek these accommodations by contacting the Learning Assistance Centre (LAC): LearningAssistanceCentre@yukonu.ca.

TOPIC OUTLINE

Please see Moodle course site for Weekly topics – or contact the instructor at: dlynness@yukonu.ca