

ENGLISH 239.01

FUNDAMENTALS OF LITERARY STUDIES: SPECIAL TOPICS THE ENVIRONMENT, COMMUNITY AND SENSE OF PLACE

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English 239.01 classes meet TU/TH 11:00 to 12:15 in Admin 167

Office Hours: Tu/Th 3:30 to 4:30 (may be subject to change – any changes will be announced in class) or by special appointment arranged in advance. Please let me know you are coming so that I don't accept other bookings that conflict with yours.

Course Description:

"If you don't know where you are, you don't know who you are." --
Wendell Berry

"If this is your land, where are your stories?" In this course we will examine texts that explore the connections among the environment, community, and sense of place. Topics for discussion will include the following: how can we read texts from an environmental perspective (ecocriticism); what constitutes local knowledge; localism vs. globalism; representations of earth, weather, energy, air, land, water, food and eating, animals, gardening and plants in literature; sense of place; bioregionalism; and more.

We will study several books of poetry, fiction and creative nonfiction, as well as at least two documentaries and essays in ecological literary critical methodologies and approaches.

Required Texts:

J. Edward Chamberlin, *If This Is Your Land, Where Are Your Stories?*
(essays/cultural analysis)

Robert Kroetsch, *Seed Catalogue* (poetry: long poem)

Food Inc. (documentary film – no need to purchase)

J. B. MacKinnon and Alisa Smith, *The 100-Mile Diet: A Year of Local Eating* (nonfiction – personal journalism)

Andrew Nikiforuk, *Tar Sands: Dirty Oil and the Future of a Continent* (nonfiction: journalism)

Warren Cariou and Neal McArthur, *Land of Oil and Water* (documentary film – no need to purchase)

Thomas King, *Green Grass, Running Water* (fiction)

Freeman House, *Totem Salmon: Life Lessons from Another Species* (creative nonfiction)

Diana Hacker, *A Canadian Pocket Style Manual*

Assignments:

Mid-term exam:	20%
In-class quizzes / activities (2 X 10%)	20%
Notebook (10 pp., typed, double-spaced)*	40%
Final exam: essay format; take-home	20%
TOTAL	100%

IMPORTANT NOTES!

Students must complete and submit ALL of the assignments in order to be eligible for a passing grade for this course. Failure to complete all of the course work will result in an automatic failure of the course.

Late penalties: Late penalties will be deducted for late assignments. Late penalties can and sometimes do result in a failing grade on an assignment so students will want to start assignments well in advance of the due date. **The late penalty for written work is one mark per day late. That is, if an essay that merits a 19/25 (76%) comes in two days late, the actual mark will drop two marks to 17/25 (68%).**

Class participation: Attending classes regularly, participating respectfully in class, and in general playing your part in creating an intellectually engaging, friendly and positive classroom environment will enhance your own learning and pleasure in the classroom and beyond as well as that of others. An important

part of intellectual work is being able to speak about it with others. Students will be expected to assume the role of active participants in the construction and dissemination of knowledge rather than merely passive consumers of it. This includes participation in discussion and in credit-free assignments and activities carried out in class.

If you miss a class during which we view a documentary film or portion thereof, you will want to borrow the film from the Taylor Digital Library and watch it as the films are required texts on the course too, not just 'frills'. (I believe there are screening facilities at the Library too.) Students will be expected to address quiz and examination questions about the films as well as the books and other course materials.

* Notebook: I will give you a separate handout with guidelines for researching and writing your notebook. Please do not confuse this assignment with your course notes, which I will NOT ask you to submit. This is a separate project that will allow you to explore one of the topics arising from the course. Basically you will be exploring the environment, community and sense of place of the locale you consider to be home (city, town, reservation, village, rural farm or ranch, etc.) using the analytical tools and insights gained from reading and studying the texts on the course. Where is your home, and what are your and your community's stories?

There is no Registrar-scheduled final exam in this course.

The take-home exam will be handed out at the last class of the term, and it will be due the following Monday so please make certain you block off some time that weekend in order to complete the exam.

Plagiarism:

Using any source whatsoever without clearly documenting it is a serious academic offense. Consequences include failure on the assignment, failure in the course and possible suspension or expulsion from the university. Please refer to the following information and make sure you are familiar with the statement below on plagiarism.

<http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/k-2-1.html>

Scribe and Muse Club for English Students:

The Scribe and Muse Reading and Writing Club (SMRWC) fosters and champions reading and writing through community service, leadership, and engagement. We strive to enhance the academic and social experience of undergraduate students by promoting academic excellence and interaction between students, faculty, and the community, through social, cultural, and academic events. <http://english.ucalgary.ca/content/scribe-and-muse-reading-and-writing-club>

Our email address is smrwc@ucalgary.ca.

English Department Website:

For more information about courses, programs, policies, events and contacts in the Department of English, please go to our website at <http://english.ucalgary.ca>.

Writing support:

The Student Success Centre offers both online and workshop writing support for U of C students. <http://www.ucalgary.ca/ssc/writing-support>

Follow the Department of English on Facebook & Twitter:**Academic regulations and schedules:**

Consult the Calendar for course information, university and faculty regulations, dates, deadlines and schedules, student, faculty and university rights and responsibilities. The homepage for the University Calendar is <http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/index.htm>

Guidelines on e-mail Etiquette:

<https://www.ucalgary.ca/it/help/articles/email/etiquette>

Grade appeals:

Consult the following University Calendar link and request advice from the English Department office, SS 1152. Please note that “mere dissatisfaction with a decision is not sufficient grounds for the appeal of a grade or other academic decision.”

<http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/i.html>

Deferral of term work and final examinations:

Should you require an extension for completion of term papers or assignments beyond the deadline of five days after the end of lectures, an Application of Deferment of Term Work form must be completed. The University also has regulations governing the deferral of final examinations. See Calendar:

<http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/g-6.html>,

<http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/g-7.html>.

Academic accommodation:

It is a student’s responsibility to request academic accommodation. If you are a student with a disability who may require academic accommodation and if you have not registered with the Disability Resource Centre, please contact their office at 220-8237. Your academic accommodation letters should be provided to your instructor no later than fourteen (14) days after the commencement of this course. Students who have not registered with the Disability Resource Centre are not eligible for formal academic accommodation. <http://www.ucalgary.ca/drc/>

Emergency Evacuation/Assembly Points:

<http://www.ucalgary.ca/emergencyplan/assemblypoints>;

Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act:

<http://www.ucalgary.ca/legalservices/foip/>

“Safewalk” Program:

Campus Security will escort individuals day or night: call 220-5333 for assistance. Use any campus phone, emergency phone or the yellow phone located at most parking lot pay booths.

<http://www.ucalgary.ca/security/safewalk/>

Faculty of Arts Program Advising and Student Information Resources:

Have a question, but not sure where to start? The new Faculty of Arts Program Information Centre (PIC) is your information resource for everything in Arts! Drop in at SS110, call us at 403-220-3580 or email us at artsads@ucalgary.ca. You can also visit the Faculty of Arts website at <http://arts.ucalgary.ca/undergraduate> which has detailed information on common academic concerns.

For program planning and advice, contact the Student Success Centre (formerly the Undergraduate programs Office) at (403) 220-5881 or visit them in their new space on the 3rd Floor of the Taylor Family Digital Library.

For registration (add/drop/swap), paying fees and assistance with your Student Centre, contact Enrolment Services at (403) 210-ROCK [7625] or visit them at the MacKimmie Library Block.

Contact for Students Union Representatives for the Faculty of Arts:

arts1@su.ucalgary.ca, arts2@su.ucalgary.ca, arts3@su.ucalgary.ca,
arts4@su.ucalgary.ca

Contact for Students Ombudsman’s Office:

<http://www.ucalgary.ca/provost/students/ombuds>

PLAGIARISM

Plagiarism is an extremely serious offence. Please read the following information carefully. The penalty routinely recommended by the English Department for documented plagiarism is failure of the course in which the offence occurred; academic probation is also routinely applied at the Faculty level. Suspension or expulsion can result from severe or repeated plagiarism.

The University Calendar states:

1. Plagiarism - Essentially plagiarism involves submitting or presenting work in a course as if it were the student's own work done expressly for that particular course when, in fact, it is not. Most commonly plagiarism exists when:
 - (a) the work submitted or presented was done, in whole or in part, by an individual other than the one submitting or presenting the work (this includes having another impersonate the student or otherwise substituting the work of another for one's own in an examination or test),
 - (b) parts of the work are taken from another source without reference to the original author,
 - (c) the whole work (e.g., an essay) is copied from another source, and/or,
 - (d) a student submits or presents work in one course which has also been submitted in another course (although it may be completely original with that student) without the knowledge of or prior agreement of the instructor involved.

While it is recognized that scholarly work often involves reference to the ideas, data and conclusions of other scholars, intellectual honesty requires that such references be explicitly and clearly noted.

Plagiarism occurs when direct quotations are taken from a source without specific acknowledgement, or when original ideas or data from the source are not acknowledged. Citing your sources in a bibliography is not enough, because a bibliography does not establish which parts of a student's work are taken from other sources. MLA (Modern Language Association) documentation or other recognized forms of citation must be used for this purpose. Advice on adequate documentation can be found at the following web sites:
<http://www.dianahacker.com/resdoc/>
<http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/747/01/>

DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH STATEMENT ON PRINCIPLES OF CONDUCT

According to the University Calendar, (<http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/j.html>) "The University of Calgary community has undertaken to be guided by the following statements of purpose and values: to promote free inquiry and debate, to act as a community of scholars, ..., to respect, appreciate, and encourage diversity, [and] to display care and concern for community". The Department of English, like the university as a whole, is committed to a "positive and productive learning and working environment." This environment is characterized by appreciation and encouragement of diversity and respect for the dignity of all persons: students, support staff, and faculty. The department will not tolerate unacceptable behaviour, such as threatening gestures, threatening or abusive verbal or written communication (including e-mails), or any conduct that "seriously disrupts the lawful education and related activities of students and/or university staff". Any cases of such misconduct should be reported immediately to the department Head, who, depending on the nature and severity of the incident, may then take further appropriate action.

Class and Reading Schedule:

The instructor reserves the right to make changes to the schedule, if necessary. Any changes will be announced in class. Responsibility for class attendance lies with the student, obviously.

Week 1: Intro to the course, course materials, assignments and intro to ecocriticism

J. Edward Chamberlin, *If This Is Your Land, Where Are Your Stories?*:
Introduction + “Babblers,” pp. 1 - 25

Excerpt from *The War Against the Indians* (documentary – viewed in class)

Week 2: J. Edward Chamberlin, *If This Is Your Land, Where Are Your Stories?*
Read pp. 1 to 70
Cheryll Glotfelty, “Literary Studies in an Age of Environmental Crisis”

Week 3: The Moment of the Discovery of America Continues
Robert Kroetsch, *Seed Catalogue*
Short video about Robert Kroetsch

Week 4: Robert Kroetsch, *Seed Catalogue*
Chamberlin, pp. 74 – 115.

Re-read pp. 87 – 90 of Chamberlin, and write your own parallel version based on the place you consider home (2 - 3 pp., 10%).

Week 5: Is home where the heart(h) is? Industrial food vs. the family farm and rural village/town
Food Inc. (documentary)
Chamberlin, pp. 118 – 56.

Week 6: Eating locally. What cultural stories do we tell ourselves about food and eating?

J. B. MacKinnon and Alisa Smith, *The 100-Mile Diet: A Year of Local Eating*

Week 7: J. B. MacKinnon and Alisa Smith, *The 100-Mile Diet: A Year of Local Eating*

Deconstructing Dinner: Interview with J.B. MacKinnon and Alisa Smith

Mid-term exam: Bring paper and pens to class.

Week 8: Energy, community and sense of place
Andrew Nikiforuk, *Tar Sands: Dirty Oil and the Future of a Continent*

Week 9: “Eating” energy: consumerism, consumption and dis-ease

Andrew Nikiforuk, *Tar Sands: Dirty Oil and the Future of a Continent*
Warren Cariou and Neal McArthur, *Land of Oil and Water*

Week 10: Water, land and energy
Thomas King, *Green Grass, Running Water*
Quiz: 10%

Week 11: Stories, environmental issues and community on the rez
Thomas King, *Green Grass, Running Water*

Week 12: Sense of place, community and the more-than-human world
Freeman House, *Totem Salmon: Life Lessons from Another Species*
Interview with House: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5RqNkboQyc0>

Week 13: Salmon lessons
Freeman House, *Totem Salmon: Life Lessons from Another Species*