

FACULTY OF ARTS
DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH

ENGLISH 239 Lecture 06

WINTER 2013

COURSE TITLE: Cities, Societies and Cultures: Mapping In Literature

Instructor: Kathleen Brown

Office: SS1127

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Office hours: Wednesdays 11am to 12pm

Course description:

In this course we will investigate how various authors - both indigenous and non-indigenous - engage with the psychology of mapping in their writing. How people interact with and respond to their environment in turn shapes the environment itself, and studying this helps us understand human and non-human dynamics in our changing world.

The overall course objective is to provide the opportunity for students to analyse and critique contemporary writing that explores a relationship to land and environment through mapping and psychogeography. This course will enable students to analyse the craft of writing across the various media we will encounter and study in the course, and for students to generate both critical and creative writing through the course assignments.

Texts and readings:

Psychogeography by Merlin Coverley

Seen Reading by Julie Wilson

Burning Vision by Marie Clements

People Park by Pasha Malla

Atanarjuat The Fast Runner (Isuma)

Discovery Passages by Garry Thomas Morse

People from Our Side: A Life Story with Photographs and Oral Biography by Peter Pitseolak (*with Dorothy Eber*)

City Fish by JR Carpenter - <http://luckyssoap.com/cityfish/>

Recommended Reading:

You Are Here: Personal Geographies and Other Maps of the Imagination by Katherine Harmon

Mapping: Issue 37.1 of Dandelion magazine

Knowing places: the Inuinait, landscapes and the environment by Beatrice Collignon

An Atlas of Radical Cartography ed. Alexix Bhagat & Lize Mogel

Experimental Geography: Radical Approaches to Landscape, Cartography and Urbanism ed. Nato Thompson and Independent Curators International

In the words of elders : aboriginal cultures in transition edited by Peter Kulchyski, Don McCaskill, and David Newhouse

Else/Where: Mapping New Cartographies of Networks and Territories ed. Janet Abrams and Peter Hall

A Reading schedule will be handed out separately the first week of class.

Assignments and Evaluation:

Readings will be assigned from the required texts and from online sources. Students are asked to complete the reading prior to attending class so that we can have a discussion about the readings in class.

Students will submit one short paper, one group assignment and one final assignment. Your name and student number must be on your assignments, and the pages must be numbered in sequence. **Electronic submissions for academic essays, proposals and written projects are NOT permitted.** Students working in digital media for their group and final assignments will be permitted to submit their work electronically to the Instructor. Digital media* work must be sent by the beginning of class on the day the assignment is due. * = Digital media includes videos, animations, video games, power point, sound files, etc.

Course Assignments are evaluated as follows:

Participation (includes attendance and participation in class discussion)	10%
Short Argumentative Essay (800 to 1000 words)	20%
Group Assignment	30%
- Assignment	20%
- Group Presentation	10%
Final Assignment	40%
- Proposal and Bibliography	5%
- Final Assignment	35%

There is no final exam in this course. Students must complete all assignments in order to receive a passing grade in the course.

Description of Assignments:

A detailed assignment sheet and grading rubric will be distributed in class for all of the assignments following.

Short Argumentative Essay (20%)

This assignment is to write a well-organized argumentative essay of 800-1000 words that demonstrates:

- your analytical and critical thinking skills
- your close reading skills, and your ability to effectively organize an academic essay including the correct use of citations
- your ability to effectively execute an argumentative essay

This assignment will be based on a chosen topic from your reading of either “People Park” or “Burning Vision” that addresses the theme of mapping and relationships to the environments in these texts.

Group Assignment (30%)

After a class visit to Special Collections in the TFDL, you will be given a Group Assignment. Your assignment is to create and produce a collaborative work of creative writing that engages with the act of mapping and is conversant with the examples of creative maps and psychogeographic texts that we have studied in class to date.

This assignment is meant to foster:

- your creative and critical thinking skills
- your understanding of the map as a form of writing, and of writing that engages with and disrupts mapping techniques

- your ability to conduct library-based research
- your ability to work effectively and collaboratively in a group dynamic

There are four stages to the Group Assignment:

- 1) Brainstorming assignment ideas and topics in class with your group.
- 2) Visiting Special Collections in the TFDL (outside of class time) and conducting research on one of the maps or mapping-related objects displayed during our class visit.
- 3) Producing a work of creative writing as a group (15 minutes, 15 pages or 15 feet depending on if it is text, time or visual-based work).
- 4) A ten-minute group presentation in class that outlines your research, process and final creation.

Final Assignment (40%)

You will choose one of the following for your final assignment:

- 1) Write a well-organized comparative essay of 1000-1200 words, using two of the primary texts from the course.
- 2) Choose one of the primary texts from the course, and produce creative writing (ex. Poetry, fiction, drama) that engages with the central argument, or political themes or issues in this text. You may work in any genre but your creative writing must engage with mapping, or be driven by a psychogeographic exercise.

You will submit a one to two page proposal for the final assignment, which is worth 5% of your course grade.

This assignment will demonstrate:

- your analytical, creative and critical thinking skills
- your close reading skills, your ability to effectively organize your writing, and your ability to articulate an argument in your writing
- your understanding of the course themes and content (i.e. mapping climate change, Inuit ways of knowing, land claims, Island/Mainland relationships, mapping as a form of writing)

Late Assignments or Absences:

Assignments are due at the BEGINNING of class. Assignments submitted after the deadline will be penalized (with the loss of a third of a grade (an A- to B+) for each business day [not class day] that the assignment is overdue.

Please make every effort to take assignments directly to the instructor. If it is not possible to do so, take your assignment to SS 1152 and put it in the dropbox. Your assignment will be date-stamped and placed in the instructor's mailbox. It is your responsibility to keep a copy of all assignments in case of loss by any cause. Assignments cannot be returned by staff in the Department office.

Grading system:

The following chart is the percentage grading breakdown that I will be using to grade your assignments in this course:

90 + %	A+	4.0
85 – 89 %	A	4.0
80 – 84 %	A–	3.7
77 – 79 %	B+	3.3

74 – 76 %	B	3.0
70 – 73 %	B–	2.7
67 – 69 %	C+	2.3
64 – 66 %	C	2.0
60 – 63 %	C–	1.7
55 – 59 %	D+	1.3
50 – 54 %	D	1.0
0 – 49 %	F	0

The University of Calgary’s four-point Undergraduate Grading System, as described in the Calendar (<http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/f-2.html>), will be used in this course.

□ A+/A (4.0); A- (3.7); B+ (3.3); B (3.0); B- (2.7); C+ (2.3); C (2.0); C- (1.7); D+ (1.3); D (1.0); F (0)

Please note that, according to the University Calendar (F.1), instructors may use their discretion when rounding upwards or downwards when the average of term work and exams is between two letter grades.

Although the A+ is solely an honorific that entails no additional points in the four-point system, the course instructor will employ this mark to distinguish superlative work that exceeds expectations in style, correctness, intellectual depth and breadth, sophistication, and originality.

Email and Electronic Submissions Policy:

I am happy to meet with any student during my scheduled office hours, or to make an apt outside of that time if you are not able to attend my office hours. I will reply to short, specific questions about the course, lecture material or assignments via email, and I will do my best to answer as promptly as possible. **Please note that it may take me up to a week to reply to your email, and so if you need a reply within a specific amount of time it is more appropriate to see me during office hours.**

Course assignments must be submitted in class, on the due date, and in printed form, unless other specific arrangements have been made prior to the deadline. In particular, submitting work by email without prior agreement is not an acceptable alternative to handing in work on time, in class.

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.