

THE UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY
FACULTY OF ARTS
FALL SESSION 2012
COURSE OUTLINE

English 371.26:01 (Canadian Literary Humorists)
 (TuTh 12:30-13:45 – SA 124A)

Instructor: Dr. Victor J. Ramraj

Telephone: 403-220-4664 (403-220-5470, for messages)

Office hours: Tuesdays 14:00 – 15:00 or by appointment.

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REQUIRED TEXT (Suggested Editions)

Robertson Davies. *Leaven of Malice* (1954) Toronto: Penguin, 2006

Tomson Highway. *The Rez Sisters* (1986 performed) Toronto: Fifth House, 1988

Mordecai Richler. *Cocksure* (1968) Toronto: M&S Emblem, 2002

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Victor J. Ramraj, ed. *Course Pack: Canadian Literary Humour* U of Calgary Bookstore, Fall 2012.

RECOMMENDED TEXTS:

A Student's Guide to the Presentation of Essays. Department of English, The University of Calgary, 1998. (www.ucalgary.ca/UofC/eduweb/grammar/guide.htm).

G. Leggett et al. *Handbook for Writers*. Englewood Cliffs: Prentice-Hall, 1994.

Any good glossary of literary terms.

Any good standard dictionary

COURSE OBJECTIVES

Emphasizing close readings of four novels and at least ten stories, poems, and essays, this course provides an introduction to a sub-genre of Canadian literature: humorous fiction. It will examine the theories of laughter that underscore the three major categories of humorous texts (comedy, satire, and farce), applying them to selected writings by prominent practitioners of literary humour.

TERM PAPERS (40%)

Two term papers are required, one on the stories, essays and poems, worth 20% of the final grade and the other on the novels, worth 20%.

Topic for Paper:

For your first paper (20%; due 18th October), you are required to write an essay of about 1000 words comparing and contrasting the treatment of the comic or humorous tone in any two short stories or poems (at least one of which should be from the course pack; you must get my approval of texts from outside the pack).

For your second paper (20%; due 22nd November), you are required to write an essay of about 1000 words comparing and contrasting the treatment of the comic or humorous tone in any two

novels (at least one of which should be from the list of required texts; you must get my approval of texts from outside the list).

Note:

1. Late papers will be penalized grades and will be graded only, not marked.
2. You are advised to retain copies of all papers submitted to your instructors.
3. Your papers, printed or legibly written, should adhere to the format and documentation outlined in *A Student's Guide to the Presentation of Essays* (also accessible also online on the University's webpage <www.ucalgary.ca/UofC/eduweb/grammar/guide.htm>) or the *MLA Handbook*.
4. Your paper will be marked for the strength of its argument, the logical development of its argument, the textual support of its argument, the clarity of its organization and expression (which should be free of major grammar, syntax, and spellings errors).
5. Papers showing evidence of plagiarism will be given an F grade (see the attached statement on plagiarism). Please include at the end of your essay this signed statement:

"I verify that I have read the University of Calgary's statement on plagiarism, that I am the author of this essay/term paper, and that I have acknowledged clearly all debts and borrowings."

*(Please make all efforts to get assignments directly to me. If it is not possible to do so, take your assignment to SS1152 and put it in the drop-box, where your assignment will be date-stamped and placed in my mailbox. Please keep a copy of your essay in case of loss by any cause. Assignments **cannot be returned** by staff in the Department office.)*

IN-CLASS ID TEST (20%)

This test is intended to test whether you have read the set texts we have looked at so far. It will ask you to identify passages, characters, and/or issues in these texts. (30th October).

FINAL EXAMINATION (40%)

This two-hour examination, worth 40% of the final grade, will be scheduled by the Registrar during the official examination period (10-19th December 2012). Students must be available for examinations up to the last day of the examination period.

NOTE: You must submit the two term papers (40%), write the in-class test (20%), and take the final examination (40%) to qualify for a passing grade.

Grading System:

University of Calgary's 4 point system is 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)

Late assignment policy:

Assignments submitted after the deadline may be penalized with the loss of a third of grade (for example: A- to B+) for each day late (exemption in extenuating circumstances.)

Student's Guide to the Presentation of Essays:

<http://www.ucalgary.ca/UofC/eduweb/grammar/guide.htm>

Attendance:

“The University has directed that attendance will not be considered when assessing a student’s grade *except in certain courses where class participation may be a necessary component of the course*. Regular attendance is advised for students in all courses and there is no regulation which precludes an instructor from taking attendance in class.”(*Calendar 2010-11* p.39)

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>

Please include at the end of your essay this signed statement:

“I verify that I have read the University of Calgary’s statement on plagiarism, that I am the author of this essay/term paper, and that I have acknowledged clearly all debts and borrowings.”

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.

TENTATIVE SCHEDULE

This schedule is *provisional*; it is intended to give an idea of the order in which texts will be discussed; it may be modified to allow extended or limited discussion of particular topics as warranted by the dynamics of class discussions and the background preparation of members of the class.

September	11-13	Synopsis of the course; introductory lectures on terms and concepts related to humour
	18-20	Continued
	25-27	Leacock's stories and essays
October	02-04	Other stories and poems in Course Pack.
	09-11	Richler's <i>Incomparable Atuk & Cocksure</i>
	16-18	Continued (First paper due 18 th)
	23-25	Guest Lecture 23rd No lecture on 25 th (prepare for test)
	30-01	In- Class Test on 30 th ; FR Scott and other poets (see Course Pack)
November	06-08	Continued
	13-15	No lecture on 13th (10-13 Reading Days) Clarke and Selvon stories
	20-22	Highway's <i>The Rez Sisters</i> (2 nd paper due 22 nd)
	27-29	Davies's <i>Leaven of Malice</i>
December	04-06	Recapitulation (7 th - last day of classes; Exam Period 10 th -18 th)

