

# COURSE SYLLABUS



COURSE TITLE: ENGL 270: Canadian Literature

CLASS SECTION: 001

TERM: Winter 2023

COURSE CREDITS: 3

DELIVERY METHOD(S): In person

Camosun College campuses are located on the traditional territories of the Lək̓ʷəŋən and W̱SÁNEĆ peoples. We acknowledge their welcome and graciousness to the students who seek knowledge here.

Learn more about Camosun's [Territorial Acknowledgement](#).

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## INSTRUCTOR DETAILS

NAME: Michael Stewart (he/him)

EMAIL: [stewartm@camosun.ca](mailto:stewartm@camosun.ca) (This is the best way to contact me)

OFFICE: Lansdowne: Paul Building, Rm 330

HOURS: In-person: Mondays, 2:00-3:00, Thursdays 1:00-2:00, or by appointment

Virtual (on Zoom): Wednesdays 1:00-2:00 or by appointment

*As your course instructor, I endeavour to provide an inclusive learning environment. However, if you experience barriers to learning in this course, do not hesitate to discuss them with me. Camosun College is committed to identifying and removing institutional and social barriers that prevent access and impede success.*

## CALENDAR DESCRIPTION

Students investigate Canadian literature from the late nineteenth century to the present. Short stories, poetry, drama, essays, and novels are presented in many contexts, including historical and geographical. Critical essays and a final examination are required. Assignments total approximately 5000 words and range from 500 to 2500 words.

PREREQUISITE(S):

One of: •C in ENGL 161 •C in ENGL 163 •C in ENGL 164

CO-REQUISITE(S):

Not Applicable

EXCLUSION(S):

Not Applicable

## COURSE LEARNING OUTCOMES / OBJECTIVES

Upon completion of this course a student will be able to:

1. When reading Canadian literature, students will be encouraged to make connections, evaluate works based on established critical criteria, and recognize both the general characteristics of Canadian literature as well as those of individual authors. At the end of the course students will be able to:
  - Analyze Canadian literature from the nineteenth century to the present, with emphasis on post 1950 works and the rich diversity of authors and works.
  - Evaluate a variety of genres, which may include poetry, short fiction, novels, drama, and essays, according to critical precepts appropriate to the specific genre.
  - Compare works such as those from E.J. Pratt, Earle Birney, Dorothy Livesey, P.K. Page, Al Purdy, Margaret Laurence, Margaret Atwood, Alice Munro, Timothy Findley, and Rohinton Mistry while applying concepts that demonstrate the development of Canadian literature. Note that individual instructors may put a slight change of focus in this course by choosing one author over another, but the general tenor of the course will remain the same.
2. When discussing Canadian literature, students will be encouraged to develop their own interpretations of the works using a variety of critical methods and resources. At the end of the course students will be able to:
  - Identify the socio-historical context of the works and relate the works to others as part of a literary continuum.
  - Identify and account for recurring themes in Canadian Literature.
  - Compare and contrast various works, authors, and styles within the context of the overall development of Canadian literature.
  - Distinguish between the subjective and objective aspects of works in order to formulate informed judgments about the works being discussed.
  - Identify the influence of dominant critical theories or movements in the contexts of the literature studied.
3. When writing about the literature, students will be expected to demonstrate their understanding of the above issues and to explain, support, and illustrate their interpretations of literature in essays and a final examination. At the end of the course students will be able to:
  - Support their work with relevant textual evidence.
  - Document sources using current MLA conventions.

#### REQUIRED MATERIALS & RECOMMENDED PREPARATION / INFORMATION

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*Station Eleven*, Emily St. John Mandel (Knopf, 2014)

*Ducks: Two Years in the Oil Sands*, Kate Beaton (Drawn & Quarterly, 2022)

*Scarborough*, Directed by Shasha Nakhai and Rich Williamson (Compy Films, 2021)

Additional materials available on D2L

#### COURSE SCHEDULE, TOPICS, AND ASSOCIATED PREPARATION / ACTIVITY / EVALUATION

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The following schedule and course components are subject to change with reasonable advance notice, as deemed appropriate by the instructor.

Class time (Seminar & Lecture): Mondays and Thursdays, 3:30 – 4:50, Young Building, Rm 227

WEEK	THEME	READINGS
Week 1	The State of CanLit	<b>READ:</b> "CanLit Is a Raging Dumpster Fire," Alicia Elliott
Week 2-4	Canlit as Colonization	<b>READ:</b> Susanna Moodie, P.K. Page, Liz Howard, Leanne Betasamosake Simpson, Chelsea Vowell
Week 4-6	CanLit as Extraction	<b>READ:</b> <i>Ducks</i> , Kate Beaton Lindsay Bird, Don McKay, Fred Wah
Week 7	<b>READING BREAK</b>	
Weeks 8-10	Canlit(s) as Multiculturalisms	<b>WATCH:</b> <i>Scarborough</i> (2021) <b>READ:</b> Souvankham Thammavongsa, Dionne Brand, Leonard Cohen
Weeks 11-13	Canlit as Apocalypse	<b>READ:</b> <i>Station Eleven</i> , Emily St. John Mandel
Week 14	CanLit as Aftermath	<b>PLAY:</b> <i>The Quiet Year</i> , Avery Alder

Students registered with the Centre for Accessible Learning (CAL) who complete quizzes, tests, and exams with academic accommodations have booking procedures and deadlines with CAL where advanced notice is required. Deadlines can be reviewed on the [CAL exams page](http://camosun.ca/services/accessible-learning/exams.html). <http://camosun.ca/services/accessible-learning/exams.html>

## EVALUATION OF LEARNING

DESCRIPTION	DUE	WEIGHTING
Essay 1: Canlit as Colonization (800 words)	Feb 5	13%
Essay 2: CanLit as Extraction (1000 words)	Feb 26	18%
Essay 3: Canlit(s) as Multiculturalism(s) (1250 words)	Mar 25	25%
Final Exam: Aftermath	During final exam period	25%
Critical Journal Entries (9 x 1%)	Throughout term	9%
Participation	Throughout term	10%
<b>TOTAL</b>		100%

If you have a concern about a grade you have received for an evaluation, please come and see me as soon as possible. Refer to the [Grade Review and Appeals](http://camosun.ca/about/policies/education-academic/e-1-programming-and-instruction/e-1.14.pdf) policy for more information. <http://camosun.ca/about/policies/education-academic/e-1-programming-and-instruction/e-1.14.pdf>

- **A note on first principles:** In this class, we will debate and discuss many things as we explore the diverse, rich and powerful literatures of Canadian writers and artists. **One thing not up for debate is the identity, self-determination and sovereignty of Indigenous people.** That means that the multiple and deep harms of colonialism—the dispossession of land and self-determining authority by a dominant settler system of governance and culture—are also not up for debate. **This is not meant to limit discussion;** on the contrary, it will provide a starting point from which edifying, enriching and mutually instructive conversations can develop and flourish.

If you would like to discuss any of these issues, you are welcome to make an appointment with me and we can converse in my office—not in class.

- All readings must be completed **BEFORE the class assigned to them.** Bring the readings with you to class.
- **Participation is worth a hefty 10%,** so please bring your brilliant ideas and observations to class. Attending class, preparing well, and bringing an inquisitive, generous, and energetic spirit not only shows all of us you respect the learning environment, but it will also put you in a great position to succeed on the assignments.

You are encouraged to stay home if you feel ill. If you are unable to come to class, there are other ways to participate: through online discussion groups, my office hours, or over email.

- **Start working right away.** Life comes at you fast. And by life, I mean deadlines. Don't procrastinate, do the readings, and don't underestimate how long an assignment will take. If you get a disappointing grade on an early assignment, make adjustments – don't assume the same level of work will get you a better mark later.
- **Deadlines:** Deadlines are organized to facilitate marking and returning papers in a timely manner, and to give you the greatest benefit from feedback for future assignments. They also establish that I am a human, with a life, and give me some surety around which I may organize this life.
- **In-class writing assignments and quizzes cannot be made up.** Major assignments submitted late will be docked a 5% per day penalty. However, **you have a one-time amnesty for one of the three essay assignments.** This is to recognize that you, too, are humans with lives, and that sometimes those get in the way of coursework. I want to give you the best chance to succeed in the course, but please respect the above. **You must let me know in advance of the deadline that an assignment will be late.**

Late work may not be handed back in a timely manner and may not receive extensive feedback.

- Any student who faces challenges **securing their food or housing** and believes this may affect their performance in the course is urged to contact the appropriate Camosun services (listed below) for support. If you are comfortable in doing so, please notify me of any challenges you're facing. This will enable me to accommodate your challenge and provide any support I am able.

- **A note on Artificial Intelligence:** This second-year literature class is meant to strengthen and develop critical reading, thinking and writing. These skills are **recursive**; that is, they influence and inform each other as we move from one to the next: writing your thoughts changes what you think, which subsequently changes how you read, and so on. For these reasons, **AI-writing tools like Chat GPT, JasperAI, Quillbot, etc. are strictly prohibited.** This includes not only generating writing at any level (final drafts, paragraphs, sentences), but also generating ideas, outlines, or revisions. The use of such tools constitute plagiarism and violate Camosun’s Academic Integrity policy.

## STUDENT RESPONSIBILITY

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Enrolment at Camosun assumes that the student will become a responsible member of the College community. As such, each student will display a positive work ethic, assist in the preservation of College property, and assume responsibility for their education by researching academic requirements and policies; demonstrating courtesy and respect toward others; and respecting expectations concerning attendance, assignments, deadlines, and appointments.

## SUPPORTS AND SERVICES FOR STUDENTS

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Camosun College offers a number of services to help you succeed in and out of the classroom. For a detailed overview of the supports and services visit <http://camosun.ca/students/>.

Academic Advising	<a href="http://camosun.ca/advising">http://camosun.ca/advising</a>
Accessible Learning	<a href="http://camosun.ca/accessible-learning">http://camosun.ca/accessible-learning</a>
Counselling	<a href="http://camosun.ca/counselling">http://camosun.ca/counselling</a>
Career Services	<a href="http://camosun.ca/coop">http://camosun.ca/coop</a>
Financial Aid and Awards	<a href="http://camosun.ca/financialaid">http://camosun.ca/financialaid</a>
Help Centres (Math/English/Science)	<a href="http://camosun.ca/help-centres">http://camosun.ca/help-centres</a>
Indigenous Student Support	<a href="http://camosun.ca/indigenous">http://camosun.ca/indigenous</a>
International Student Support	<a href="http://camosun.ca/international/">http://camosun.ca/international/</a>
Learning Skills	<a href="http://camosun.ca/learningskills">http://camosun.ca/learningskills</a>
Library	<a href="http://camosun.ca/services/library/">http://camosun.ca/services/library/</a>
Office of Student Support	<a href="http://camosun.ca/oss">http://camosun.ca/oss</a>
Ombudsperson	<a href="http://camosun.ca/ombuds">http://camosun.ca/ombuds</a>
Registration	<a href="http://camosun.ca/registration">http://camosun.ca/registration</a>
Technology Support	<a href="http://camosun.ca/its">http://camosun.ca/its</a>
Writing Centre	<a href="http://camosun.ca/writing-centre">http://camosun.ca/writing-centre</a>

If you have a mental health concern, please contact Counselling to arrange an appointment as soon as possible. Counselling sessions are available at both campuses during business hours. If you need urgent support after-hours, please contact the Vancouver Island Crisis Line at 1-888-494-3888 or call 911.

## COLLEGE-WIDE POLICIES, PROCEDURES, REQUIREMENTS, AND STANDARDS

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### Academic Accommodations for Students with Disabilities

The College is committed to providing appropriate and reasonable academic accommodations to students with disabilities (i.e. physical, depression, learning, etc). If you have a disability, the [Centre for Accessible Learning](#) (CAL) can help you document your needs, and where disability-related barriers to access in your courses exist, create an accommodation plan. By making a plan through CAL, you can ensure you have the appropriate academic accommodations you need without disclosing your diagnosis or condition to course instructors. Please visit the CAL website for contacts and to learn how to get started:

<http://camosun.ca/services/accessible-learning/>

### Academic Integrity

Please visit <http://camosun.ca/about/policies/education-academic/e-1-programming-and-instruction/e-1.13.pdf> for policy regarding academic expectations and details for addressing and resolving matters of academic misconduct.

### Academic Progress

Please visit <http://camosun.ca/about/policies/education-academic/e-1-programming-and-instruction/e-1.1.pdf> for further details on how Camosun College monitors students' academic progress and what steps can be taken if a student is at risk of not meeting the College's academic progress standards.

### Course Withdrawals Policy

Please visit <http://camosun.ca/about/policies/education-academic/e-2-student-services-and-support/e-2.2.pdf> for further details about course withdrawals. For deadline for fees, course drop dates, and tuition refund, please visit <http://camosun.ca/learn/fees/#deadlines>.

### Grading Policy

Please visit <http://camosun.ca/about/policies/education-academic/e-1-programming-and-instruction/e-1.5.pdf> for further details about grading.

### Grade Review and Appeals

Please visit <http://camosun.ca/about/policies/education-academic/e-1-programming-and-instruction/e-1.14.pdf> for policy relating to requests for review and appeal of grades.

### Mandatory Attendance for First Class Meeting of Each Course

Camosun College requires mandatory attendance for the first class meeting of each course. If you do not attend, and do not provide your instructor with a reasonable reason in advance, you will be removed from the course and the space offered to the next waitlisted student. For more information, please see the "Attendance" section under "Registration Policies and Procedures"

(<http://camosun.ca/learn/calendar/current/procedures.html>) and the Grading Policy at <http://camosun.ca/about/policies/education-academic/e-1-programming-and-instruction/e-1.5.pdf>.

### Medical / Compassionate Withdrawals

Students who are incapacitated and unable to complete or succeed in their studies by virtue of serious and demonstrated exceptional circumstances may be eligible for a medical/compassionate withdrawal. Please visit <http://camosun.ca/about/policies/education-academic/e-2-student-services-and-support/e-2.8.pdf> to learn more about the process involved in a medical/compassionate withdrawal.

### Sexual Violence and Misconduct

Camosun is committed to creating a campus culture of safety, respect, and consent. Camosun's Office of Student Support is responsible for offering support to students impacted by sexual violence. Regardless of when or where the sexual violence or misconduct occurred, students can access support at Camosun. The Office of Student Support will make sure students have a safe and private place to talk and will help them understand what supports are available and their options for next steps. The Office of Student Support respects a student's right to choose what is right for them. For more information see Camosun's Sexualized Violence and Misconduct Policy: <http://camosun.ca/about/policies/education-academic/e-2-student-services-and-support/e-2.9.pdf> and [camosun.ca/sexual-violence](http://camosun.ca/sexual-violence). To contact the Office of Student Support: [oss@camosun.ca](mailto:oss@camosun.ca) or by phone: 250-370-3046 or 250-3703841

### Student Misconduct (Non-Academic)

Camosun College is committed to building the academic competency of all students, seeks to empower students to become agents of their own learning, and promotes academic belonging for everyone. Camosun also expects that all students to conduct themselves in a manner that contributes to a positive, supportive, and safe learning environment. Please review Camosun College's Student Misconduct Policy at <http://camosun.ca/about/policies/education-academic/e-2-student-services-and-support/e-2.5.pdf> to understand the College's expectations of academic integrity and student behavioural conduct.

**Changes to this syllabus:** Every effort has been made to ensure that information in this syllabus is accurate at the time of publication. The College reserves the right to change courses if it becomes necessary so that course content remains relevant. In such cases, the instructor will give the students clear and timely notice of the changes.