



School of Arts & Science
ENGLISH DEPARTMENT

ENGL 164-001
First Nations Literature
2008W

COURSE OUTLINE

The Approved Course Description is available on the web @ _____

Ω Please note: this outline will be electronically stored for five (5) years only.
It is strongly recommended students keep this outline for your records.

In this course, we will be reading and responding to a broad range of First Nations literature. Our purpose is to study our language, culture and writing in a context that promotes discussion, analysis and interpretation. As a prerequisite, students should already be able to write college-level essays with appropriate documentation of primary and secondary works (this is covered in English 150).

Calendar Description

This course, which examines both the oral and literary traditions of First Nations people, introduces students to the study and analysis of indigenous literature from North America. Students read and discuss a novel, short stories, poems, and plays by First Nations writers and write about these works in journals, essays, and tests.

1. Instructor Information

| | | | | |
|-----|---------------|---|--------------------|--|
| (a) | Instructor: | Jeanne Iribarne (Call me "J" or Jeanne) | | |
| (b) | Office Hours: | Mon/Wed 12:00-1:00 | | |
| | | Tues./Thurs 10:30-12:30 | | |
| (c) | Location: | Paul 328 | | |
| (d) | Phone: | 370-3349 | Alternative Phone: | |
| (e) | Email: | iribarne@camosun.bc.ca | | |
| (f) | Website: | http://iribarne.disted.camosun.bc.ca/ | | |

2. Intended Learning Outcomes

(No changes are to be made to this section, unless the Approved Course Description has been forwarded through EDCO for approval.)

Upon completion of this course:

1. In reading literature, the student will be encouraged to make connections, consider meaning, make and support inferences, and evaluate:
 - Analyze First Nations literature from both the oral and written traditions.
 - Analyze First Nations pre-contact literature in the genres of song, prayer, and storytelling by addressing their roles within First Nations communities.

- Analyze First Nations literature in the post-contact period through the genres of poetry, fiction, non-fiction and drama.
 - Identify First Nations literary forms, elements, and techniques.
2. In discussing literature, the student will be given the opportunity to develop and communicate responses and interpretations using varied methods and resources:
- Identify the continuing inter-relationship of First Nations pre-contact literatures with the written tradition.
 - Examine Eurocentric notions of literal and figurative meaning in relation to First Nations literature.
 - Use literary terms such as metaphor, irony, character, setting, and plot.
 - Describe the significance of differing literary interpretations from Native and non-Native perspectives.
 - Use vocabulary associated with analyzing fiction, poetry, drama, and non-fiction.
 - Analyze themes common to First Nations literature.
 - Describe various literary theories that are relevant to the study of First Nations literature (e.g., post-colonial theory, feminist theory, reader response theory, etc.).
3. In writing about literature, the student will be able to explain, support, and illustrate points in essays by:
- Using a critical approach with appropriate language.
 - Comparing pieces of First Nations literature.
 - Documenting sources using current MLA bibliographic conventions.

3. Required Materials

| | | |
|-----|-------|---|
| (a) | Texts | <p><u>Texts:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Course Pack for English 164</i> • Erdrich, Louise. <i>Love Medicine</i>. New York: Harper Collins, 1993. Used editions are fine. • Highway, Thomson. <i>The Rez Sisters</i>. Calgary: Fifth House, 1988. • VanCamp, Richard. <i>A Man Called Raven</i> (on reserve in the library). • A good reference guide for writing (e.g. Buckley's <i>Checkmate</i>) |
| (b) | Other | |

4. Course Content and Schedule

(Can include: class hours, lab hours, out of class requirements and/or dates for quizzes, exams, lectures, labs, seminars, practicums, etc.)

| <u>Date</u> | <u>What We Will Cover</u> | <u>Major Assignments And Readings</u> |
|-------------|---|--|
| Jan 8, 10 | Course introductions. First Nations orientation. Storytelling and creation myths | "The Truth About Stories"—audio in class |
| Jan 15, 17 | Modes of Storytelling | Ruby Slipperjack, Harry Robinson Martin Martin Ghandl, Awa |
| Jan 22, 24 | Language | Marilyn Dumont E. Pauline Johnson Louise Halfe Rita Joe last day to withdraw (10 th) |
| Jan 29, 31 | Critical Perspectives: What is First Nations Lit? | Jeannette Armstrong Thom King |
| Feb 5, 7 | "Fleur" "Mermaids" "Terminal Avenue" | Louise Erdrich Eden Robinson Essay 1 due |
| Feb 12 | Introduction to Drama <i>The Rez Sisters</i> | Thomson Highway deadline for bursary app. (12 th) |
| Feb 19, 21 | <i>The Rez Sisters</i> | _____ |
| Feb 26, 28 | Children's lit | Mid-term Exam (Tues.) Van Camp , <i>A Man Called Raven</i> |

5. Basis of Student Assessment (Weighting)

(Should be linked directly to learning outcomes.)

Evaluation:

| | |
|--|-----|
| Essay 1 | 20% |
| Essay 2 | 20% |
| Mid-term Exam | 20% |
| Final Exam | 30% |
| Participation (including presentation) | 10% |

Important notes:

1. Students who cannot pass the in-class assignments or exams will NOT pass the course.
2. "Participation" means contributing to discussions in class in a genuine and generous way. Obviously, you can't participate if you aren't here.

6. Grading System

(No changes are to be made to this section, unless the Approved Course Description has been forwarded through EDCO for approval.)

Standard Grading System (GPA)

| Percentage | Grade | Description | Grade Point Equivalency |
|------------|-------|---|-------------------------|
| 90-100 | A+ | | 9 |
| 85-89 | A | | 8 |
| 80-84 | A- | | 7 |
| 77-79 | B+ | | 6 |
| 73-76 | B | | 5 |
| 70-72 | B- | | 4 |
| 65-69 | C+ | | 3 |
| 60-64 | C | | 2 |
| 50-59 | D | Minimum level of achievement for which credit is granted; a course with a "D" grade cannot be used as a prerequisite. | 1 |
| 0-49 | F | Minimum level has not been achieved. | 0 |

Temporary Grades

Temporary grades are assigned for specific circumstances and will convert to a final grade according to the grading scheme being used in the course. See Grading Policy E-1.5 at camosun.ca for information on conversion to final grades, and for additional information on student record and transcript notations.

| Temporary Grade | Description |
|-----------------|-------------|
|-----------------|-------------|

| | |
|-----------|---|
| I | <i>Incomplete:</i> A temporary grade assigned when the requirements of a course have not yet been completed due to hardship or extenuating circumstances, such as illness or death in the family. |
| IP | <i>In progress:</i> A temporary grade assigned for courses that, due to design may require a further enrollment in the same course. No more than two IP grades will be assigned for the same course. <i>(For these courses a final grade will be assigned to either the 3^d course attempt or at the point of course completion.)</i> |
| CW | <i>Compulsory Withdrawal:</i> A temporary grade assigned by a Dean when an instructor, after documenting the prescriptive strategies applied and consulting with peers, deems that a student is unsafe to self or others and must be removed from the lab, practicum, worksite, or field placement. |

7. Recommended Materials or Services to Assist Students to Succeed Throughout the Course

LEARNING SUPPORT AND SERVICES FOR STUDENTS

There are a variety of services available for students to assist them throughout their learning. This information is available in the College calendar, at Student Services or the College web site at camosun.ca.

STUDENT CONDUCT POLICY

There is a Student Conduct Policy **which includes plagiarism**. It is the student's responsibility to become familiar with the content of this policy. The policy is available in each School Administration Office, at Student Services and on the College web site in the Policy Section.

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS AS APPROPRIATE OR AS REQUIRED

Important Course Policies:

1. Late assignments: Assignments are due at the beginning of class on the due date. Late assignments will lose 10% per day for the first two days. After this they will not be accepted at all.
2. If you miss in-class work/exams, you will receive a zero (unless you can prove a medical emergency). Check with me beforehand if you know in advance that you will be unable to attend.
3. Please be careful when using other people's words or ideas. Using them without identifying the author constitutes fraud (plagiarism) and can have a lasting impact on this course and your future studies. See me if you are in any doubt about where to draw the line between your work and someone else's.