



Instructor: Mark Levene

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Course Number: ENG424H5S

Course Title: Group 2: Michael Ondaatje

Course Description: Ondaatje belongs to the tradition of Canadian poet-novelists but brings to it a deeply unorthodox instinct for metaphor and dialogue and as revolutionary an approach to character as there is in modernist and postmodernist narrative. In the seminar we will explore the visual nature of his writing, the recurrence of maps and water, the nature of human and aesthetic "translation" (one of his favourite words), the enactments of beauty and violence between people, and his elusive sense of the historical.

Required Reading:

The Collected Works of Billy the Kid, In the Skin of a Lion, The English Patient, Anil's Ghost, Divisadero.

First Authors to be Studied As above

Method of Instruction: Discussion, seminar presentations, lecture

Method of Evaluation 2 essays, 35% each; test 10%; seminar and participation 20%.