

Course Number: ENG271H5S

Course Title: Diasporic Literatures of Toronto

Instructor: Tyler Tokaryk

Course Description: This course is a study of literature by diasporic writers who have strong connections to Toronto and who explore issues such as identity, nationality, place, origin, and the multicultural experience. We will be looking at texts that are set in and around Toronto and that seem to develop the idea of "Toronto" as an important, albeit shifting and unstable, marker of diasporic identity. We will pay particular attention to how "Toronto" functions as a transnational space within which the (re)constitution of the characters' sense of self occurs. The literary texts will be read in the context of contemporary theories of "diaspora."

Texts to Buy:

1. Bates, Judy Fong. *Midnight at the Dragon Cafe* (Emblem)
2. Brand, Dionne. *What We All Long For* (Vintage)
3. Course Pack (literary works by David Bezmozgis, Austin Clarke, Rohinton Mistry, Makeda Silvera and theoretical essays)
4. Ondaatje, Michael. *In the Skin of a Lion* (Vintage)
5. Vassanji, M.G. *No New Land* (McClelland and Stewart)

First Three Texts: 1) Dionne Brand, *What We All Long For*; 2. Judy Fong Bates, *Midnight at the Dragon Cafe*; 3. selections from the course pack

Method of Instruction: Lecture and discussion.

Method of Evaluation: in-class quizzes (20%); in-class writing exercises (20%); essay plan (5%); 6-8 page essay (20%); final exam (25%); participation (10%)