

COURSE NUMBER: ENG426S (Prof. C. Hill)

COURSE TITLE: New Canadian Fiction

COURSE DESCRIPTION: This seminar explores some of the best fiction published in Canada in the last five years. We will read novels by seven or eight of Canada's acclaimed and emerging writers who write from diverse perspectives about Canada and the world at large. As we work to discern the "new direction(s)" of Canada's fiction in the twenty-first century, our topics will include (but are not limited to) urban / rural tensions, recent changes in Canadian literary theory, the role of the artist in contemporary Canada, gender, Canadian postmodernism and postcolonialism, multiculturalism, psychological and spiritual self-discovery, historiography, and Canadian social, cultural, regional, and national identity. We will also contextualize our studies with important readings by some of Canada's leading literary critics. Students will be expected to attend regularly and to complete readings thoughtfully and on time. Students are also required to participate in the seminar discussions.

REQUIRED READING: 7 or 8 novels/short story collections will be selected from the following list of authors: David Bergen, David Bezmozgis, Trevor Cole, Camilla Gibb, Elizabeth Hay, Anne Ireland, Yann Martel, Colin McAdam, Jean McNeil, Tessa McWatt, Edeet Ravel, Eden Robinson, Gloria Sawai, Miriam Toews, Thomas Wharton, Richard B. Wright, and other new writers. A course pack of critical materials selected by the instructor is also required reading.

FIRST THREE TEXTS/AUTHORS TO BE STUDIED: TBA

METHOD OF INSTRUCTION: Some lecture; seminar discussion; student seminar presentations.

METHOD OF EVALUATION: Book review (15%); short seminar presentation (20%); Book review critique (10%); research paper (40%); participation (15%).