



**Instructor:** Mark Levene

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**Course Number:** ENG425H5F

**Course Title:** Alice Munro

**Course description:** This seminar will explore Alice Munro's work because it is "interesting," to use a word she herself favors in explaining the recurrence in her stories of certain deeply complex subjects, such as adultery and storytelling itself. An implication of "interesting" is that our discussions will have no set ideological or methodological prism. They will centre on close readings of entire volumes (supplemented by other stories from the body of her work) with a view to the possibilities she creates in the short story form, among them the layering of stories within stories, transformed "epiphanies," narrative pauses and parentheses, and shifts in both chronology and voice. Where possible, the seminar will draw upon ties between Munro's fiction and stories by Chekhov and Joyce, Trevor and O'Connor, and others.

**Required Reading:** *Lives of Girls and Women*, *The Moons of Jupiter*, *The Progress of Love*, *Open Secrets*, *Too Much Happiness*.

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**First Three Texts/Authors to be Studied:** As above.

**Method of Instruction:** Seminar discussion, seminar reports, lecture.

**Requirements and Evaluation:** 2 essays, due October 18 and November 28, 35% each; test 10%; seminar and \*participation 20%. The cost of delays in submitting essays is 2% a day.

**\*Participation:** This element will be a composite of attendance, responses to questions posed in class, and a single seminar presentation. If the test is missed for documented medical reasons, it can be taken on another, agreed-upon date. Policy regarding academic integrity is set out in the "University of Toronto Code of Behaviour in Academic Matters," Section B. Please Note: Essays submitted as e-mail attachments will not be accepted. E-mail protocol will be discussed in class.