

CNST 591 L01
Senior Seminar in Canadian Studies
Winter 2014
Thursday, 2-4:45 SA 235

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Course Description

The theme for this term's senior seminar in Canadian Studies is the use of biography in understanding the construction and critique of Canadian identity. Many aspects we associate with Canadian identity derive from particularly influential individuals and the roles they have played in Canadian life. The contribution of these key individuals resulted in the creation of many features of Canadian society we now identify as central to Canadian identity while others have served the important role of commentators, critics and reformers of inadequacies in Canadian society that were changed as a result of their influence. The list is long: some relevant examples would be Tommy Douglas and the creation of a Canadian healthcare system, Pierre Trudeau and Charter of Rights and Freedoms, writers such as Margaret Atwood, Alice Munro, or Margaret Laurence who shaped our sensibilities of western Canadian identity. Others in a quick list would include Jack Leighton and his career in the NDP party, Emily Carr and her paintings of the west coast, Lotta Hitschmanova and the founding of the USC Unitarian service committee of Canada, or prominent women such as Nellie McClung, Flora MacDonald, Sheila Copps, Emily Howard Stove, and Beverley MacLachlin, Chief Justice of the Canadian Supreme Court. The satirical insights of comedians such as Mary Walsh or Rick Mercer are also appropriate examples of those holding up Canadian culture to critical insights and needed adjustments. Forming the theoretical background of the course is the practice of biography and oral history.

Objectives of the Course

To provide students with a pathway for more intensive study of themes in Canadian identity.
To allow students to critique the biographical approach to the study of culture.
To allow students to undertake primary research projects.
To consolidate the need for a Canadian perspectives on a variety of global topics.

To allow students to use a variety of disciplinary and interdisciplinary approaches in their work.

To explore the diversity of influences at work in the formation of Canadian identity.

Textbooks and Readings:

Online readings or three dimensional books in the Library will be assigned throughout the course.

Assignments and Evaluation

Participation 10%

Participation is based on your contribution to class discussions which includes responding to presentations by your colleagues, ensuring that you have done assigned readings and are prepared to raise questions, and providing insights about the material assigned. Regular attendance, therefore, is key.

Presentations 20%

Students must do two class presentations (15 minutes) plus entertain questions and discussion that arises. Parameters for these presentations, dealing with biography, will be discussed in class. These might be a critique of an academic article or the analysis of an individual's biography. Each presentation is worth 10% (20% total). Dates for these presentations will be assigned in class, but one will be before reading week and one will be after that week.

Essay 30% Due: February 13th, 2014

Students are required to submit an essay in the general area of individuals who have contributed to a key theme in Canadian identity, or who have been outstanding in their critique of an element of Canadian identity. The essay will use an appropriate referencing system (MLA, Chicago Manual of Style etc.) and will be 7 pages (1000 words).

Biography 40% Due: April 10th, 2014

The major assignment of the course is a biography of someone who has either contributed significantly to an aspect of Canadian identity or who has been central in the revision or challenge concerning a feature considered to be central to Canadian culture. The paper will use an appropriate referencing system (MLA, Chicago Manual of Style etc.) and will be 15 pages (3750 words).

It is the student's responsibility to keep a copy of each submitted assignment.

Note: Please hand in your essays directly to your instructor. If it is not possible to do so, a daytime drop box is available in SS102. A night drop box is also available for after-hours submission. Assignments will be removed from the drop box the following morning and stamped with the CURRENT day's date, then placed in the instructor's mailbox.

Registrar-scheduled Final Examination: No

Policy for Late Assignments

Assignments submitted after the deadline may be penalized with the loss of a grade (e.g.: A- to B+) for each day late.

Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act

This course is conducted in accordance with the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act (FOIP). As one consequence, **students should identify themselves on all written work by using their ID number. Also you will be required to provide a piece of picture identification in order to pick up an assignment or look at a final exam.**

For more information see also <http://www.ucalgary.ca/secretariat/privacy>.

Grading System

Please note that this grading scale is recommended. If you choose something else, please clearly specify.

	Grading Scale
A+	96-100
A	90-95.99
A -	85-89.99
B+	80-84.99
B	75-79.99
B-	70-74.99
C+	65-69.99
C	60-64.99
C-	55-59.99
D+	53-54.99
D	50-52.99
F	0-49

Schedule of Lectures and Readings

To be established in class.

Ethics

Students are expected to follow all ethics guidelines established by the University of Calgary: <http://arts.ucalgary.ca/research/for-researchers/ethics>

Plagiarism

Using any source whatsoever without clearly documenting it is a serious academic offense. Consequences include failure on the assignment, failure in the course and possibly suspension or expulsion from the university.

You must document not only direct quotations but also paraphrases and ideas where they appear in your text. A reference list at the end is insufficient by itself. Readers must be able to tell exactly where your words and ideas end and other people's words and ideas begin. This includes assignments submitted in non-traditional formats such as Web pages or visual media, and material taken from such sources.

Please consult your instructor if you have any questions regarding how to document sources.

Internet and Electronic Communication Device Information

All electronic devices must be used in a manner appropriate to the class.

Academic Misconduct

For information on academic misconduct and the consequences thereof please see the current University of Calgary Calendar at the following link:

<http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/k.html>

Academic Accommodation Policy

If you are a student with a disability who may require academic accommodation, it is your responsibility to register with the Student Accessibility Services (220-8237) and discuss your needs with your instructor no later than fourteen (14) days after the start of the course. For further information, please see <http://www.ucalgary.ca/access/>

Emergency Evacuation and Assembly Points

Please note the evacuation points for this particular classroom. All classrooms on campus exit to specific places in case of emergency. The emergency assembly points differ depending upon where your classroom is located. For information on the emergency evacuation procedures and the assembly points see <http://www.ucalgary.ca/emergencyplan/assemblypoints>

"SAFEWALK" Program

Campus Security will escort individuals day or night -- call 403-220-5333 for assistance. Use any campus phone, emergency phone or the yellow phone located at most parking lot booths.

Student Representation

There are now four Arts reps because of the amalgamation, with the email addresses being arts1@su.ucalgary.ca, arts2@su.ucalgary.ca, arts3@su.ucalgary.ca, and arts4@su.ucalgary.ca. Please contact them if you have questions related to Students Union matters, events, or concerns.

For your student ombudsman, please see

<http://www.ucalgary.ca/provost/students/ombuds>

Faculty of Arts Program Advising and Student Information Resources

- Have a question, but not sure where to start? The new Faculty of Arts Program Information Centre (PIC) is your information resource for everything in Arts! Drop in at SS102, call us at 403-220-3580 or email us at artsads@ucalgary.ca. You can also visit the Faculty of Arts website at <http://arts.ucalgary.ca/undergraduate> which has detailed information on common academic concerns.
- For program planning and advice, contact the Student Success Centre (formerly the Undergraduate programs Office) at (403) 220-5881 or visit them on the 3rd Floor of the Taylor Family Digital Library
- For registration (add/drop/swap), paying fees and assistance with your Student Centre, contact Enrolment Services at (403) 210-ROCK [7625] or visit them at the MacKimmie Library Block.