

BRESCIA UNIVERSITY COLLEGE

FRENCH-LANGUAGE INDIGENOUS LITERATURE AND CULTURE IN CANADA

FRENCH 3760F FALL 2017

Instructor: Dr. Carmen McCarron

Office: TBA

Office Hours: TBA

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COURSE TIMES AND LOCATION

Tuesday 9:30-11:30, BR-202

Thursday 9:30-10:30, BR-202

CURRENT CALENDAR DESCRIPTION

The question of how French-speaking Indigenous authors express themselves and their cultures through literature and film will be explored. A richly varied, emerging literary corpus will be studied, with an emphasis on Indigenous pedagogy. Students will gain knowledge of First Nations, Métis and Inuit peoples and perspectives.

PREREQUISITE: French 2600E or both French 2605F/G and 2606F/G or permission of the Department.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

In keeping with the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada's Calls to Action and Western University's Indigenous Strategic plan, this course will be based upon Indigenous content, and will incorporate Indigenous pedagogy in consultation with community elders and scholars. French-language Indigenous literature is a vibrant, emerging art form that will be discovered and appreciated by Indigenous and non-Indigenous students alike. Informed and respectful dialogue about the content and aesthetic forms of First Nations, Métis and Inuit literature and film originally produced in French will lead students to a deeper understanding of Indigenous peoples' identities, histories, cultures, struggles, and healing journeys across Quebec and French Canada. An important aim of this course will be to awaken in students an ongoing interest in various forms of Indigenous artistic expression and self-expression.

REQUIRED TEXTS

- Louis-Karl Picard-Siouï, *Yawendara et la forêt des têtes coupées*, 2005 (novel/modern legend)
- Naomi Fontaine, *Kuessipan*, 2011 (novel)
- Deni Ellis Béchard and Natasha Kanapé-Fontaine, *Kuei, je te salue: conversation sur le racisme*, 2016 (dialogue)

*Other texts will be accessed online or provided as photocopies (for example, the TRC Report and selected poems)

Film:

- Ce qu'il faut pour vivre*, Benoit Pilon (director), 2009
 - Maïna*, Michel Poulette (director), 2013
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MARKS DISTRIBUTION

Midterm	15%
Storytelling presentation	15%
Essay	15%
Reflective journal	15%
Participation & in-class activities	10%
Final exam	30%

MISSED OR LATE WORK POLICY

1. A student who misses a presentation or an assignment should contact me by e-mail as soon as possible at cmccarr3@uwo.ca.
 2. For any assignment or presentation worth 10% or more of the final grade, students must submit documentation and contact an academic advisor in order to obtain an official accommodation recommendation from an academic advisor.
 3. Late assignments worth 10% or less of the final grade will be assessed a penalty of 5% per day within a week of when it was scheduled. Failure to write it within this time will result in 0% for the assignment in question. Students must consult with the professor and a prior permission must be obtained before the due date.
 4. Late assignment must be submitted **in class** (not by e-mail, not under the professor's door).
 5. Oral presentations will NOT be re-scheduled. The final paper will be re-weighted to include the percentage of the final grade originally allotted to the oral presentation, provided an academic advisor has recommended an official accommodation.
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COURSE OBJECTIVES

- Exercise critical reading and thinking skills in a sensitive, respectful and collaborative environment.
 - Understand major themes and aesthetic tendencies in French-language Indigenous literature.
 - Appreciate the historical, political, and cultural context in which these themes and forms developed.
 - Develop an in-depth knowledge of several French-language Indigenous texts of various genres.
 - Analyze, compare and contrast assigned texts by applying tools of literary analysis and knowledge of the circumstances in which they were produced (the intellectual climate as well as the unique journey of the author and the author's community).
 - Focus, structure and compose an argumentative or expository essay in French.
 - Present a particular aspect of Indigenous literature, history, or culture in French, through traditional storytelling.
 - Consciously reflect on personal learning and reactions to new information and experiences by keeping a reflective journal.
 - Discover and articulate the originality, quality, strength and beauty of Canadian Indigenous artistic expression.
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BRESCIA COMPETENCIES

1. Communication

- Improve skills for active, respectful listening and sharing of ideas; encourage others' sharing of ideas.
- Formulate and articulate complex ideas and critical perspectives on literary texts and other cultural productions, both orally and in writing, in French.
- Show knowledge of history, politics and culture, as well as literary terms and concepts in order to discuss writing by French-speaking Indigenous authors.
- Practice receiving and conveying information across cultures.

2. Critical Thinking

- Evaluate divergent and challenging points of view expressed through literature or film, by applying previous and new interdisciplinary knowledge independently and with an open mind.
- Discover some of the central debates that surround Indigenous cultural production.

3. Inquiry and Analysis

- Read and appreciate literary discourse methodically, and in greater depth and detail, by applying tools of literary analysis and researching the specific circumstances of a text's production using different sources.
- Recognize patterns and connections between various literary works.

4. Self Awareness and Development

- Have the courage to try something new. Perceive new books that might at first seem daunting or outside one's comfort zone as an opportunity to learn and grow.
- Better understand and appreciate one's own Indigenous identity, or personal connections to Indigenous families, communities, histories and cultures. Feel pride in these identities and connections.
- Recognize and question personal biases that affect reception of ideas encountered in cultural productions, in particular productions that may cast Canadians of European descent or Indigenous individuals in a negative light.
- Develop a sense of humility with regard to Indigenous knowledge; recognize how much remains to be discovered and understood.
- Think deeply about personal reactions to learning experiences through reflective journaling.
- Integrate specific feedback to revise and improve work.

5. Social Awareness and Engagement

- Express knowledge of cultural diversity within Indigenous society, as understood through the study of varied French-language First Nations, Métis and Inuit literary texts and films.
- Ask deeper questions about Indigenous identities, histories, cultures and social issues, and begin seeking out answers to these questions.
- Think about how acquired knowledge and understanding can be applied in order to foster positive interactions between varied Indigenous and non-Indigenous individuals and groups and to support social justice and reconciliation.
- Take an interest in the issues and recommendations raised by the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada.

6. Valuing

- Perceive ethical and spiritual issues in texts and films, while exploring interrelationships between various issues and considering their implications.
- Recognize internal conflicts in relation to one's own values and social forces that shape these values, by contemplating personal reactions to Indigenous artistic expression.
- Develop or reinforce an appreciation of Indigenous cultures and forms of spirituality.
- Experience certain advantages of Indigenous teaching and learning first-hand; consider carrying the experience forward and sharing it with others.

2017-18 BRESCIA UNIVERSITY COLLEGE ACADEMIC POLICIES AND REGULATIONS

1. POLICY REGARDING MAKEUP EXAMS AND EXTENSIONS OF DEADLINES

When a student requests academic accommodation (e.g., extension of a deadline, a makeup exam) for work representing 10% or more of the student's overall grade in the course, it is the responsibility of the student to provide acceptable documentation to support a medical or compassionate claim. All such requests for academic accommodation **must** be made through an Academic Advisor and include supporting documentation. Academic accommodation for illness will be granted only if the documentation indicates that the onset, duration and severity of the illness are such that the student

could not reasonably be expected to complete her academic responsibilities. Minor ailments typically treated by over-the-counter medications will not normally be accommodated. Documentation shall be submitted as soon as possible to the student's Academic Advisor indicating the period of illness and when the student should be able to resume academic responsibilities. Students must submit their documentation along with a request for relief specifying the nature of the accommodation being requested no later than two business days after the date specified for resuming responsibilities. Appropriate academic accommodation will be determined by the Dean's Office in consultation with the student's instructor(s). Please note that personal commitments (e.g., vacation flight bookings, work schedule) which conflict with a scheduled test, exam or course requirement are **not** grounds for academic accommodation.

A UWO Student Medical Certificate (SMC) is **required** if a student is seeking academic accommodation on medical grounds. This documentation should be obtained at the time of the initial consultation with the physician/nurse practitioner or walk-in clinic. A SMC can be downloaded from: http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/medicalform.pdf. The student must request documentation sufficient to demonstrate that her ability to meet academic responsibilities was seriously affected. Please note that under University Senate regulations documentation stating simply that the student "was seen for a medical reason" or "was ill" is **not** adequate to support a request for academic accommodation.

Whenever possible, requests for academic accommodation should be initiated in advance of due dates, examination dates, etc. Students must follow up with their professors and Academic Advisor in a timely manner.

The full policy on requesting accommodation due to illness can be viewed at: <http://westerncalendar.uwo.ca/2017/pg117.html>

2. ACADEMIC CONCERNS

If you feel that you have a medical or personal problem that is interfering with your work, contact your instructor and Academic Advisor as soon as possible. Problems may then be documented and possible arrangements to assist you can be discussed at the time of occurrence rather than on a retroactive basis. Retroactive requests for academic accommodation on medical or compassionate grounds may not be considered.

If you think that you are too far behind to catch up or that your work load is not manageable, you should consult an Academic Advisor. If you consider reducing your workload by dropping one or more courses, this must be done by the appropriate deadlines (refer to the Registrar's website, <http://brescia.uwo.ca/academics/registrar-services/> or the list of official dates <http://westerncalendar.uwo.ca/2017/pg7.html>). You should consult with the course instructor and the Academic Advisor who can help you consider alternatives to dropping one or more courses. *Note that dropping a course may affect OSAP eligibility and/or Entrance Scholarship eligibility.*

The Dean may refuse permission to write the final examination in a course if the student has failed to maintain satisfactory academic standing throughout the year or for too frequent absence from the class or laboratory (<http://westerncalendar.uwo.ca/2017/pg130.html>)

3. ABSENCES

Short Absences: If you miss a class due to a minor illness or other problems, check your course outline for information regarding attendance requirements and make sure you are not missing a test or assignment. Cover any readings and arrange to borrow notes from a classmate. Contact the course instructor if you have any questions.

Extended Absences: If you have an extended absence, you should contact the course instructor and an Academic Advisor. Your course instructor and Academic Advisor can discuss ways for you to catch up on missed work and arrange academic accommodations, if appropriate.

4. POLICY ON CHEATING & ACADEMIC MISCONDUCT

Scholastic offences are taken seriously and students are directed to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitutes a Scholastic Offence, at the following Web site: http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/scholastic_discipline_undergrad.pdf.

Students are responsible for understanding the nature of and avoiding the occurrence of plagiarism and other academic offences. Students are urged to read the section on Scholastic Offences in the Academic Calendar. Note that such offences include plagiarism, cheating on an examination, submitting false or fraudulent assignments or credentials, impersonating a candidate, or submitting for credit in any course without the knowledge and approval of the instructor to whom it is submitted, any academic work for which credit has previously been obtained or is being sought in another course in the University or elsewhere. Students are advised to consult the section on Academic Misconduct in the Western Academic Calendar.

If you are in doubt about whether what you are doing is inappropriate or not, consult your instructor, the Student Services Centre, or the Registrar. A claim that "you didn't know it was wrong" is not accepted as an excuse.

The penalties for a student guilty of a scholastic offence (including plagiarism) include refusal of a passing grade in the assignment, refusal of a passing grade in the course, suspension from the University, and expulsion from the University.

Plagiarism:

Students must write their essays and assignments in their own words. Whenever students take an idea or a passage from another author, they must acknowledge their debt both by using quotation marks where appropriate and by proper referencing such as footnotes or citations. Plagiarism is a major academic offence (see Scholastic Offence Policy in the Western Academic Calendar).

All required papers may be subject to submission for textual similarity review to the commercial plagiarism detection software under license to the University for the detection of plagiarism. All papers submitted for such checking will be included as source documents in the reference database for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of papers subsequently submitted to the system. Use of the service is subject to the licensing agreement, currently between The University of Western Ontario and Turnitin.com (<http://www.turnitin.com>).

Computer-marked Tests/exams:

Computer-marked multiple-choice tests and/or exams may be subject to submission for similarity review by software that will check for unusual coincidences in answer patterns that may indicate cheating. Software currently in use to score computer-marked multiple-choice tests and exams performs a similarity review as part of standard exam analysis.

5. PROCEDURES FOR APPEALING ACADEMIC EVALUATIONS

All appeals of a grade must be directed first to the course instructor. If the student is not satisfied with the decision of the course instructor, a written appeal signed by the student must be sent to the Department Chair. If the response of the department is considered unsatisfactory to the student, she may then submit a signed, written appeal to the Office of the Dean. Only after receiving a final decision from the Dean may a student appeal to the Senate Review Board Academic. A Guide to Appeals is available from the Ombudsperson's Office, or you can consult an Academic Advisor. Students are advised to consult the section on Student Academic Appeals under Academic Rights and Responsibilities in the Western Academic Calendar (<http://westerncalendar.uwo.ca/2017/pg112.html>).

Note that final course marks are not official until the Academic Dean has reviewed and signed the final grade report for the course. If course marks deviate from acceptable and appropriate standards, the Academic Dean may require grades to be adjusted to align them with accepted grading practices

(http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/exam/evaluation_undergrad.pdf and http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/exam/finalgrades.pdf).

6. PREREQUISITES

Unless you have either the prerequisites for a course or written special permission from your Dean to enroll in it, you will be removed from the course and it will be deleted from your record. This decision may not be appealed. You will receive no adjustment to your fees in the event that you are dropped from a course for failing to have the necessary prerequisite(s).

7. SUPPORT

Support Services

The Brescia University College Registrar's website, with a link to Academic Advisors, is at <http://brescia.uwo.ca/academics/registrar-services/>. The website for the Student Development Centre at Western is <http://www.sdc.uwo.ca/>.

Mental Health and Wellness

Students may experience a range of issues that can cause barriers to your learning, such as increased anxiety, feeling overwhelmed, feeling down or lost, difficulty concentrating and/or lack of motivation. Services are available to assist you with addressing these and other concerns you may be experiencing. You can learn more about mental health and wellness at Brescia at <http://brescia.uwo.ca/life/mental-health-wellness/>. Students who are in emotional/mental distress should refer to Mental_Health@Western <http://www.uwo.ca/uwocom/mentalhealth/> for a complete list of options about how to obtain help.

Sexual Violence

All members of the Brescia University College community have a right to work and study in an environment that is free from any form of sexual violence. Brescia University College recognizes that the prevention of, and response to, Sexual Violence is of particular importance in the university environment. Sexual Violence is strictly prohibited and unacceptable and will not be tolerated. Brescia is committed to preventing Sexual Violence and creating a safe space for anyone in the Brescia community who has experienced Sexual Violence.

If you or someone you know has experienced any form of Sexual Violence, you may access resources at <http://brescia.uwo.ca/life/sexual-violence/>.

Portions of this document were taken from the Academic Calendar, the Handbook of Academic and Scholarship Policy and the Academic Handbook of Senate Regulations. This document is a summary of relevant regulations and does not supersede the academic policies and regulations of the Senate of the University of Western Ontario.