

GRANDE PRAIRIE REGIONAL COLLEGE
The Department of
ARTS, EDUCATION, & COMMERCE

JAN 1999

COURSE OUTLINE

ENGLISH 4101L: STUDIES IN MAJOR AUTHORS: MARGARET LAURENCE

CREDITS: 3 (3-0) (EN 4101 can be taken for credit more than once if it is a different author each time)

LEVEL: 4th year English Literature

COURSE INSTRUCTOR: Dr. Elroy Deimert, PhD (AU category A)
Office C426 Telephone 539-2984

PREREQUISITE: EN 1010, EN 1000, or equivalent

APPLICABLE PROGRAMS: BA English, BA Canadian Studies, B.ED
English major or minor, elective for any BA

METHOD OF DELIVERY: GPRC, Classroom modes--lecture & seminar.
GPRC Bookstore supplies all texts

CLASS SIZE: The maximum is 35

CLASS SCHEDULE: FALL, Sept. to Dec. Wednesday 13:00-15:50

SCOPE: EN 4101L Studies in Major Authors: Margaret Laurence
examines the major works of one of Canada's foremost (and most widely read) writers of fiction. Reading and analysis concentrates on Laurence's development as a spokesperson for regional culture, national culture, and for women's issues on an international level. Students also examine her changing aesthetics in fiction from her early modern novels to the postmodern aspects of The Diviners. Her increasing social and political engagement is traced both in her fiction and in her autobiography.

EVALUATION: Two RESEARCHED term essays: each--25% 2500 w/min.

Two seminars: each--15% 25 minutes approximately. Seminars should address 1) theme 2) some aspect(s) of style or structure 3) critics 4) importance or relevance to Canadian culture or literature & 5) relevant biographical material, (in that descending order of importance). Class discussion is to be encouraged during seminars.

Final in-class essays 20%

EN 4101L Studies in Major Authors: Margaret Laurence

CALENDAR DESCRIPTION: As part of the EN 4101 Major Authors series, students in EN 4101L study all of the critically acclaimed fiction of Margaret Laurence, along with her autobiography as a background to her development as a writer and a social critic.

TEXTS:

- Laurence, M. This Side Jordan. 1960.
---. The Tomorrow Tamer. 1963.
---. Stone Angel. 1964.
---. A Jest of God. 1966.
---. The Fire-Dwellers. 1969.
---. A Bird in the House. 1970.
---. The Diviners. 1974.

BOOKS ON RESERVE: SOME CONTAIN REQUIRED READING

- Laurence, M. Dance on Earth: a Memoir. 1980. (Autobiography)
---. A Tree for Poverty. Translated by M. Laurence, 1954.
---. The Prophet's Camel Bell. 1963.
Laurence's children's literature, as well as selected critical readings by Laurence and her critics.

SUPPLEMENTARY MATERIALS: provided through GPRC Library and Media Services. GPRC is a member of NORALINK.

INSTRUCTIONAL DESIGN & CURRICULUM:

Classes consist of the instructor's lectures and students' seminars on individual works, followed by discussion and the instructor's summary. Chronology of publication usually dictate the weekly units since students study developments in Laurence's socio-political consciousness and writing style. Two weeks or more are spent on each major novel like Stone Angel or The Diviners. Two film adaptations of her novels are considered for their thematic depths and their comparative artistic integrity. Possible developments in her style from modernism to postmodernism are debated and discussed, but thematic elements are the focus. If they are available, established critics of Laurence's works are invited to address the class.