

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

COURSE OUTLINE Jan. 2004

ENGLISH 4101 Major Authors series: W.O. Mitchell, MacLeod, Vanderhaeghe, Catherine Simmons Niven

CREDIT: 3 (3-0-0) UT 45 hrs

LEVEL: Senior English Literature

INSTRUCTOR: Dr. Elroy Deimert, PhD
office: C426 phone: 539-2984 fax: 538-3907 E-MAIL: deimert@gprc.ab.ca

PREREQUISITE: EN 1010 or EN 1000

APPLICABLE PROGRAMS: B.A., B.Ed., elective for other degrees, Canadian Content

METHOD OF DELIVERY: GPRC, Classroom modes--mostly seminars with some lectures.

CLASS SIZE: on average between 10 & 20, but the official maximum is 35

CLASS SCHEDULE: Winter semester, Jan. 6 through April 16 Tue: 6 pm to 8:50pm

SCOPE: This version of ENGLISH 4101 covers a selection of 3 Western Canadian and 1 Atlantic Canadian authors whose fiction has challenged the central Canadian dominance in this genre. From the Canadian prairie classic, *Who Has Seen the Wind*, to the Dublin IMPAC Award winning *No Great Mischief*, the novels and short stories demonstrate the powerful sense of place and the quality for which Canadian fiction has become famous. Students will evaluate the style and themes from some of the best fiction of these writers, looking at the socio-economic, cultural, and environmental influences reflected in the fiction.

CALENDAR DESCRIPTION: A senior seminar course in major authors.... Specific offerings on individual authors for any given year will be announced and tentative course outlines made available prior to registration. Notes: providing you undertake different authors each time, you may take EN 4101 for credit as often as you wish.

TEXTS: MacLeod, Alistair. *Island* & *No Great Mischief*
Mitchell, W.O. *Who Has Seen the Wind* (original longer version only) and
Since Daisy Creek.
Simmons Niven, Catherine. *A Fine Daughter*
Vanderhaeghe, Guy. *Man Descending, My Present Age,*
The Englishman's Boy, and *The Last Crossing*

ON RESERVE THAT CONTAIN SOME REQUIRED READINGS

Bakhtin, M. M. *The Dialogic Imagination*. U of Texas Press.

Cooley, Dennis. *The Vernacular Muse*

Deimert, Elroy. *Voices from the Regions*: Dissertation, U.of Alta. 1994.

SUPPLEMENTARY MATERIALS: GPRC Library and Media & Services and NEOS

INSTRUCTIONAL DESIGN & CURRICULUM: Students deliver seminars on individual works, followed by class discussion and lectures. Lectures address theme, style, and structure, as well as the cultural, social, and historical milieu that illuminates the work. Movements and developments in the genre will also be noted. Students learn to appreciate and critique the literature through expository essays, seminar presentation, and verbal discussion, all aimed at achieving acceptable literary standards in criticism. Lectures, seminars, film, debate of aesthetic issues, critical research, and analytical writing are all employed toward this end.

EVALUATION: 2 researched essays, min. length 8 pages (plus quoted support): 50%

-the first essay is worth 25% and the second is worth 25%

-2 short oral presentations 15% each

-2 in-class essays during the last class of the term: 5% each

-quality of participation in class is worth 10% and must be earned through showing familiarity with the work, contributing to thematic analysis, attending all classes and having the works read on time, and attending readings or literary events that are declared part of the course.

Tentative Class Schedule:

Jan. 6 Introduction to the course: Introduction to *Who Has Seen the Wind*

Jan. 13 *Who Has Seen the Wind*, W.O. Mitchell. Lecture

Jan 20 Mitchell seminars by students on *Who Has Seen the Wind*

Jan 27 Mitchell, *Who Has Seen the Wind* concluding debate. Introduction to *Since Daisy Creek*

Feb. 3 *Since Daisy Creek*, Student Seminars (W.O. Mitchell). Introduction to Alistair MacLeod,

Feb. 10. *Island: the Collected Stories*. Student seminar

Feb. 24 Alistair MacLeod, *Island: the Collected Stories*. student seminars & lecture. **First Essay due**

Mar. 2 Alistair MacLeod Intro. to *No Great Mischief*. Student seminars on *No Great Mischief*

Mar. 9 Student seminars, *No Great Mischief*, &/or on his short fiction. Intro. lecture to Simmons Niven.

Mar 16 Catherine Simmons Niven *A Fine Daughter* (seminars). Intro. to Vanderhaeghe.

Mar 23 Student seminars on Vanderhaeghe's short fiction *Man Descending* & *Things As They Are?*

Mar 30 Student seminars *My Present Age*, and *The Englishman's Boy* (**Second Essay due**)

April 6 Student seminars on *The Englishman's Boy* & *The Last Crossing*

April 13 Remaining student seminars. **In-class essays** (60 minutes)