

GRANDE PRAIRIE REGIONAL COLLEGE / ATHABASCA UNIVERSITY

1994/5

DEPARTMENT ARTS, EDUCATION, & COMMERCE

- COURSE:** EN 4370 (437 at AU):  
LITERATURE OF THE CANADIAN WEST
- INSTRUCTOR:** Elroy Deimert
- CREDIT:** 6(3-0) Athabasca University (residency) / GPRC UT (6)
- PREREQUISITE:** 1) EN 1010 2) EN3720 or other Can. Lit., or consent of the instructor.
- DESCRIPTION:** Students study major authors and representative works from 20th-century literature of the Canadian West. The following themes and questions are among those considered in this course: the relationship of landscape and social milieu to the literature; isolation and alienation in the literature as described by some major thematic critical studies; Historical and cultural milieu, colonization, imperialism, and white perspectives of native peoples; the relationships of mythology, idyll, and realism in this literature; individuation of women and men in the emerging social and cultural orders; changing roles, attitudes, and mores related to gender; modernism and postmodernism in the literature and in the criticism.
- OBJECTIVES & STRATEGIES** We will endeavour to expose students to a wide range of modern and contemporary literature from the Canadian West, as well as to some Canadian literary criticism that has been influential in appreciation of this literature. Students will be encouraged to critique the literature through expository writing and verbal discussion at acceptable standards of rigour. Lectures, student seminars, discussion groups, critical research and essays are some strategies used toward these ends.
- REQUIREMENTS:**
- 1 shorter critical essay--about 1500 words....10%
  - 2 researched essays--2500 words each ....(2X) 20%
  - 2 oral presentations (seminars).....(2X) 10%
  - 2 short in-class essays (near midterm).....10%
  - 2 short in-class essays (final class).....20%
- Attendance is required at all classes and students are responsible for all materials, announcements, and deadlines covered in class. Marks will be lost for late papers and missed assignments.

COURSE MATERIALS: Required texts include the following:

Anthologies: The Last Map Is the Heart. ed. A. Forrie, et al.  
No Feather, No Ink. ed. A. Forrie  
A Sudden Radiance ed. L. Crozier & G. Hyland

Individual works:

Annett, Ross. Especiallly Babe.  
Allen, Ralph. Peace River Country.  
Birdsell, S. Night Travellers.  
Blondel, P. A Candle To Light the Sun.  
Hodgson, J. Spit Delaney's Island.  
Kroetch, R. The Studhorse Man.  
Mitchell, W.O. Who Has Seen the Wind.  
Laurence, M. A Bird In the House.  
O'Hagan, H. Tay John.  
Ostenso, M. Wild Geese.  
Roas, S. As For Me and My House.  
Vanderhaeghe. Man Descending.  
Van Herk, A. Judith.  
Wiebe, R. The Scorched-Wood People.

Criticism and anthologies on reserve:

Cooley, D. The Vernacular Muse & Inscriptions: A Prairie Poetry Anthology  
Harrison, D. Unnamed Country  
Lee, D. ed. The New Canadian Poets.

SUPPLEMENTARY MATERIALS: provided through GPRC library and media services. GPRC is a member of Noralink.

STUDENT EVALUATION: 1 brief critical essay (1500 words) 10%  
2 researched critical essays (2500) 20% each  
2 oral presentations (seminars) 10% each  
2 short in-class essays (midterm) 10%  
2 short in-class essays (final) 20%

All of these are graded by the instructor only.

INSTRUCTIONAL DESIGN: Please see OBJECTIVES & STRATEGIES in the course outline included.

CURRICULUM: The creative works will be dealt with in chronological order, as a rule. The poetry is divided into units to show movements and development both thematically and in the poetica. The seven categories mentioned in the course description (see COURSE OUTLINE) are dealt with in the approximate sequence in which they are listed allowing for the unique questions forced upon the reader by each work studied.