

GRANDE PRAIRIE REGIONAL COLLEGE / ATHABASCA UNIVERSITY

994/5

DEPARTMENT OF ARTS, EDUCATION, AND COMMERCE

COURSE: EN 4500 (450 at AU):
COMPARATIVE CANADIAN LITERATURE

INSTRUCTOR: Elroy Deiwert

CREDIT: 6(3-0) Athabasca University (residency) / GPRC UT (6)

PREREQUISITE: 1) EN 1010 2) EN 3720 or other Can. Lit., or consent
of the instructor.

DESCRIPTION: Students study Canada's two major literary traditions including the relationship between English-Canadian and French-Canadian literature, as well as the role of ethnic, immigrant, and regional literature in this relationship. The following themes and questions are among those explored: the geographical, social, cultural, and historical milieu of Canadian society and its literatures; nationalism and regionalism, including the origin and creation of national and regional myth; comparative studies of voices reflecting gender-related experience and minority related experience; comparative literary theories in Canada. Genres studied are predominantly poetry, short fiction, and the novel. All French works are studied in English translation.

OBJECTIVES & STRATEGIES We will endeavour to expose students to a wide range of modern and contemporary English-Canadian Literature and French-Canadian Literature in translation, along with critical techniques in comparative literature and Canadian comparative literary studies. Students will be encouraged to appreciate and compare the literature critically through expository writing and verbal discussion at acceptable standards of rigour. Lectures, student seminars, discussion groups, critical research and essays are some strategies employed 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.

ENGLISH 4500

COURSE MATERIALS: Required texts include the following:

Anthologies: Literature in Canada: Vol. 2. Ed. Daymond & Monkman
From Ink Lake. ed. Michael Ondaatje
The Oxford Book of French-Canadian Short Stories.
ed. R. Teleky

Individual Works:

French Fiction in Translation:

Aquin, Hubert Prochain Episode
Beauchemin, Y. The Alley Cat
Blaise, M. A Season in the Life of Emmanuel.
Hebert, Anne. Kamouraska
Heson, Louis. Maria Chapdelaine
Ringuet. Thirty Acres
Roy, G. The Tin Flute

English Fiction:

Laurence, M. The Diviners
MacLeod, A. Lost Salt Gift of Blood
Mitchell, W. Who Has Seen the Wind
Munro, A. Who Do You Think You Are
Ondaatje, M. In the Skin of a Lion
O'Hagan, H. Tay John
Vanderhaeghe. Things as They Are?

Critical Works and Anthologies on reserve:

Blodgett, E.D. Configurations
Cogswell, F. The Poetry of Modern Quebec
Glassco, J. The Poetry of French Canada
Stratford, P. All the Polarities
Shek, Ben-2. French-Canadian & Quebecois Novels
Urba, J. From Thirty Acres to Modern Times

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, usually, except where pairing a French and English text seems appropriate. The poetry is divided into units to show development both thematically and in the poetics. Commonalities and contrasts in themes and forms are noted and discussed.