

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

COURSE OUTLINE

**ENGLISH 4730: STUDIES IN "CANADIAN" NATIVE LITERATURE:
MYTHOLOGY, REALISM, & PROTEST**

CREDITS: 3 (2-1) **LEVEL:** 4th year English Literature

COURSE INSTRUCTOR: Dr. Elroy Deimert, PhD
Office C208 Telephone 539-2984

PREREQUISITE: EN 1010 or equivalent

APPLICABLE PROGRAMS: BA English, BA Canadian Studies, Native
Studies

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

CLASS SIZE: The maximum is 35

CLASS SCHEDULE: Winter Semester January to April,
Wednesday 13:00-15:50

SCOPE: EN 4730 examines a variety of genres in native literature in the context of the historical, political, and social milieu of Northern "new world" native culture. Strictly speaking, the scope is broader than "Canadian" native literature for a number of reasons: 1) We recognize the Canadian-American boundaries modern national distinctions to be foreign historically to this region's native cultures; several aboriginal heritages exist on either side of the Canadian/American border. 2) Imposed social categories like status, non-status, Metis, and White are largely ignored in the attempt to study a broad spectrum of literature reflecting the aboriginal cultures. 3) We study influences on our native genres. For example, American native protest literature, written by both natives and whites, deeply influences both our protest and our traditional genres, while other "American" aboriginal mythologies also occasionally influence "Canadian" native literatures. 4) As well, the course briefly studies the effect of Native mythology on literature written by non-natives, like O'Hagan's Tay John, especially when it deals with the clash of imperial European and aboriginal cultures.

**Studies in "Canadian" Native Literature:
Mythology, Realism, & Protest**

CALENDAR DESCRIPTION: Students study "Canadian" native literature and the aboriginal influence within "Canadian" and "Northern" culture. This includes Native mythology, realism, protest, and humour in a variety of genres. It examines aboriginal history, culture, philosophy, and modern conflicts as reflected in the creative literature addressing these subjects.

TEXTS:

- Campbell, Maria. Halfbreed.
Culleton, Beatrice. In Search of April Raintree. Pemmican, 1983.
Grant, Agnes, ed. Our Bit of Truth: an Anthology of Canadian Native Literature. Pemmican, 1990.
Highway, Tomson. Dry Lips Oughtta Move to Kapuskasing. Fifth House, 1989.
King, Thomas. Green Grass, Running Water. Harper, 1993.
Moses, Daniel David. An Anthology of Canadian Native Literature in English. OUP, 1992.
O'Hagan, Howard. Tay John. 1960. M&S, 1974.
Perrault, J. and S. Vance, ed. Writing the Circle: Native Women of Western Canada. NeWest, 1990.
Slipperjack, Ruby. Honour the Sun. Pemmican, 1987.
Wagamese, Richard. Keeper'n Me. Doubleday, 1994.

BOOKS ON RESERVE THAT CONTAIN SOME REQUIRED BACKGROUND READINGS

- Birdsell, Sandra. "The Flood," "Boundary Lines," "Journey to the Lake." From "Night Travellers". General, 1984.
Brown, Dee. Bury My Heart at Wounded Knee. Holt, 1970.
Clark, E. E. Indian Legends of Canada. M&S, 1960.
Deloria, Vine. We Talk, You Listen.
Forrie, A. No Feather, No Ink. Thistledown.
Hausman, Gerald. Tunkashila. St. Martin's Press, 1993.
King, Thomas, ed. All My Relations: an Anthology of Contemporary Canadian Native Fiction. M&S, 1990.
Mowat, Farley. "The Iron Men." From The Snow-Walker.
Neihardt, J. G. Black Elk Speaks. 1939. Pocket Books, 1959.
Petroni, P. Northern Voices: Inuit Writing in English. UTP 1988.
Ryga, George. The Ecstasy of Rita Joe.

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

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INSTRUCTIONAL DESIGN & CURRICULUM: Students do seminars on individual works, followed by class discussion and lectures. Lectures on background material provide a context for the cultural and genres. Film, relevant native experiences, and oral tales from natives on local reserves all supplement the readings. Chronology dictates the units to some extent, with native myth and contemporary literary reaction to native mythology preceding literature of protest and contemporary realism. If they are available, native writers, shamans, and spokespersons for native protest movements shall be invited to address the class.

EVALUATION: Two term essays: each worth 25%
Two seminars: each worth 15%
Final in-class essays 20%