**30.363 Canadian Literature to 1990**

Winter 2023

**Instructor:** Dr. Reinhold Kramer

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**Course Description:**  This course examines Canadian novels, short stories, and poetry written before 1990. Fiction could include stories by Gallant, Birdsell, and Mistry, as well as novels

Leonard Cohen

by Duncan (*Set in Authority*), Roy (*Where Nests the Water Hen*),

Richler (*St. Urbain’s Horseman*), and Kroetsch (*What the Crow Said*). Poetry will consist of one or two

books of poetry, possibly Cohen’s *Stranger Music*, Atwood’s *Selected Poems*, or McFadden’s *Gypsy Guitar*. Titles may change with little notice.

**Assignments:**

 1. Reading tests (on *entire* novels)  **Jan. 11, 25, Feb. 27, Mar. 24** 10%

 2. Class Participation 10%

 3. In-class Essay/Test  **Feb. 17**  20%

 4. Term Paper (10-12 pages) **Mar. 20**  20%

 5. Final Exam **Apr. 18 2-4 p.m.**  40%

There may be penalties for lateness, depending upon circumstances. Reading tests cannot be postponed and missed tests cannot be rewritten without a doctor’s note or other documentation. Cite all your sources – assignments containing plagiarism will be graded “0” and result in disciplinary action. Please read BU UndergraduateCalendar 3.14 “Academic Integrity” and William Messenger p. 420-8. No cellphone use in class.

For the very shy: in place of “class participation,” you may hand in, up to 5 times during the course, short (1-page, double-spaced, typed) analyses, not plot summaries, of a portion of the work under discussion that day. These analyses must be handed in *before* the work is discussed in class and are worth 2% each. No analyses will be accepted after class discussions for *any* reason.

Students who require disability accommodations should register with the Accessibility Services Coordinator, 204-727-9759, magnussonm@brandonu.ca. Student Services also offers personal counselling (contact 204-727-9737). If students find controversial readings and/or discussions troubling, please contact the instructor immediately about alternatives.

**Grading: Letter/Number/Grade Point**

Outstanding Good Satisfactory Weak Inadequate

A+ 90 & up 4.3 B+ 77-79 3.3 C+ 67-69 2.3 D 50-59 1.0 F 0-49 0

A 85-89 4.0 B 73-76 3.0 C 63-66 2.0

A- 80-84 3.7 B- 70-72 2.7 C- 60-62 1.7

**Texts:**

Jane Urquhart, ed. *The Penguin Book of Canadian Short Stories*. 9780143054436

Cohen, Leonard. *Stranger Music: Selected Poems and Songs*, McClelland. 978-0771022326

Duncan, Sara Jeannette. *Set in Authority*. Broadview. 9780771093876

Kroetsch, Robert. *What the Crow Said*. U of Alberta P. 9780888643032

Messenger, William, et. al. *Writing English: The Canadian Handbook*. (optional)

Richler, Mordecai. *St. Urbain’s Horseman*. McClelland. 9780771075193

Roy, Gabrielle. *Where Nests the Water Hen*. McClelland. 9781551110806

**Tentative Schedule:**

Jan. 4, 6 Introduction to Canadian culture

 mimesis & fiction

 9 Montgomery, “Dog Monday’s Vigil” (1921)

 Roberts, “Strayed” (1896)

Jan. 11 - 23 Roy, *Where Nests the Water Hen* (1950)

Jan. 25 - Feb. 8 Richler, *St. Urbain’s Horseman* (1971)

Feb. 10 Gallant, “Voices Lost in Snow” (1976)

Feb. 13 Laurence, “Horses of the Night” (1967)

Feb. 15 Munro, “Meneseteung” (1990)

**Feb. 17**  **Mid-term** **Test**

Feb. 27 - Mar. 10 Duncan, *Set in Authority* (1906)

Mar. 13 Cohen, “Song for Abraham Klein” 25, “The Cuckold’s Song” 33, “For E.J.P.” 80,

 “The Stranger Song” 111, “Story of Isaac” 139, “Seems So Long Ago, Nancy”

 143, “Bird on a Wire” 144, “Famous Blue Raincoat” 153, “Who by Fire?” 207,

 15 “The Café” & Commentary 222, “This Marriage” & Commentaries 235, “It’s

 Probably Spring” & Commentary 238, “The Asthmatic” & Commentary 242,

 17 “Roshi” 275, “How to Speak Poetry” & Commentary 287, “I Stopped to

 Listen” 313, “When I Left the King” 314, “I Heard My Soul Singing” 315, “I

 Draw Aside the Curtain” 320, “Holy is Your Name” 331, “All My Life” 333,

 **20** **Paper Due**

 “Take This Waltz” 353, “The Tower of Song” 363, “The Future” 370, “Closing

 Time” 378, “When Even The” 388

 22 Vanderhaeghe, “Ray” (1992)

Mar. 24 - Apr. 5 Kroetsch, *What the Crow Said* (1978)

Apr. 5 Mistry, “The Collectors” (1987)

Review

**Apr. 18 Final Exam, Tuesday, 2-4 p.m.**