



**DEPARTMENT OF ARTS & EDUCATION**

**COURSE OUTLINE – Winter 2015**

**EN3760 (A3): Canadian Literature: Contemporary and Postmodern, 1960 to Present – 3 (3-0-0) 45 Hours**

**INSTRUCTOR:** Craig Smith

**PHONE:** 7805392894

**OFFICE:** C-308

**E-MAIL:** CrSmith@gprc.ab.ca

**OFFICE HOURS:** Mondays and Wednesdays: 1:00-2:00 p.m. or by appointment

**PREREQUISITE(S)/COREQUISITE:** Six credits of Junior English

**REQUIRED TEXT/RESOURCE MATERIALS:**

Atwood, Margaret. *Surfacing*.

King, Thomas. *Green Grass, Running Water*.

Richards, David Adams. *Hope in the Desperate Hour*.

Wiebe, Rudy and Yvonne Johnson. *Stolen Life*.

Other class readings will be posted to Moodle; it is your responsibility to ensure that you are able to access and read these documents well in advance of the class in which they will be discussed.

**CALENDAR DESCRIPTION:** A study of contemporary and postmodern works written since 1960 by Canadian authors like Laurence, Highway, Munro, Ondaatje, Urquhart, MacLeod, Vanderhaeghe, Crozier, Brand and Wayman.

**CREDIT/CONTACT HOURS:** 3 credits / 3 hours per week

**DELIVERY MODE(S):** Lecture/discussion

**OBJECTIVES (OPTIONAL):** In this course we will consider a range of Canadian poetry and prose from 1960 to the present. In doing so, we will explore questions of national identity, issues of language and of voice, the uses of the past, and the politics of representation in contemporary Canadian literature. Our goal will be to discover how the fiction and poetry produced in Canada over the last half century have contributed to (and questioned) our sense of who we are and also how they have intervened culturally and politically in Canadian life.

**TRANSFERABILITY:** University of Alberta \*

University of Calgary \*

University of Lethbridge

Athabasca University \*

Augustana Faculty, University of Alberta \*

Concordia University College \*

Canadian University College

Grant MacEwan University

King's University College \*

Other (transfers in combination with other courses or to other institutions)

\* An asterisk (\*) beside any transfer institution indicates important transfer information. Consult the Alberta Transfer Guide.

\*\* Grade of D or D+ may not be acceptable for transfer to other post-secondary institutions. Students are cautioned that it is their responsibility to contact the receiving institutions to ensure transferability

**GRADING CRITERIA:**

Participation: 10 %

Presentation: 15%

Essay 1: 10%

Essay 2: 25%

Moodle Discussion Questions: 10%

Final Exam: 30%

<b>GRANDE PRAIRIE REGIONAL COLLEGE</b>			
<b>GRADING CONVERSION CHART</b>			
<b>Alpha Grade</b>	<b>4-point Equivalent</b>	<b>Percentage Guidelines</b>	<b>Designation</b>
<b>A<sup>+</sup></b>	<b>4.0</b>	<b>90 – 100</b>	<b>EXCELLENT</b>
<b>A</b>	<b>4.0</b>	<b>85 – 89</b>	
<b>A<sup>-</sup></b>	<b>3.7</b>	<b>80 – 84</b>	<b>FIRST CLASS STANDING</b>
<b>B<sup>+</sup></b>	<b>3.3</b>	<b>77 – 79</b>	
<b>B</b>	<b>3.0</b>	<b>73 – 76</b>	<b>GOOD</b>
<b>B<sup>-</sup></b>	<b>2.7</b>	<b>70 – 72</b>	
<b>C<sup>+</sup></b>	<b>2.3</b>	<b>67 – 69</b>	<b>SATISFACTORY</b>
<b>C</b>	<b>2.0</b>	<b>63 – 66</b>	
<b>C<sup>-</sup></b>	<b>1.7</b>	<b>60 – 62</b>	
<b>D<sup>+</sup></b>	<b>1.3</b>	<b>55 – 59</b>	<b>MINIMAL PASS</b>
<b>D</b>	<b>1.0</b>	<b>50 – 54</b>	
<b>F</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0 – 49</b>	<b>FAIL</b>
<b>WF</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>FAIL, withdrawal after the deadline</b>

**EVALUATIONS:** Participation is not a mere formality but a vital part of the college learning experience. Given that this is a smaller class, active participation is especially important. I consider active participation to include answering and posing questions in class, emailing me with questions and comments regarding the readings, lectures, or discussions, and coming to office hours to continue an in-class discussion.

Students are also expected to contribute to the class by taking a leading role in facilitating class discussion. This will take place in two ways:

- (1) Each student will be responsible for delivering one 10-15 minute presentation on one of the assigned texts. A maximum of three students may sign up to

deliver presentations on a longer work, but for shorter works the limit is one student per text. If more than one student chooses to present on the same book, there will be only one student presentation per class.

- (2) Twice during the semester, each student will be responsible for helping to set the agenda for class discussion by posting 2 discussion questions to Moodle. These questions must pertain to the assigned reading(s) for the next class and must be posted no less than 12 hours before class begins. No more than two students will be permitted to post discussion questions per class.

A final examination will be scheduled in April by the registrar; students should avoid making travel plans before this exam date is available.

#### **STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES:**

1. Written assignments are to be submitted directly to me as a hard copy. I will not accept electronic copies. It is the student's responsibility to retain a copy of ALL assignments submitted for grading; in the unlikely event of theft or loss, a duplicate copy must be available upon request.

2. Written assignments are to be submitted *on time*. This means that they are due *before the beginning of class*. Late assignments will incur a penalty of 5% per day, with weekends counting as one day. Assignments more than one week late forfeit the right to full commentary.

3. Extensions will not be granted for written assignments except in extenuating circumstances. Documentation will be required.

4. Students are expected to attend *all* classes. Unexcused absences will negatively affect the participation component of a student's grade.

5. Students are required to check the Moodle site for this course before each class to stay informed concerning course updates and announcements. Students are expected to come to each class having read the assigned text(s) and should also be prepared to

answer any discussion questions posted by other students.

6. Cellphones are to be turned off and kept out of sight during class time. Students who text while the instructor and/or other students are speaking will lose marks for participation.

**STATEMENT ON PLAGIARISM AND CHEATING:**

Please note that plagiarism constitutes a serious form of student misconduct, and I take it very seriously. Refer to the College Policy and feel free to consult me at any time during the semester if you have any questions or concerns.

Refer to the College Policy on Student Misconduct: Plagiarism and Cheating at

[https://www.gprc.ab.ca/files/forms\\_documents/Student\\_Misconduct.pdf](https://www.gprc.ab.ca/files/forms_documents/Student_Misconduct.pdf)

\*\*Note: all Academic and Administrative policies are available at

<https://www.gprc.ab.ca/about/administration/policies/>

**COURSE SCHEDULE/TENTATIVE TIMELINE:**

- Week 1: Introduction to the course: Contexts and backgrounds
- Weeks 2-3: Mythologies and histories; family ghosts and national hauntings
- Weeks 3-5: Place, identity, and nation
- Weeks 6-9: The particular and the universal, the margins and the centre: region, language, and nation
- Weeks 10-13: The politics of representation and Canadian violence(s)
- Week 14: Globalization and cosmopolitanism