

THE UNIVERSITY OF WINNIPEG
ENGL-3709(3)-001
Topics in Canadian Literature and Culture:
Photo-Texts

Term: Fall 2014
Time: T/Th 10:00-11:15am
Room: 2M74

Professor: Dr. Candida Rifkind
Office: 2A38
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Office Hours: Wed 4:00-5:00pm & Thurs 12:30-1:30pm or by appointment

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course focuses on photography in contemporary Canadian poetry, short fiction, novels, graphic narrative, and drama. We will read some works that combine photographs with words and others that are about photographs and photography. We will explore how the intersections between literature and photography reveal structures of power and systems of objectification, as well as acts of resistance and assertions of agency. Other topics of discussion will include cultural memory and the archive; portraiture and documentary; longing and nostalgia; family and community; race and ethnicity; and gender and sexuality. As well, students will be introduced to some key concepts in photographic theory to explore how the dynamics of the gaze, the politics of witnessing, and the practices of visual display inform these photo-texts.

REQUIRED TEXTS (in order of reading):

Humphreys, Helen. *Afterimage*. Toronto: HarperCollins, 2007. Print.
Clements, Marie. *The Edward Curtis Project: A Modern Picture Story*. Vancouver: Talon, 2010. Print.
Marlatt, Daphne and Robert Minden. *Steveston*. Vancouver: Ronsdale, 2001. Print.
Ondaatje, Michael. *Running in the Family*. Toronto: Vintage, 1993. Print.
Fleming, Ann-Marie. *The Magical Life of Long Tack Sam*. Toronto: Riverhead, 2007. Print.

NB: In addition to these books, students will be required to read some criticism and theory (posted to Nexus) to contextualize the creative works.

RECOMMENDED TEXTS

There are many websites dedicated to writing and research skills but not all of them are appropriate for academic writing. The following provide excellent information and help:

1. The University of Toronto Advice on Academic Writing website (especially good for getting started, understanding essay requirements, planning and writing the first draft):
<http://www.writing.utoronto.ca/advice>
2. Purdue University has one of the largest websites dedicated to writing skills (good for specific information about grammar and style – use this to understand the comments you get back on your papers and to correct writing errors). <http://owl.english.purdue.edu/sitemap.html>
3. On using the MLA style to cite and document sources in a research paper:
<http://library.concordia.ca/help/howto/mla.php>

ASSIGNMENTS (more information for each assignment will be provided in class)

NB: If any of these due dates fall on a religious holiday not officially recognized by UW, please inform me well in advance.

Textual Analysis (1000 words, due Oct. 9) 20%

Group Presentations (20 mins. on Nov. 25 & 27) 10%

Portfolio (1 photo + 3 entries of 500 words each, worth 10% each, posted to your Nexus portfolio by 4:30pm on Oct. 2nd, Oct. 30th, and Nov. 13th.) 30%

Students need to have access to a camera for this assignment. We will discuss this more in class, but if you do not have access to any kind of camera (a phone or other digital camera is ideal) you must speak with the instructor in the first two weeks of classes.

Take-Home Exam (2500 words, distributed in class on Nov. 27th and due in hard copy to 2A38 by 4:30pm Dec. 11th) 30%

Participation 10%

The 10% Participation mark is based on active participation and productive contributions to class discussions, which starts with regular attendance and basic courteous behaviour (no side conversations, texting, etc).

Please note that speaking a lot is not the same as making productive contributions to the discussion: listening to each other, synthesizing and building on prior comments, and keeping the discussion on track by focusing on course material and topics are all productive ways to participate.

Tip: volunteering to read passages aloud and report back on small group discussions is a good strategy for more introverted students to bring their voices into the classroom.

REMEMBER: You are responsible for your success in this course. If at any point in the year you have questions or concerns, it is up to you to bring those to me for discussion. You are always welcome to visit during office hours or to make an appointment to discuss any aspect of the course.

GRADING SCALE

A+	90 - 100%	GPA 4.50	C+	65 - 69%	GPA 2.5
A	85 - 89%	GPA 4.25	C	60 - 64%	GPA 2.0
A-	80 - 84%	GPA 4.0	D	50 - 59%	GPA 1.0
B+	75 - 79%	GPA 3.5	F	Below 50%	GPA 0
B	70 - 74%	GPA 3.0			

English Department Notes

1. This course outline should be considered a guideline only. Time constraints and other unforeseen factors may require that some of the above topics be omitted or covered in less detail than indicated.
2. Work submitted for evaluation must be either typed or text processed.

3. Cellular phones and other electronic devices **MUST** be turned off during classes.
4. It is the student's responsibility to retain a photocopy or digitized copy of **ALL** assignments submitted for grading; in the event of loss or theft, a duplicate copy is required.
5. Students are advised to read the pertinent pages of the current course calendar for the rules regarding Registration, Voluntary Withdrawals, Academic Misconduct including plagiarism, and Appeals. **Concerning plagiarism, please note** that as a general rule, an F in the course will be the penalty recommended by the English Departmental Review Committee to the Senate Committee on Academic Misconduct for plagiarism on major assignments in English Department courses.
6. Please note that registering in this course commits you to the date and time of the course final examination. If you are aware of possible conflicts with that date, please see me immediately during the first week of the course, in case you need to register in another course to accommodate the conflict. For appeals for deferred exams, please see the Calendar.
7. **Thursday, October 23, 2014** is the final date to withdraw without academic penalty from courses that begin on September 3, 2014 and end on November 27, 2014 of the Fall 2014 term.
8. The English Department wishes to ensure your right to privacy regarding handing in and getting back assignments is protected. Most assignments will be handed in and handed back in class or at the Instructor's office. If assignments are to be handled in another way and you are concerned about others having access to your work, you should attach to your assignment a self-addressed envelope that can be sealed. If this is not done, it is assumed that you have waived your concerns in this area.
9. Students will not be asked for identification when writing a test or examination.
10. Students are advised that the UW Bookstore may run out of textbooks early in the term. Also, the bookstore always ships textbooks back to the publisher if they are not purchased within the first few weeks of term. Students are responsible for communicating directly with the bookstore if they need to order texts or ask for texts to be held for them.
11. No unauthorized material or equipment may be brought with you to the final exam.
12. For more information regarding the English Department, please refer to our website at <http://english.uwinnipeg.ca>
13. Students with documented disabilities, temporary or chronic medical conditions, requiring academic accommodations for tests/exams (e.g., private space) or during lectures/laboratories (e.g., note-takers) are encouraged to contact Accessibility Services (AS) at 786-9771 or accessibilityservices@uwinnipeg.ca to discuss appropriate options. All information about a student's disability or medical condition remains confidential. <http://www.uwinnipeg.ca/accessibility>.
14. Students who plan to conduct research interviews, focus groups, surveys, or any other method of collecting data from any person, even a family member, must obtain the approval of the appropriate ethics committee before commencing data collection. Exceptions are research activities in class as a learning exercise. See <http://www.uwinnipeg.ca/research/human-ethics.html> for submission requirements and deadlines.

15. All students, faculty and staff have the right to participate, learn and work in an environment that is free of harassment and discrimination. The UW Respectful Working and Learning Environment Policy may be found online at www.uwinnipeg.ca/respect.
16. UWinnipeg promotes a scent-free environment. Please be respectful of the needs of classmates and the instructor by avoiding the use of scented products while attending lectures. Exposure to perfumes and other scented products (such as lotion) can trigger serious health reactions in persons with asthma, allergies, migraines or chemical sensitivities.

Instructor's Notes

1. **Late Assignment Penalties:** I encourage you to speak with me (in person, not over email) in advance if you anticipate handing an assignment in late due to extenuating circumstances, such as illness or a personal/family emergency. **Note that having a lot of work to do for your other courses is not a reasonable excuse for a late assignment in this course.** Unless prior arrangements have been made or you present a medical/legal note explaining why your assignment has been handed in late, the penalty for a late assignment is: 10% off immediately when it is not submitted on the due date and 2% off each extra weekday it is late. No unexplained late assignments will be accepted after they are 7 weekdays late. Late assignments will not receive written comments.
2. **EMAIL:** I only respond to students' emails during regular work hours (Mon.-Fri. 9am-5pm) and I may take up to 24 hours to respond. Due to the high volume of junk mail I receive, I can only respond to emails sent from UW or Nexus student accounts. Do not email me from hotmail, yahoo, gmail, or other non-UW accounts. Please observe professional email etiquette and do not add me to any mailing lists.
3. **MOBILE DEVICES AND LAPTOPS:** Absolutely no texting in class. Bag texting is still texting. All mobile devices must be turned off and put away once class begins and remain off until it is over. **Laptop or iPad use requires the instructor's permission.** You may not record lectures without my prior permission.
4. **FOOD:** Please do not eat meals in class.

Class Reading Schedule (subject to changes announced in class)
N = Reading posted to Nexus

Week	Reading (students are expected to have completed the readings before class)	Topic	Portfolio and other Assignments
Sep. 4	Introductions		
Sep. 9 & 11	For Tuesday: 1. Susan Sontag, Excerpt from <i>On Photography</i> (N) 2. John Berger, "Understanding a Photograph" (N) For Thursday: 1. Walter Benjamin, "A Short History of Photography" (N) 2. Roland Barthes, "The Rhetoric of the Image" (N)	Classic essays on photography	Print off all Nexus readings, read before class, annotate and come with questions and observations Post a Selfie to your Nexus profile this week!
Sep. 16 & 18	Humphreys, <i>Afterimage</i> (all)	Early Photography	
Sep. 23 & 25	Humphreys, <i>Afterimage</i>	Art Photography	
Sep. 30 & Oct. 2	Atwood and Brand poems	Portraiture	Entry 1 due by 4:30 on Oct. 2 nd : Self-Portrait
Oct. 7 & 9	Marie Clements, <i>Edward Curtis</i>	Colonialism + Anti-Colonialism	Textual Analysis due on Thursday
Oct. 14 & 16	Marie Clements, <i>Edward Curtis</i>	Colonialism + Anti-Colonialism	
Oct. 21 & 23	Marlatt and Minden, <i>Steveston</i>	Documentary Photography	
Oct. 28 & 30	Musgrave, "Heroines" Tues = In-Class screening of Lincoln Clarke's documentary, <i>Heroines</i>		Entry 2 due by 4:30 on Oct. 30 th : Neighbourhood Photograph
Nov. 4 & 6	Ondaatje, <i>Running in the Family</i>	Memory/History/Family/Fiction	
Nov. 13	Fleming, <i>Long Tack Sam</i> Thurs = In-class Film Screening of NFB documentary, <i>The Magical Life of Long Tack Sam</i>	Family Album	UW closed on Nov. 11 for Remembrance Day Entry 3 due by 4:30 on Nov. 13 th : Family or Archival Photograph
Nov. 18 & 20	Fleming, <i>Long Tack Sam</i>	Family Album	
Nov. 25 & 27	Art Photograph Group Presentations		*Nov. 27 class = make-up day

TAKE-HOME EXAM WILL BE DISTRIBUTED ON NOV. 27TH AND IS DUE IN HARD COPY BY 4:30pm to 2A38 ON Dec. 11th