

## Brief Course Outline

**Course Title:** Canadian Literature since 1914

**Course Number and Section:**

ENGLISH

2354E 550

**Instructor Name(s):** Dr. Sarah Blanchette

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Disclaimer: Information in the brief course outline is subject to change. The syllabus posted on OWL is the official and authoritative source of information for the course.

### Course Description:

Since July 1, 1867, Canada has struggled to distinguish itself from Britain and the United States. What—if anything—makes Canada unique? The current U.S. President Donald Trump's threats of making Canada the "51st state" has catalysed a new wave of Canadian nationalist rhetoric that seeks to answer this question—such as "Canada Strong" and "Canada First."

This course seeks to critically question what does it mean to be Canadian? What is the relationship between the Canadian literary canon and the colonial project of nation building? What does Canada stand for? In our contemporary moment, Canada continues to reckon with the colonial oppression of Indigenous nations of Turtle Island, the afterlife of slavery in systemic anti-Black racism, and xenophobia against immigrants and refugees, despite its alleged multiculturalism. As a result, this course also asks, which voices have been silenced in canonical conceptions of Canada?

Students in ENG2354E will study a wide range of Canadian literature and cultural productions in English from World War I to the present, including poetry, short stories, drama, novels, graphic novels, film, essays, political documents, and speeches. There also will be a free Stratford trip (including ticket) to see the play *Forgiveness*, adapted from Mark Sakamoto's novel.

### Learning Outcomes:

- Reflect on positionality and perspective as it relates to the settler nation of Canada that resides on Indigenous lands and Turtle Island
- Recognize major Canadian literary and cultural movements and artists/storytellers at the same time as questioning the Canadian canon—its silences and absences
- Examine and explain the key tensions that exist in Canadian mythology and literature
- Survey a broad range of genres, mediums, authors, and perspectives
- Practice close reading, writing, argumentation, and research skills through formal MLA-style research essays
- Explore connections between Canadian literature and society through experiential learning opportunities
- Practice respectful dialogue and debate of sensitive and contentious issues and topics

- Develop confidence with interview and oral communication skills necessary for teachers, lawyers, and other professions

### Textbooks and Course Materials:

Scott Chantler, "Two Generals" (graphic novel), Cost: \$22

Wayne Johnston, "The Colony of Unrequited Dreams", Cost: \$22

Renee Nault & Margaret Atwood, "Handmaid's Tale" (graphic novel), Cost: \$33

Second-hand or earlier editions are allowed. Books are also available via the library on course reserve. Students will be required to buy one additional novel that will be selected by student vote (cost TBD). This course has a free field trip to Stratford to see Forgiveness.

### Methods Of Evaluation:

Assignment	Due Date mm/dd/yy	Weight - %
Participation		10
Quizzes		10
Theatre Review	09/25/2025	7.5
Interview	11/11/2025	10
Midterm		20
Presentation	02/03/2026	7.5
Research Essay	03/24/2026	15
Final Exam		20

In solidarity with the Anishinaabe, Haudenosaunee, Lūnaapéewak, and Chonnonton peoples on whose traditional treaty and unceded territories this course is shared.

Tuesday, August 12, 2025