

## Brief Course Outline

**Course Title:** **Black Writing in Canada**

**Course Number and Section:**

ENGLISH

3573G 550

**Instructor Name(s):** Dr. Nassisse Solomon

**Instructor Email(s):** nsolomo4@uwo.ca

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:

Celebrating the diversity of the Black Canadian population, this course covers topics and themes contextualized within a transnational framework that reflects the dynamic influences of rich literary and lyrical traditions. The course examines the historical roots and contemporary manifestations of Black Canadian authors' writings using lectures, films, and readings and addressing themes of freedom, belonging, space and place, decolonization, Pan-Africanism, and Black national identities. Making connections to space and place, the course features works by Black Canadian authors situated in the country's diverse topographies and cultural milieus. Black Writing in Canada combines history, literature, popular culture, diaspora, and cultural studies to introduce the contexts of Black experiences and their engagements with a historical sense of self. ENG 3573G also engages students in team-based learning to explore the intricate dynamics of Black cultures in the face of persistent anti-Black racism. This course is tailored to advance students' ability to conduct in-depth scholarly research utilizing both traditional library resources and online platforms. It will focus on developing students' writing skills to effectively convey their ideas clearly and confidently and deliver compelling presentations. Upon completing the course, students will have a profound understanding of the nuances and commonalities of the Black Canadian experience and the capability to actively contribute to the ongoing discourses on Black Writings in Canada. The course is fashioned to sharpen students' critical thinking abilities, cultivate their capacity to analyze and synthesize complex texts and prepare them for the diverse array of opportunities awaiting them in their post-graduation careers.

### Learning Outcomes:

By the end of the course, students will be able to:

1. Analyze Black Canadian writings' textual, lyrical, and visual representations.
2. Identify and interpret themes embedded in Black Canadian writings.
3. Discuss and debate textual and lyrical analysis in oral discussions.
4. Defend interpretations by creating and sharing formative evaluations of texts.
5. Contextualize forms of Black Canadian writings within the broader socio-historical context from which the works are produced.

## Textbooks and Course Materials:

Most readings for our class discussions will be available online through provided links or PDFs available through the library (course readings tab on Brightspace). The book report options are available through the library or can be ordered through the university bookstore or other retailers if the student wishes to own a copy. The prices enclosed below reflect listings on popular online retailers. Please note that prices are subject to change. Kindle versions are often less expensive than paperback or hardcover versions. Students are encouraged to explore and source options suitable for their needs.

### Recommended Readings:

- Winfried Siemerling, *The Black Atlantic Reconsidered: Black Canadian Writing, Cultural History, and The Presence of The Past*, McGill University Press, 2015. \$40.95 CAD.
- George Elliott Clarke, *Fire On The Water: An Anthology of Black Nova Scotian Writing*, Pottersfield Press, 1992. \$30.00 CAD
- Wade Compton, *Bluesprint: Black British Columbian Literature and Orature*, Arsenal Pulp Press, 2002. \$24.95 CAD.
- Karina Vernon, *The Black Prairie Archives: An Anthology*, Wilfred University Press, 2020. \$47.99 CAD.

## Methods Of Evaluation:

Assignment	Due Date mm/dd/yy	Weight - %
Participation (5 components)		40%
Book Report	March 12	30%
"Afro-Canadian Reads" Roundtable	March 19 and 26	15 %
Final Assessment		15%

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

Friday, January 24, 2025