

ANG 6190 English-Canadian Literature: Writing the City
Professor Lianne Moyes
Mondays 3:30-6:30pm
C-7149 Pav. Lionel-Groulx

Description

Urban Canada has not figured prominently in the guiding mythologies of Canadian literature, mythologies built for example on ideologies of nature, wilderness and the North. Until collections such as *Downtown Canada* (2005), the city was largely a space of oversight. If we think of all the writers whose work resides squarely in this space of oversight, we begin to understand who/what is at stake in those guiding mythologies of Canadian literature. Even when the city is featured in the field of Canadian letters, it is often the city of the white, heterosexual, working man. In coming years, it will be important for scholars to piece together alternative genealogies of city writing in Canada. For the purposes of our seminar, we will focus on a corpus of contemporary writing with a few forays into the late-twentieth century. Drawing upon a range of genres— theatre, testimony, memoir, graphic novel, short story, poetry, speculative fiction— our discussions of this contemporary corpus will foreground the work of Indigenous writers, Black writers, Two-Spirit and Queer writers and consider how that work contributes to, interacts with, and resists the urban imaginaries of Vancouver, Winnipeg, Toronto and Montreal.

In Seminar Presentations and Reading Reports, students are encouraged to reflect on city space—how it is organized and imagined—in the literary texts and in the essays on those texts.

Students should purchase the following (on order at the Lionel-Groulx bookstore)

Dionne Brand, *What We All Long For*, A.A. Knopf Canada, 2005.
David Chariandy, *Brother*, McClelland & Stewart, 2018
Marie Clements, *The Unnatural and Accidental Women*, Talonbooks, 2005
Rawi Hage, *Cockroach*, Anansi, 2008
Larissa Lai, *The Tiger Flu*. Vancouver: Arsenal Pulp, November 2018
Erin Moure, *Sitting Shiva on Minto Avenue, by Toots*, New Star Books, 2017
Heather O'Neill, *Lullabies for Little Criminals*, HarperCollins, 2006
Tasha Spillett and Natasha Donovan, *Surviving the City*, High Water Press, 2018
Joshua Whitehead, *Jonny Appleseed*, Arsenal Pulp Press, 2018

Excerpts from all other texts will be available on STUDIUM.

Requirements (see document “Detailed Requirements)

Seminar presentation on a literary text (5-6 pages double-spaced)	15%
First essay (<u>revised version of seminar presentation</u> ; 7 pages double-spaced)	15%
Reading report on a critical work (3-4 pages double-spaced)	15%
Second essay (topic of your choice related to course; 12 pages double-spaced)	35%
Participation in seminar discussion (includes responses to presentations / reports)	20%