**Tentative Syllabus**

**McGill University**  
**Canadian Studies**  
**CANS 200: INTRODUCTION TO THE STUDY OF CANADA**  
**Fall 2011**

Professor: Elsbeth Heaman  
Office: McGill Institute for the Study of Canada, 3463 Peel Street  
Office Hours: Wednesdays 11:30-1:30

**Course Description**

This course is an introduction to the methods and ideas that scholars have applied to and derived from the study of Canada. Films and readings, field trips and guest speakers—including some of McGill's and Montreal’s leading scholars of Canada—will supplement the regular lectures and introduce you to the anthropology, history, sociology of Canada, its political, literary, and cultural study. The course is comparative and general, broad in scope rather than conclusive. We invite you to join us in exploring the study of Canada today.

A Webct page is available for the course. We will use this page to make information available to you and you can use it to communicate with instructors or with other students. All assignments must be submitted electronically into a Webct dropbox.

**Course Evaluation**

10% Midterm  
40% Research Essay on a Canadian symbol  
  • due November 18 at the start of class. 2000 words  
10% Participation and attendance  
40% Final Examination  
  • Take-home exam due during the final exam period

The midterm exam will cover the history of Canada. It will consist of ten dates. Students will write one paragraph for each date to identify the major event or events of that year and their significance.
The research essay will build upon the analysis of symbols by Daniel Francis in *National Dreams*. Students will choose a national or important regional symbol, undertake research into it, and analyse its appeal and coherence. You must discuss your choice of symbol with your instructor in advance and we will suggest some books or articles to begin the process of research. Late essays will not be accepted without documented cause such as illness.

Participation and attendance: students must attend lectures as well as conferences. Attendance will be taken at all conferences and at least twice during the lectures.

The final exam will be a take-home exam. Students will write an essay in response to the following questions: *How profound, how inevitable is the trope of "crisis" in Canadian history, politics, and culture? Can Canada be fixed?* This is not a research essay; nor is it a rant. You will be graded on the basis of your discussion of course material. Maximum 2000 words.

### Required Readings

**Textbooks available for purchase at the McGill University Bookstore:**

**Readings for conferences (available in a course reader)**

- Brian Trehearne, selected poems from his *Canadian Poetry 1920-1960* (Toronto: McClelland & Stewart, 2010).

### McGill University Policies

**Academic integrity:**
McGILL UNIVERSITY VALUES ACADEMIC INTEGRITY. THEREFORE ALL STUDENTS MUST UNDERSTAND THE MEANING AND CONSEQUENCES OF CHEATING, PLAGIARISM AND OTHER
ACADEMIC OFFENCES UNDER THE CODE OF STUDENT CONDUCT AND DISCIPLINARY PROCEDURES
(see www.mcgill.ca/integrity for more information).

Language policy:
Every student has a right to write essays, examinations and theses in English or in French except in courses where knowledge of a language is one of the objects of the course. Chaque étudiant a le droit de soumettre en français ou en anglais tout travail écrit (sauf sans le cas des cours dont l’un des objets est la maîtrise d’une langue).

In the event of extraordinary circumstances beyond the University’s control, the content and/or evaluation scheme in this course is subject to change.

Class Schedule

September 1  Introduction to Canada and Canadian Studies

September 5   Labour Day, no class
September 7    Using the library to do research
September 9    Walk up Mount Royal: class meets at the northwest corner of Peel and Dr Penfield

History of Canada

September 12 Prehistory (guest lecturer: André Costopoulos)
September 14 Contact of Civilizations
September 16 Film: Kanata: Legacy of the Children of Aetaentsic

September 19 France in Canada
September 21 Canada and the Atlantic Revolutions
September 23 Building a Liberal State: Responsible Government and Confederation

September 26 Atlantic Canadian History
September 28  Canada's Independence Day (guest lecturer: Desmond Morton)
September 30 conference (readings: Nelles, Francis)

October 3   Western Canadian History
October 5   Canada goes to War
October 7   Women, Family, Welfare

October 10  Thanksgiving, no class
October 12  History of Indigenous Peoples (guest lecturer: Toby Morantz)
October 14  conference (readings: Nelles, Morantz, Francis)

October 17  The Sixties and the Rights Revolution
October 19  Film: *The Champions*
October 21  Protecting Canadian Culture

October 24  Ethnicity and Immigration (guest lecturer: John Zucchi)
October 26  Are We American Yet?
October 28  Midterm exam

**Structures of Canadian Politics**

October 31  Political Institutions (guest lecturer: Richard Schultz)
November 2  Making Policy (guest lecturer: Antonia Maioni)
November 4  conference (short presentations on term papers to other students)

November 7  Gender and Politics (guest lecturer: Elizabeth Gidengil)
November 9  The Charter and the Courts (guest lecturer: Christopher Manfredi)
November 11 conference (readings: Maioni and Manfredi, Trimble and Arscott)

**Canadian Culture**

November 14  Canadian Art History
November 16  Art History Case Study (guest lecturer: Kristina Huneault, Concordia University)
November 18  Field trips to museums:
  - McCord Museum of Canadian History, 690 Sherbrooke St West. It opens at 10:00 am so we'll meet in front of the McCord promptly at 10. You must pay for your own admission: $7.
  - Musée des Beaux Arts de Montreal, 1380 Sherbrooke St West. Because it opens at 11 am, we cannot visit during class hours, but an instructor will be present from 11 to 12. Entrance to the Canadian collection is free at all times.

November 21  Canadian Literature (guest lecturer: Brian Trehearne)
November 23  Popular Culture: (guest lecturer: Will Straw)
November 25  conference (reading: Holman and Thacker)
  - Also up for discussion: what makes Canadian music Canadian? Bring your favourite song

**Locating Canada**

November 28  Canada and Globalization (guest lecturer: William Watson)
November 30  Canada in the World (guest lecturer: David Meren, Université de Montréal)
December 2  The World in Canada: film "Les enfants de la loi 101"

December 5  Review
December 6  Review (in conference sections)