SYLLABUS- ANG 1033
Twentieth and Twenty-First Century Literatures in English

Professor Caroline Brown
Autumn 2018
Course Meeting Times: Thurs, 1-4pm
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Course Description
What is the role of the animal in human culture? What does the analysis of animals tell us about the animal world? What does their representation reveal about the human? Through the exploration of essays, short stories, novels, the memoir, “Twentieth and Twenty-First Century Literatures in English” will investigate the representation of animals, who often serve as placeholders in larger human dramas from the environment and economic transformation to culture and identity. Central to this process will be the investigation of how thinkers create conversations across time and place, using disparate animal figures—from the monstrous to the mystical—to both inform us about animals and transform our understanding of humanity.

Required Texts (Available at UdeM Bookstore)
- André Alexis, Fifteen Dogs
- Nate Blakeslee, American Wolf: A True Story of Survival and Obsession in the West
- Stephen Kuusisto, Have Dog, Will Travel: A Poet’s Journey
- Leslie Marmon Silko, Ceremony

Course Objectives
(1) A primary objective of this course is for us to be conscious of how we engage in critical inquiry and, in the process, claim space as scholars.
(2) Central to this process is reading. It’s necessary to read for class. Read critically and on time.
(3) Discussion is the most obvious manifestation of the life of the mind in the university classroom. It’s also essential in the creation of a community of thinkers. In order to create a healthy environment, it’s important to treat others with respect while feeling that we have the right and responsibility to question and challenge other thinkers and writers.
(4) Essay #1 is due at the mid-point of the course, Thurs., November 1. Instead of working your way through the entire text, focus on one facet of the work that you want to investigate (i.e.-character, symbolism, narrative strategies, etc.) and develop a thoughtful analysis of this point. Rather than provide a passive summary, you want to develop an argument. Essay #2 is due the week before the final exam, on Thurs., December 6.
(5) There will be an In-class Final Exam administered on Thurs., December 13. There will be no make-up sessions or substitutions. You are expected to sit for the exam with the other members of the class.

Course Mechanics
- Class participation is a must. It improves the quality of discussion (and is graded for both content and frequency).
- All essays must be typed. Each should be double-spaced and have a one-inch margin. Please use a standard font. Remember to title your essays and include page numbers. Staple all pages together.
- Plagiarism, the uncredited use of another’s words, research, and thoughts, is forbidden. It will not be tolerated. Students are advised to familiarize themselves with the policies of the FAS: www.fas.umontreal.ca/plagiat. Please document your sources appropriately.
- You are responsible for any materials or assignments handed out or discussed during an absence.
Late papers will not be accepted. Please hand your essay in on time and sit for the exam on the scheduled date. In this way, I will be able to return your papers and assign grades in a timely manner.

Course Requirements

- Participation 10%
- Essay #1 (3-5 pp) Due: Nov. 1 30%
- Essay #2 (4-6 pp) Due: Dec. 6 30%
- Final Exam (Dec. 13) 30%

SCHEDULE

WEEK 1 (9/6)
Introductions

WEEK 2 (9/13)
Essays: Helen Macdonald/Elena Passarello
Poetry: Wallace Stevens/HD/Mary Oliver

WEEK 3 (9/20)
A. S. Byatt: “Morpho Eugenia,” from Angels and Insects (pp 3-87) [available on Studium]

WEEK 4 (9/27)
A. S. Byatt: “Morpho Eugenia,” from Angels and Insects (pp 87-183)

WEEK 5 (10/4)
William Faulkner, “The Bear,” from Go Down, Moses (pp 183-315) [available on Studium]

WEEK 6 (10/11)
Leslie Marmon Silko, Ceremony (pp 1-116)

WEEK 7 (10/18):
Leslie Marmon Silko, Ceremony (pp 116-261)

WEEK 8 (10/25):
Reading Week

WEEK 9 (11/1):
Due: Essay #1 (3-5pp)
Stephen Kuusisto, Have Dog Will Travel

WEEK 10 (11/8)
André Alexis, Fifteen Dogs (pp 13-89)

WEEK 11 (11/15)
André Alexis, Fifteen Dogs (pp 91-171)

WEEK 12 (11/22)
Nate Blakeslee, American Wolf: A True Story of Survival and Obsession in the West
WEEK 13 (11/29)
Nate Blakeslee, *American Wolf: A True Story of Survival and Obsession in the West*

WEEK 14 (12/6)
Due: Essay #2 (4-6pp)

(12/13) FINAL EXAM