

**ANG 2325 English-Canadian Literature: Writing the City**  
**Professor Lianne Moyes**  
**Winter 2023 Mondays 4-7pm**  
**C-3151**

**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 overlooked. 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. In this seminar, through our readings and discussions of contemporary works by award winning writers, we will piece together alternative genealogies of city writing in Canada. Drawing on a range of genres—theatre, testimony, memoir, graphic novel, poetry, obituary—our discussions of this contemporary corpus will consider how literary works contribute to, interact with, and resist the urban imaginaries of Vancouver, Winnipeg, Toronto and Montreal.

**Students should purchase the following** (available at the Lionel-Groulx bookstore)

David Chariandy, *Brother*, McClelland & Stewart, 2018 (novel)  
Marie Clements, *The Unnatural and Accidental Women*, Talonbooks, 2005 (play)  
Rawi Hage, *Cockroach*, Anansi, 2008 (novel)  
Erin Moure, *Sitting Shiva on Minto Avenue, by Toots*, New Star Books, 2017 (memoir)  
Heather O'Neill, *Lullabies for Little Criminals*, HarperCollins, 2006 (novel)  
Tasha Spillett and Natasha Donovan, *Surviving the City*, High Water Press, 2018 (graphic novel)  
Joshua Whitehead, *Jonny Appleseed*, Arsenal Pulp Press, 2018 (novel)

(All other texts will be available on STUDIUM)

**Requirements**

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| In-class writing exercises (OBLIGATORY)                            | (2 x 20) | 40% |
| Reading responses, one before Reading week, one after Reading week | (2 x 25) | 50% |
| Participation in seminar discussion                                |          | 10% |