

GEOGRAPHY AND PLANNING

GPHY 403 - Honours Seminar in Human Geography III: Literary Geographies



Course Instructor	Anne Godlewska	Email: anne.godlewska@queensu.ca
Office	MacCorry D329	
Contact Time	3 hrs/wk	
Format	Seminar 1.5hrs x 2	
Class Assessment	55% Weekly blogs 20% Presentation and discussion of academic articles 25% Group presentation	

COURSE OVERVIEW

We will read, discuss and conduct research and writing around 4 major novels or fictional works with powerful geographic themes. These may include works by George Eliot, John Steinbeck, Leslie Marmon Silko, Katherine Vermette, Helen Humphries and Emily St. John Mandel. The geographic themes we will explore include:

- Using fiction to teach and engage
- World building from the village to the cosmos
- Utopia/dystopia
- Literature as social critique
- Portraits of place and time
- Seeing through other epistemologies
- Escaping this world by building others
- Travelling as metaphor
- Place rich or placeless
- The world formed by colonialism
- Maps and metaphors

We will place these works in the context of their time and place and of academic writing, especially by geographers. Students will undertake a short story integrating key geographic themes and that draws insight or guidance from academic geographical writing.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

Students will:

- identify integrative geographic themes in human geography
- read and understand academic writing by geographers related to the works of fiction or to the environments they describe
- discern the power and limitations of geography in some of the masterpieces of literature in English
- integrate geography and fictional composition in their own creative writing

COURSE TOPICS

Geography, literature and historical geography

COURSE READINGS

4 novels and writing by geographers and non-geographers about the geographic dimensions of the work.