

IMAGINING NOW: English-Canadian Fiction in the Twenty-First Century

Gary Draper

In the last third of the 20th century, Canadian writing burst into full flower: Margaret Laurence, Alice Munro, Michael Ondaatje. And so many, many more. This course will look at Canadian fiction since 2000. What's old? What's new? Who's writing now?

February 22: ENDURANCE

Some of the best Canadian fiction of the twenty-first century has been produced by writers who made their names in the twentieth.

~Alice Munro. *Too Much Happiness* (2009)

~Michael Ondaatje. *Cat's Table* (2011)

~Nino Ricci. *Sleep*. (2015)

March 1: OTHER TIMES

Historical fiction offers many pleasures, from telling new things about past times to applying old templates to current issues.

~Carrie Snyder. *Girl Runner* (2014)

~Margaret Sweatman. *The Players* (2009)

~Guy Vanderhaeghe. *The Last Crossing* (2002)

March 8: OTHER PLACES

Unsurprisingly, in this nation of immigrants, much of the best writing in Canada is set far from our native shores.

~Helen Humphreys. *Coventry* (2008)

~Alison Pick. *Far To Go* (2010)

~Madeleine Thien. *Do Not Say We Have Nothing* (2016)

March 15: REGION

Ours is a land—and a culture—of great diversity; much of our best writing has a strongly regional flavour.

~Michael Crummey. *Galore* (2011)

~Jessica Grant. *Come Thou Tortoise* (2009)

~Lisa Moore. *Caught* (2013)

March 22: VOICE

One of fiction's pleasures is the opportunity to hear a variety of voices, and hear voice put to a variety of uses.

~Lori Lansens. *The Girls* (2006)

~Yann Martel. *The Life of Pi* (2001)

~Katherena Vermette. *The Break* (2016)

March 29: FORM

When we say the word "fiction," we often mean "novel," but the short story form has its own special pleasures.

~Carleigh Baker. *Bad Endings* (2017)

~John Gould. *Kilter* (2003)

~Tamas Dobozy. *Last Notes* (2006)

IMAGINING NOW: English-Canadian Fiction in the Twenty-First Century
Gary Draper

February 22: ENDURANCE

Some of the best Canadian fiction of the twenty-first century has been produced by writers who made their names in the twentieth.

Alice Munro (b. 1931). *Too Much Happiness* (2009)

Other works by Alice Munro:

Dance of the Happy Shades (1968)
Lives of Girls and Women (1971)
Who Do You Think You Are? (1978)
Friend of My Youth (1990)
Runaway (2004)

Michael Ondaatje (b. 1943). *Cat's Table* (2011)

Other works by Michael Ondaatje:

Coming through Slaughter (1976)
In the Skin of a Lion (1987)
The English Patient (1992)
Anil's Ghost (2000)
Divisadero (2007)

Nino Ricci (b. 1959). *Sleep* (2015)

Other works by Nino Ricci:

Lives of the Saints (1990)
In a Glass House (1993)
Where She Has Gone (1997)
Testament (2002)
The Origin of Species (2008)

Recent books by some other “enduring” Canadian fiction writers:

Margaret Atwood. *Hag-Seed* (2016).
Sandra Birdsell. *Waiting for Joe* (2010)
Bill Gaston. *A Mariner's Guide to Self-Sabotage* (2017)
David Gilmour. *Extraordinary* (2013)
Katherine Govier. *The Three Sisters Bar and Hotel* (2016)
Barbara Gowdy. *Little Sister* (2017)
Elizabeth Hay. *His Whole Life* (2015)
Jack Hodgins. *The Master of Happy Endings* (2010)
Wayne Johnston. *The Son of a Certain Woman* (2013)
David Adams Richards. *Principles to Live By* (2016)
Jane Urquhart. *The Night Stages* (2015)