**Course syllabus: Canadian Multicultural Literature**

**Course Description:**

The course discusses the concept of Canadian multiculturalism as one of the constitutive elements of the country’s political, social and cultural character. In each session we will analyze a short theoretical text that contributes to the debate of multiculturalism in an important and pertinent manner.The main focus, however, will be on literary texts representative of the diversity and colourfulness of the contemporary Canadian literary scene. Examples will include texts by writers of Native Canadian, French Canadian, Jewish, Slavic or Asian origins.

Requirements for successful completion of a course:

Regular attendance

Active class participation

Knowledge of the assigned readings, preparation for their analysis in class

Final research paper - students will choose the topic according to their preferences, work on it independently and submit it during the examination period (when needed, they will discuss their work with the instructor and seek advice). The paper can address any of the subject areas as indicated in the syllabus, and demonstrate the argument on any relevant literary text of the author’s choice. Also, essays should not focus on mere descriptions of the chosen examples, but instead should reflect the problems in context, and actively support their arguments by the use of secondary sources.

**Syllabus:**

**Week 1:**

Introduction into the themes and objectives of the course, discussion

**Week 2:**

**“the ethnics at our door:”** a tour of contemporary Canadian multicultural poetry

(Don Sparling: “Multiculturalism in Canada”)

**Week 3:**

**“in search of one’s country:”** Frederick Philip Grove and the controversy of immigration

(Howard Palmer: “Mosaic versus Melting Pot? Immigration and Ethnicity in Canada and the United States”)

**Week 4:**

**“up in the skies I cause the spirits to dance:”** Canadian Aboriginal culture and contemporary literature

(Robert F. Berkhofer: “The Idea of the Indian: Invention and Perpetuation” from: *The White Man’s Indian: Images of the American Indian from Columbus to the Present*)

**Week 5:  
“the ghosts of those who have never been:”** Margaret Laurence and the quest for identity self-construction

(Toshiko Tsutsumi: “Regionalism, Nationalism and Internationalism in Margaret Laurence”)

**Week 6:  
“image incorrect:”** Austin Clarke and the black Canadian experience

(Northrop Frye: “Sharing the Continent”)

**Week 7:**

**“the torrents of the self:”** French-Canadian writing and the co-founding of the nation

(Mordecai Richler: from *Oh Canada, Oh Quebec*)

**Week 8:**

**“always observers, never participants:”** Jewish writers on the Canadian literary scene

(Francesco Lorrigio: “The Question of the Corpus: Ethnicity and Canadian Literature”)

**Week 9:**

“engineering identities:” Slavic element in the Canadian cultural mosaic

(Linda Hutcheon and Marion Richmond: “Introduction” from: *Other Solitudes: Canadian Multicultural Fictions*)

**Week 10:**

“would I come at last to the freeing word?” Asian spices in the Canadian cultural salad bowl

(Arun Mukherjee: “Ideology in the Classroom: A Case Study in the Teaching of English Literature in Canadian Universities” from: *Oppositional Aesthetics: Writing from a Hyphenated Space*)

**Week 11:**

“**American frontiers:”** Multiculturalism on Stage  
Guillermo Verdecchia: *Fronteras Americanas*

(Mumbi Tindyebwa: “A Multicultural Stage”)

**Week 12:**

**“The (n)convenient Other:”** Ins Choi: *Kim’s Convenience*

(Colleen Kim Daniher: “On Teaching *Kim’s Convenience*: Asian American Studies, Asian

Canadian Studies, and the Politics of Race in Asian Canadian Theatre and Performance Studies“)

**Week 13:**

Credit week