

English 439B: Postcolonial Fiction in an Era of Truth and Reconciliation

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The Australian Museum

In South Africa, Australia and Canada, popular “sorry” movements and Truth and Reconciliation Commissions have sought in often spectacular ways to *right* historical wrongs. Postcolonial and Indigenous authors from these three colonial societies show that storytelling offers an alternative space in which to *right/write* historical wrongs. In this course, we’ll study works of literature and theory that contest colonial power, trouble the politics of reconciliation, and do decolonizing work *differently* within the complex contexts of South Africa, Australia and Canada.

Proposed Texts:

J.M. Coetzee, *Disgrace*

Doris Pilkington (Nugi Garimara), *Follow the Rabbit-Proof Fence*

Tomson Highway, *Kiss of the Fur Queen*

Thomas King, “Coyote and the Enemy Aliens”

Supplementary critical readings may include:

Glenn Coulthard, “Seeing Red: Reconciliation and Resentment”

David Garneau’s “Imaginary Spaces of Conciliation and Reconciliation”

Pumla Gobodo-Madikizela, “Remorse, Forgiveness, and Rehumanization: Stories from South Africa.”

H. Gooder and Jane Jacobs, “‘On the Border of the Unsayable’: the Apology in Postcolonizing Australia”

Rajeswari Sunder Rajan, “Righting Wrongs, Rewriting History?”

Audra Simpson, “Reconciliation and Its Discontents”

Proposed Assignments:

3 Short Response Papers

Short Essay (1200 words)

Final Essay (1600-1800 words)

Final Exam