

English 450 A01 Spring 2023

Modern Canadian Fiction Dr. Misao Dean

What was modernism in Canada? The period 1930-1970 in Canada was the era of “nation-building,” of industrial mega-projects and mass unemployment, of urbanization and the myth of the wilderness. Is there a specific form of the modernism in Canada? Critics Glenn Willmott and Colin Hill have argued that indeed Canadian modern novels exhibit specific characteristics that make them stand out from the mainstream of international modernism, characteristics such as the persistence of the bildungsroman form, the development of “modern-realism,” the use of national allegory, and the themes of colonial and post-colonial power. What do you think?



Tentative Texts:

Waste Heritage by Irene Baird (please buy the one edited by Colin Hill)

Barometer Rising by Hugh MacLennan

The Double Hook by Sheila Watson

Swamp Angel by Ethel Wilson

Tay John by Howard O'Hagan

Supplementary readings drawn from:

“The Problem of a Canadian Literature” by EK Brown

“Conclusion to the *Literary History of Canada*” by Northrop Frye

Unreal Country by Glenn Willmott

White Civility by Daniel Coleman

Assessment: Four short discussion papers; one research essay.