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 weighed in on this topic, and 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  
*As For Me and My House* by Sinclair Ross  
“The Forest Path to the Spring” by Malcolm Lowry

Supplementary readings drawn from:

*Modern Realism in English-Canadian Fiction* by Colin Hill.  
*Unreal Country* by Glenn Willmott  
*White Civility* by Daniel Coleman  
“Third World Fiction in the Era of Multinational Capitalism” by Frederic Jameson

**Assessment:** Four short discussion papers; one research essay; exam.