English 450:
Modern Canadian Fiction
Fall 2020

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Course Description:
What does it mean to live a good life? How are we to deal with the pace of change? With our altered relationship to nature? With the restrictions of traditional gender roles? Is there something inherently evil about human beings? Canadian writers of the mid- to late 20th century explored modernist questions like these with a peculiarly Canadian sense of place. The result was some of the most renowned texts within Canada's increasingly distinguished literary history. This course will focus on six of these texts published between 1947 and 1990.

Proposed Assignments:
40% Two shorter essays (1,000 words each)
20% Take home mid-term exam (written over two weeks)
40% Research essay due near the end of exam period

Proposed Texts:
- W. O. Mitchell, *Who Has Seen the Wind*
- Ethel Wilson, *Swamp Angel*
- Alice Munro, *Lives of Girls and Women*
- Timothy Findley, *The Wars*
- Margaret Atwood, *The Handmaid’s Tale*
- Wayne Johnston, *The Divine Ryans*