COURSE DESCRIPTION:
This course introduces some of the best known and most acclaimed Canadian novelists – Thomas King, Carol Shields, Michael Ondaatje, Dionne Brand, Emily St John Mandel, and Alissa York – and places them in the context of contemporary debates about race, class, feminism, the environment, and indigeneity. Each of these novels constitutes an experiment in narration that engages with the way history persists in everyday life, textuality and its relationship to the real, forms of storytelling, the impact of multi-generational trauma, and the value of human culture in the anthropocene. By the end of the course we should be able to define terms like metafiction, postmodernism, and diaspora, but more importantly, we will have thought big thoughts, felt the feels, and imagined how our lives can be better.

TENTATIVE TEXTS:
*In the Skin of a Lion*, Michael Ondaatje
*Swan*, Carol Shields
*Truth and Bright Water*, Thomas King
*At the Full and Change of the Moon*, Dionne Brand
*Fauna*, Alissa York
*Station Eleven*, Emily St. John Mandel

TENTATIVE ASSIGNMENTS:
Participation exercises: 50%
Research Essay: 25%
Take-home exam: 25%