English 453:  
Contemporary Canadian Poetry  
Spring 2021

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Course Description:
Poetry continues to be a vital aspect of contemporary culture. In Canada many new collections are published each year and there are readings on many nights across the country. What distinguishes contemporary poetry is its sheer variety: the dramatic evolution of poetic form in the 20th Century has enabled a wide range of styles to flourish. This variety, in turn, has led to a fascinating range of approaches to human concerns in the 21st Century. How to deal with our altered relationship to nature? With the place of indigenous peoples? With changing gender roles? This course will focus on how five recent Canadian collections explore contemporary issues while yet drawing on the deep roots and continuing spirit of poetry.

Proposed Assignments:

10% Two poetry slam contributions (5% each)  
25% Four response papers (500 words each)  
25% Short critical essay (1,250 words)  
40% Final Essay (2,000 words).

Proposed Texts:
- Kayla Czaga, *For Your Safety Please Hold On*  
- Don McKay, *Camber*  
- Gregory Scofield, *kipocihkân*  
- Eve Joseph, *Quarrels*  
- Randall Maggs, *Night Work: The Sawchuk Poems*