




## DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH NEWSLETTER

### Winter 2018



St. Thomas  
UNIVERSITY

## NEW OFFERINGS IN 2018-2019



**ENGL 4776 Radical Novels and Human Rights.** Revolutions in America and France, slave revolts in Haiti, workers' riots in the streets of London, and women's demands for education. Uprisings, outbursts, and punishments of the oppressed in the later eighteenth-century inspired novels that imagined human rights for all. This Seminar explores how sentimental novels evoked sympathy and empathy with individual sufferers of the injustices of imperialism, slavery, disenfranchisement, and misogyny, and how human rights were then claimed by appeals to rationality and universality. The contradictory appeals to sentimentality and rationality are examined in the co-emergence of novels and human rights, and their ongoing interdependence. (Fulfills requirements in pre-1800 literature.) Instructor Dr. Dawn Morgan. *Also teaches ENGL 1016 English Literatures in History and Culture, ENGL 2013 Research Methods in English.*

**ENGL 4796 Our Homemade Apocalypse: Neoliberalism, Biopolitics and Popular Culture.** Bring your undergraduate degree into focus. Discover how the humanities and social sciences shape, and are shaped by, the culture you live in. And grab the conceptual tools you need to help your liberal arts education intervene in the choices you make for the rest of your life. *Our Homemade Apocalypse* invites all qualified students to come and discover how fields as diverse as literary theory, social theory, macroeconomics, philosophy, anthropology, human geography, legal theory, urban history, and psychoanalysis come together to trenchantly critique our Western cultural practices, and the consequences they bring with them. Such consequences include, but are not limited to: income inequality, food security, techno-economics, climate change, grassroots social movements, media bias, the hollowing out of social institutions, governmentality, and the very limits of capitalist democracy as it transforms, and deforms, under the pressure of neoliberal ideology. Instructor Dr. Dennis Desroches. *Also teaches ENGL 2693 Reading Popular Culture.*

**ENGL 4223: Seminar in Microperformance** is about creating short new performances on contemporary issues in contrasting theatrical forms: invisible theatre, forum theatre, naturalism, agitprop, devised theatre, futurism, and Brechtian epic theatre. Take this course to learn about Performance-Based Research, a method of research and creation that considers performance a way of knowing. Contact Dr. Robin Whittaker (rwhit@stu.ca) for more information and permission to register. Pre-requisite: ENGL 2013 or Research Methods in any discipline. *Also teaches ENGL 1003 Introduction to Theatre, ENGL 2013 Research Methods in English, and ENGL 3593 Contemporary Theatre: Gender, Power, and Performance.*



This newsletter will provide information about the Department, including recent events and notices about events to come. We will also include book reviews and other articles of interest to our readers.

We would be delighted to receive contributions from faculty, students, and alumni. They may be sent to the English Department Chair, Dr. Dawn Morgan (englishchair@stu.ca).

EDITOR 2017-18  
Hannah Zamora (BA 2018)

FACULTY ADVISORS  
Dr. Dawn Morgan | Dr. Beth McKim



# ILKAY SILK: THEATRE & COMMUNITY AT STU



This year saw the return of the newly appointed Order of Canada member, Ilkay Silk, to the Black Box Theatre as she reprised her directorial role in TST's production of Tom Stoppard's *Rosencrantz and Guildenstern are Dead*. Silk, who previously taught theatre at STU for 36 years, returned after a four-year hiatus. This is her second time directing Stoppard's play at STU, but Silk's experience with a fresh cast of actors allowed for new discoveries and a new take on the classic play. "It doesn't matter how many times you produce that play, you get entirely different versions," said Silk of *R&G*.

Silk focusses on the actors as individuals bringing their experiences and

choices to the communal effort of putting on a play. "Just like sports, you have to create a community... with the common goal to tell this story," says Silk. "I hadn't done that in a while and I love doing that—I miss doing that." Silk's focus on community comes through in her discussion of her approach to her role as director, but, as a driving force behind the building of the Black Box Theatre, her influence in STU's theatre community remains present and relevant. Silk was instrumental in fostering the idea that the Black Box and Theatre St. Thomas is a welcoming environment for everyone. "Theatre is not who you are or what you are, but what you can contribute. It doesn't matter what your background is or who your parents are... these are the friends you have chosen yourself."

Silk described working with these actors in this moment as a particular joy. Returning to STU after several years meant observing a cultural shift. The growing prominence of the LGBTQ+ community and gender/sexuality rights on campus saw the rising of new voices to the stage. "I feel privileged to participate in this moment in this 'brave new world,'" Silk said, gladly taking up the challenge to broaden her understanding of an increasingly diverse community. Silk observes that university offers opportunities for self-discovery and expression that theatre helps foster. "Theatre has always welcomed the outliers," Silk says. She welcomes the addition of new voices to the stories told through theatre. She says, "my joy is to put people on stage who have never been on stage before for whatever reason—whether a small community or family circumstances—that doesn't allow them to have participated in theatre before." Silk continues to foster an open and welcome community of theatre lovers at STU.

Silk still recalls Monsignor George Martin's words to her when she first started at STU: "I don't care what you do, as long as you do something." The "something" that Silk has added to the STU community through theatre and through a general respect for theatre, storytelling, and community continues to inspire those proud to be a part of the STU community.



# A QUEST FOR LITERARY CITIZENSHIP

Dr. Tony Tremblay's "labour of love," the New Brunswick Literature Curriculum in English, was launched on November 3rd, 2017. What started as a project intended to celebrate Canada's 150th anniversary and the end to Tremblay's Canada Research Chair position evolved into a comprehensive resource for teachers and students wishing to explore the rich landscape of New Brunswick literature.

When he surveys his students at the beginning of New Brunswick literature classes, Tremblay finds that most students cannot name a single New Brunswick author. The literature curriculum online resource occupies what has been a gaping hole in the education of New Brunswickers—and Canadians—with regards to the province's literary and cultural tradition.

The literature curriculum is now available to the public with special consideration for students and teachers. The resource consists of 44 author pages organized by era, region, and literary or cultural movement as well as ten possible teaching modules. Spanning from New Brunswick's founding as a province to the modern day, the author pages offer an outline of New Brunswick's literary discourse. Readers and teachers alike are now privy to the stories of the province as told by the writers that shaped its literature.

Tremblay acknowledges and expresses gratitude to the students who assisted in the development of the project. He values the role that students play in "carrying the torch" and "bringing New Brunswick material to big research universities." Billy Johnson, a former student of Tremblay's, "became a peer" as he worked with Tremblay by contacting the provincial government and education faculties across the province. Alexandra Cogswell was instrumental in the instructional design and in ensuring the curriculum meets teachers' needs. Finally, Monica Furness exhaustively fact-checked and proofread the literary teaching tool before populating the website.



**NBLCE**  
New Brunswick Literature Curriculum in English

HOME ABOUT RESOURCES CREDITS & CONTACTS

**MODULES/CONTENT**

- FIRST NATIONS STORY
- PRE-CONFEDERATION WRITERS AND POETS
- CONFEDERATION POETS
- NEW BRUNSWICK HISTORY IN FICTION
- MODERNISM AND THE FREDERICTON FERMENT
- CONFESSIONAL HUMANISM
- THE TANTRAMAR REVISITED
- THE ACADIAN RENAISSANCE
- THE LITERARY MIRAMICHI
- CURRENT AND CONTEMPORARY VOICES

**DAVID ADAMS RICHARDS**  
THE LITERARY MIRAMICHI

**NEW BRUNSWICK LITERATURE CURRICULUM IN ENGLISH**

Welcome to the New Brunswick Literature Curriculum in English. Designed for students, teachers, and citizens, the curriculum is a guided reading tool for those who want to know more about New Brunswick literature. That citizens of the province do not know their own literature is a problem that has existed for a long time. In the colonial world in which New Brunswickers lived for generations, writers from other empires were considered more important. And today, with globalism pressing upon us, some might wonder why a New Brunswick literature curriculum is important at all.

It is important because we live in multiple worlds, our own New Brunswick world often being the first or the most formative we encounter. The experience of that first encounter provides the seeds of our identity, influencing the way we grow, respond to others, and meet the larger world. Reading the literature of place enables us to recognize those processes of growth and identification.

Reading our literature also provides us with the self-knowledge we contribute meaningfully to our society. A confident and productive population is aware of its histories. A healthy and happy citizenry takes pride in its heritage. New Brunswick literature shows us where we've come from, who we are, and how we are likely to meet

Tremblay hopes the curriculum resource, in making New Brunswick literary tradition accessible in education, will offer "literary citizenship" to all classes of New Brunswickers. Students will be able to recognize people from their communities in the works of writers who provide intimate observations regarding the province, its history, and its people. Tremblay saw his Canada Research Chair position as a way to develop "resources for all." This New Brunswick Literature Curriculum in English enables teachers and students to learn their own history and significance in Canadian art and culture.

*In 2018-2019, Dr. Tremblay will be teaching ENGL 3403 Canadian Poetry and ENGL 3493 New Brunswick Literature, Film and Art.*

VISIT THE WEBSITE  
<http://w3.stu.ca/stu/nblce/>



# ENGLISH GETS GRAPHIC IN 2018-2019

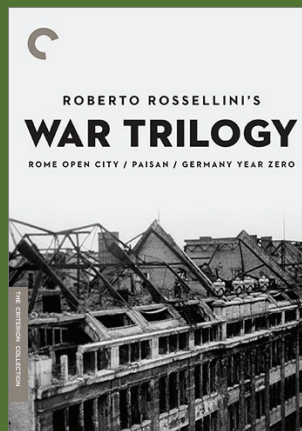
Keep your eyes open at registration for courses that mix images and text



## ENGL 2413 Manga and Graphic Novels.

Look into the literature of manga, global manga, and graphic novels. Explore the narrative strategies of manga and graphic novels within genres of fantasy, science fiction, and realist fiction. Instructor Dr. Christine Cornell. (Fulfills requirements in Post-1800). Also teaches ENGL 3316 *Shakespeare and the Drama of His Age*.

**ENGL 3673 The Film of Politics.** Investigate political themes in narrative fiction films from the beginnings of cinema to the present day. Hollywood, Art House, and World Cinema films are screened and analyzed in class. Instructor Dr. Stewart Donovan. (Fulfills requirements in Post-1800 literature.) Also teaches ENGL 2723 and 2733 *Fiction, Drama, Film I & II*, and ENGL 3473 and 3783 *Irish Film I & II*.



## 3133 Visual Texts.

Texts and images combine in multiple ways, from memes to zines, graphic novels to gallery catalogues, Hallmark cards to ekphrastic poems. Enrich your visual literacies by studying together two disciplines usually separated in academe, though constantly joined in culture. Instructor Dr. Kathy Mac (Prerequisite: ENGL 2113: Creative Writing Skills or ENGL 2123: Creative Writing Strategies.)



Q. Where do these amazing English courses come from?

A. They come from faculty research! English faculty members Dr. Andrea Schutz, specialist in Medieval languages and literature, and Dr. Matte Robinson, specialist in American literature and Modernism, will be away on sabbatical research leave in 2018-2019. They will be investigating sources and gathering texts and ideas to enrich their courses and the English program on their return.

For FULL ENGLISH  
COURSE LISTINGS for  
2018-2019, pick up the  
*English Handbook 2018*  
after March Break in  
ECH 220.

## NEED HELP SELECTING COURSES?

### Honours Advisors

Dr. Beth McKim | mckim@stu.ca

Dr. Matte Robinson | mrobinson@stu.ca

### Majors Advisor

Dr. Dawn Morgan | dmorgan@stu.ca

### Creative Writing Advisor

Dr. Kathleen McConnell | kathymac@stu.ca

### Drama Advisor

Dr. Robin Whittaker | rwhit@stu.ca

## POETRY CORNER

Join Kathy Mac to read and discuss poetry at Pine Grove Nursing Home every month. Contact her by email: [kathymac@stu.ca](mailto:kathymac@stu.ca).



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[www.stu.ca/english](http://www.stu.ca/english)