ENG 325 Literature of the Northwest: Prof. Stephanie LeMenager  
U. of Oregon/Spring 2022/Tues-Thursdays 2-3:20pm

ENGLISH 325 Course Concept

The Northwest figures in literary imagination as many nations—the Indigenous nations whose homelands comprise the region, the utopian or countercultural nations imagined by settlers (i.e. Ecotopia, Cascadia), the dystopic nationalism performed through Japanese internment, systemic racism, and white supremacy. This course examines these cultural formations and more, to ask the question of how regional stories affect politics, art, and everyday lives. Featured authors include Lee Maracle (Sto:lo), Ursula K. LeGuin, Larissa Lai, Ernest Callenbach, Coll Thrush (Muckleshoot), Nicole Georges, Gary Snyder, Mitchell S. Jackson, Lisa Mirk, and Lawrence Matsuda.

Our course schedule is available on our CANVAS page, along with our Course Compact, which I ask you to read, revise, and sign before the second week of the course.

COVID Policies

In the event of a campus emergency that disrupts academic activities, course requirements, deadlines, and grading percentages are subject to change. Information about changes in this course will be communicated as soon as possible by email, and on Canvas. If we are not able to meet face-to-face, students should immediately log onto Canvas and read any announcements and/or access alternative assignments. Students are also expected to continue coursework as outlined in this syllabus or other instructions on Canvas.

In the event that the instructor of this course has to quarantine, this course may be taught online during that time.

See our CANVAS website, Welcome Module, for explicit instruction on COVID Containment Practices.

COURSE MATERIALS

There are several readings available as PDFs or URLs on Canvas. Your required books, and film, include:

Lee Maracle, Ravensong (1993)

Ernest Callenbach, Ecotopia (1975)


Lawrence Matsuda, A Cold Wind from Idaho: Poems (2010)
First Cow (dir. Kelly Reichardt, 2019)...you will rent this film online.

***LEARNING OBJECTIVES***

- Identify, understand, and use key critical terms related to literary writing, including fiction, creative nonfiction, and memoir.
- Make links between critical or theoretical ideas, historical contexts, and fictional texts.
- Demonstrate ability to perform close reading of literary passages and film sequences, attending to the ways that formal or stylistic choices the author or filmmaker have made build toward meaning.
- Write an original, critically informed, and coherent essay based on course content.
- Read, synthesize, and reflect upon (verbally and in writing) both fictional works and nonfictional, critical or historical accounts of the PNW.
- Reflect upon how the literary arts and other artful media respond to and shape the individual sense of self, cultural movements and worldviews, with special attention to the PNW region.

***CONTACT INFORMATION***

Prof. Stephanie LeMenager: slemen@uoregon.edu
(Office hours Mondays: 3-4:30pm and by appointment)

***GRADES AND ASSIGNMENTS***

Participation: 15%

**Weekly Writing or Video Reflection (Discussion Board)**

- With the exception of weeks when an exam or essay is due, each week you will explore a key question that is listed for the Week on our CANVAS page. Compose a brief (250-500 word) response or submit a short (5min) video response. It is fine to quote or paraphrase authors from our assigned readings, but the majority of words should be your own. Part of this assignment is to respond *in some depth* (100 word and/or 2 min. video minimum) to one other student’s post for the week.

**Weekly in-class Presence**

- You are expected to be in class not only as a physical (or Zoom) presence, but also as an attentive, respectful, and informed interlocutor. Please see our Course Compact for details regarding community standards for the class. If there is any reason why you cannot participate in discussion, please talk with the Prof. asap. Special considerations regarding COVID still apply.

**Participation during COVID:**
Though participation counts for 15% of students’ grades, I have made half of that available through online participation (the weekly discussion board). For missed attendance, I have developed make-up activities which may be used up to three times, no questions asked. Just inform me if you need these make-up activities.

**Assignment deadlines during COVID:**

Assignment due dates and times are available on Canvas. All students also have up to two “oops tokens”—opportunities to turn in an assignment up to three days late for any reason, no questions asked. Additional accommodations are available for students who have been instructed to quarantine. I hope both this regular deadline and some built-in flexibility supports your work in the course.

**Midterm Exam: 25%**

- The midterm exam is held in class on April 21st. It will include identification of terms (characters, critical terms, relevant historical events) and short essay questions that require you to do a close reading of selected passages from novels and/or articles we have read in class.

**Essay (6-8pp): 25%**

- You will write a 6-8pp essay that is due to the Professor on Monday, 5/16, by 11:59pm, via Canvas online submission. The essay should treat materials from ENG 325, should include two critical sources, and it should be written in 12-pt Times Roman font, with one-inch margins, double-spaced. Please use MLA citation style. Specific essay topics will be posted on Canvas by April 16th.

**Post-Midterm Reading Knowledge Check: 10%**

- On 5/24, you’ll take a short, in-class knowledge check that tests your familiarity with and understanding of 5 characters/terms from readings after the midterm exam. *The best way to study for this knowledge check is to keep up with course reading.*

**DIY Final Exam: 25%**

- In true PNW style, you will craft your own take-home final exam. You will be asked to choose three passages from distinct course texts from the period after the midterm and: 1) type out the passage, noting the author and text from which it comes; 2) offer an interpretation of the passage, in your own words; 3) describe why the passage is meaningful to you, and why you chose it. *The best way to study for this final exam is to keep up with our course*
readings and be present (listening, taking notes, thinking) in our weekly class sessions.

***COURSE POLICIES/EXPECTATIONS

- **Communication:** The primary means of communication outside of class in this course will be through your UO email account and Canvas. Please check your UO email account and Canvas regularly. Generally, you can expect an email response from Prof. LeMenager in two business days.
- **Syllabus:** This syllabus is subject to change during the term, if deemed beneficial to the class as a whole. Any changes will be clearly communicated by Prof. LeMenager, with an explanation, and in time for students to incorporate without adverse effects.
- **Late Work Policy:** Please communicate with Prof. LeMenager asap if you become aware that you must submit an assignment late. Work that is submitted late without documentation or prior communication will be docked 1/2 letter-grade per day.
- **Academic Integrity:** Students are expected to adhere to the University of Oregon’s standards of academic integrity. All work should be your own, and all sources should be appropriately acknowledged. Violations of academic integrity include plagiarism, duplicate submission, cheating on examinations, and false citations. Please do not hesitate to speak to Prof. if you have any questions about use of sources or citations. Please read the Academic Misconduct Code in full. It can be accessed at: http://uodos.uoregon.edu/StudentConductandCommunityStandards/AcademicMisconduct/ta/248/Default.aspx

***SUPPORT FOR STUDENTS

- **Accessible Education:** The University of Oregon is working to create inclusive learning environments. Please consult with Prof. LeMenager if aspects of the instruction or course design results in barriers to your participation. Students are also encouraged to contact the Accessible Education Center (AEC) 541-346-1155; http://aec.uoregon.edu/. AEC helps provide services including sign language interpreting, computer-based note taking, classroom relocation, exam modifications, and alternative text conversion. Please request that the Accessible Education Center send Prof. LeMenager a letter outlining your approved accommodations.
- **Preferred First Name:** The University of Oregon has a preferred first name policy. According to this policy, a student or employee’s preferred first name will be used in university communications and reporting except where the use of the legal name is required for university purposes. If you have reasons to believe your preferred first name may not be listed correctly in the roster or you do not feel comfortable taking advantage of UO’s preferred first name policy, please communicate the name you wish to use to Prof. LeMenager. The preferred first name policy can be accessed here: http://policies.uoregon.edu/node/216
- **Preferred Pronouns:** Please communicate your preferred pronouns to Prof. LeMenager and feel encouraged to list your pronouns after your name in your Zoom account.
• **Responding to Bias:** You have the right to learn, work, and live in an environment free of discrimination and hate. UO has gathered resources for students, faculty, and staff to report bias incidents or find support following bias incidents here: https://respect.uoregon.edu/

• **Basic Needs:** Any student who has difficulty affording groceries or accessing sufficient food to eat every day, or who lacks a safe and stable place to live and believes this may affect their performance in the course, is urged to contact the Dean of Students Office (346-3216, 164 Oregon Hall) for support. Furthermore, if you are comfortable doing so, please let me know about your situation so I can create accommodations for you, with the guidance of the Dean of Students Office.

• **Safe Ride:** (541)346-7433, extension 2. Safe Ride provides free, inclusive, and accessible alternatives to traveling home alone at night for UO students, faculty, and staff. It is a schedule-ahead service. Safe Ride is a feminist, ‘for-the-students/by-the-students’ organization and operates out of the Women’s Center in EMU 12F. For more information: http://pages.uoregon.edu/saferide/

• **Sexual Assault Support Services:** 541-346-SAFE is a 24/7 hotline staffed by confidential, trained counselors. Students may also contact University Health Services (http://healthcenter.uoregon.edu/) or Sexual Assault Support Services (http://sass-lane.org/) for confidential help.

• **Teaching and Learning Center:** You are encouraged to take advantage of the resources offered by the Teaching and Learning Center. They offer individual and small group tutoring, writing assistance, and a variety of other support programs. http://tlc.uoregon.edu, 541-346-3226, 68 PLC