

**Wilfrid Laurier University**  
**Department of English and Film Studies**

**Comprehensive Area Exam: Canadian Literature Reading List**  
**Created: April 2011**

**Section I: Pre-confederation to 1867**

Brooke, Frances. *The History of Emily Montague*.  
Haliburton, Thomas. *The Clockmaker*.  
Jameson, Anna Brownell. *Winter Studies and Summer Rambles in Canada*.  
Moodie, Susanna. *Roughing It in the Bush*.  
Richardson, John. *Wacousta*.  
Traill, Catherine Parr. *The Backwoods of Canada*.

**Section II: Confederation to 1918**

\*When the notation beside a poet's name reads "selected poems," students should read a wide selection of that poet's work.

Carman, Bliss. Selected poems.  
Connor, Ralph. *The Man From Glengarry*.  
Crawford, Isabelle Valancy. Selected poems.  
Duncan, Sara Jeanette. *The Imperialist* and "A Mother in India."  
Johnson, Pauline. Selected poems.  
Lampman, Archibald. Selected poems.  
Leacock, Stephen. *Sunshine Sketches of a Little Town*.  
McClung, Nellie. *Sowing Seeds in Danny*.  
Montgomery, Lucy Maud. *Anne of Green Gables*.  
Roberts, Charles G.D. Selected poems.  
Scott, Duncan Campbell. Selected poems.

**Section III: Between the Wars and After: 1918-1959**

Birney, Earle. Selected poems.  
Carr, Emily. *Klee Wyck*.  
Glassco, John. *Memoirs of Montparnasse*.  
Grove, Frederick Philip. *Settlers of the Marsh*.  
Hiebert, Paul. *Sarah Binks*.  
Klein, A.M. Selected poems.  
Layton, Irving. Selected poems.

Livesay, Dorothy. Selected poems.  
MacLennan, Hugh. *Two Solitudes*.  
Mitchell, W.O. *Who Has Seen the Wind?*  
Ostenso, Martha. *Wild Geese*.  
Page, P.K. Selected poems.  
Pratt, E.J. Selected poems.  
Ross, Sinclair. *As For Me and My House*.  
Roy, Gabrielle. *The Tin Flute*.  
Scott, F.R. Selected poems.  
Smart, Elizabeth. *By Grand Central Station I Sat Down and Wept*.  
Smith, A.J.M. Selected poems.  
Watson, Sheila. *The Double Hook*.  
Webb, Phyllis. Selected poems.  
Wilson, Ethel. *Swamp Angel*.

#### **Section IV: Cultural Nationalism: 1960-1980**

Acorn, Milton. Selected poems.  
Atwood, Margaret. *Surfacing*.  
----. Selected poems.  
Avison, Margaret. Selected poems.  
Cohen, Leonard. *Beautiful Losers*.  
----. Selected poems.  
Davies, Robertson. *Fifth Business*.  
Findley, Timothy. *The Wars*.  
French, David. *Leaving Home* and *Of the Fields, Lately*.  
Gallant, Mavis. *Home Truths*.  
Hodgins, Jack. *The Invention of the World*.  
Kogawa, Joy. *Obasan*.  
Kroetsch, Robert. *Badlands*.  
-----. Selected poems.  
Laurence, Margaret. *The Diviners*.  
Lee, Dennis. *Civil Elegies*.  
MacEwen, Gwendolyn. Selected poems.  
Mandel, Eli. Selected poems.  
Munro, Alice. *Lives of Girls and Women*.  
Newlove, John. Selected poems.  
Nichol, bp. Selected poems.  
Nowlan, Alden. Selected poems.  
Ondaatje, Michael. *In the Skin of A Lion*.

----. Selected poems.  
Purdy, Al. Selected poems.  
Richler, Mordecai. *St. Urbain's Horseman*.  
Ryga, George. *The Ecstasy of Rita Joe*.  
Tremblay, Michel. *Les Belles Soeurs*.  
Wiseman, Adele. *Crackpot*.

### **Section V: Post-National Canada? 1980- 2010**

Armstrong, Jeanette. *Slash*.  
Bowering, George. *Burning Water*.  
Boynton, Joseph. *Three Day Road*.  
Brand, Dionne. Selected poems.  
Campbell, Maria and Linda Griffiths. *The Book of Jessica*.  
Clarke, Austin. *Nine Men Who Laughed*.  
Clarke, George Elliott. *The Execution Poems*.  
Highway, Tomson. *The Rez Sisters* and *Dry Lips Oughta Move to Kapuskasing*.  
King, Thomas. *Green Grass, Running Water*.  
Kogawa, Joy. *Obasan*.  
Lee, SKY. *Disappearing Moon Café*.  
Marlatt, Daphne. *Ana historic*.  
Mosoinier, Beatrice Culleton. *In Search of April Raintree*.  
Mouré, Erin. Selected poems.  
Richards, David Adams. *Mercy Among the Children*.  
Scobie, Stephen. *McAlmon's Chinese Opera*.  
Shields, Carol. *The Stone Diaries*.  
Steffler, John. *The Afterlife of George Cartwright*.  
Thomas, Audrey. *Isobel Gunn*.  
Toews, Miriam. *A Complicated Kindness*.  
Vanderhaege, Guy. *The Englishman's Boy*.  
Van Herk, Aritha. *Places Far From Ellesmere*.  
Wah, Fred. *Waiting for Saskatchewan*.  
Wallace, Bronwen. Selected poems.  
Wiebe, Rudy. *A Company of Strangers*.

### **Criticism:**

Atwood. *Survival*.  
Ballstadt, Carl, ed. *The Search for English-Canadian Literature*.  
Davey, Frank. "Critical Response I: Canadian Canons." *Critical Inquiry* 16 (1990): 672-681.  
-----, *Post-National Arguments*.  
Dewart, E.H., ed. *Selections from Canadian Poets*. 1864.

Dudek, Louis and Michael Gnarowski, eds. *The Making of Modern Poetry in Canada*.  
Frye, Northrop. *The Bush Garden* and "Conclusion" to *Literary History of Canada*.  
Godard, Barbara. "Canadian? Literary? Theory?" *Open Letter* 8.3 (1992): 5-27.  
Goldie, Terry. "Fresh Canons: The Native Canadian Example." *English Studies in Canada* 17.4 (1991): 373-384.  
Grant, George. *Lament for a Nation*.  
Hutcheon, Linda. *The Canadian Postmodern*.  
Kambourelli, Smaro. *Scandalous Bodies*.  
King, Thomas, Cheryl Calver and Helen Hoy, ed. *The Native in Literature*.  
Lecker, Robert. "The Canonization of Canadian Literature: an Inquiry into Value." *Critical Inquiry* 16 (1990): 656-671.  
-----, "Critical Response II: Response to Frank Davey." *Critical Inquiry* 16 (1990): 682-689.  
-----, "A Country Without a Canon?: Canadian Literature and the Esthetics of Idealism." *Mosaic* 26.3 (1993): 1-19.  
Lee, Dennis. "Cadence, Country, Silence: Writing in Colonial Space." *boundary 2* 3.1 (1974): 151-168.  
*The Massey Report: A Royal Commission on the National Development and Arts, Letters, and Sciences, 1949-1951*.  
New, W.H. *A History of Canadian Literature*.  
Scobie, Stephen. *Signature, Event, Context*.  
Ware, Tracy. "A Little Self-Consciousness is a Dangerous Thing: A Response to Robert Lecker." *English Studies in Focus* 17.4 (1991): 481-493.