Canada celebrated its 155th birthday on July 1, 2022, obscuring thousands of years of Indigenous stewardship of Turtle Island prior to colonial contact. In our contemporary moment, Canada continues to reckon with its longstanding history of colonial oppression of Indigenous nations, slavery and systemic anti-Black racism, and xenophobia against immigrants and refugees, despite its alleged multiculturalism. As a result, this course seeks to critically question what it means to be Canadian? What counts as Canadian literature? Who represents Canada? Which voices have been silenced in canonical conceptions of Canada?

Students in ENG2354E will study a wide range of Canadian literature and cultural productions in English from World War I to the present, including poetry, short stories, drama, novels, graphic novels, and film. This course seeks to interrogate how Canadian national identity has been shaped through its authors and storytellers since WWI, including through responses to international modernism, the inter-war and war years, the nationalist movement of the post-war era, and postmodernism.

Some authors that may be covered in the syllabus include: Austin Clarke, Joy Kogawa, Rawi Hage, Margaret Atwood, Marilyn Dumont, David Chariandy, Maria Campbell, Ivan Coyote, Dionne Brand, Smokii Sumac, and Thomas King.

Please contact the instructor if you have any questions about the course.