

- **ENGL 4813/5004 Literatures of the Expanded Field in Canada**

Eric Schmaltz

Scheduled: T – 1435 - 1725

This **combined fourth-year & graduate seminar** offers an in-depth exploration of experimental and avant-garde literatures within Canada from 1945 to the present. Working actively to be in conversation, and with a focus on English-language texts and key works in translation that push the limits of literary expression, we will traverse the evolution of innovative forms across multiple genres, including poetry, prose, drama, comics, and intermedial forms. Students will engage with aesthetic movements and their sociopolitical contexts that have shaped avant-garde literary production, examining how unconventional approaches to literary forms historically and currently challenge hegemonic narratives to broaden the scope of Canadian literatures, thus forming what is often referred to as the “expanded field.”

During the semester, students will investigate a range of movements and practices — such as Les Automatistes, *TISH* poetics, concrete poetry, performance poetry, écriture féminine, and underground comics— through historical, political, and cultural lenses. Emphasis will be placed on how these experimental modes intersect with questions of race, gender, sexuality, class, and Indigeneity, while offering a multifaceted view of expanded postwar literary culture within Canada. Through case studies of major literary practitioners, such as M. NourbeSe Philip, Nicole Brossard, Gail Scott, Jeff Derksen, among others, students will become familiar with the key theoretical discourses that underpin avant-garde literary practices, while also gaining insight into how these works address ongoing and contemporary issues such as settler-colonialism, identity, and the transformation of literary form.