

Brno Canadian Studies Forum

Masaryk University, Brno, Fall semester 2008

Call for participation

The “Brno Canadian Studies Forum”, organized as an initiative of the European Network for Canadian Studies, is planned as a semester in which a wide range of Canadian Studies courses will be offered at Masaryk University, Brno, the Czech Republic. Teaching will be by academic staff from Masaryk University as well as from outside universities, the latter coming to Brno to teach intensive courses within the Erasmus programme. Students will be from Masaryk University as well as from outside (also coming to Brno within the framework of the Erasmus programme).

1 Semester schedule

The teaching will begin on 22 September 2008 and run to 19 December (a total of 13 weeks). Students should arrive previous to this, for the orientation week run for international students at Masaryk University (8-13 September). The following week will be mostly free, giving the students the opportunity to settle in smoothly in Brno.

2 Courses

Courses will be registered in Masaryk University’s Information System as MA-level courses; the normal credit load per course will be 5 ECTS credits, transferable to the students’ home institutions. Students will be expected to take a selection of courses taught by both local teachers and incoming teachers. Courses by local teachers (with the exception of the foundation course – see 2.1) will be semester-long (90 minutes a week, for 12 weeks). Courses taught by incoming teachers will normally be compressed into a two-week period (maximum), and will consist of the equivalent of 12 90-minute classes. Ideally, the Brno Forum programme is designed for around thirty students.

2.1 The foundation course

The foundation course will be a comprehensive Introduction to Canadian Studies, touching on a wide variety of areas (history, geography, politics, religion, culture, etc.) and relating to such centrally important themes as regionalism, diversity, social cohesion, etc. It will be taught by Don Sparling (Masaryk University) and run from 22 September to 3 October.

2.2 Courses offered by local teachers

Among the courses that will be offered by Masaryk University teachers are the following:

- Canadian Aboriginal Literature
- Canadian Theatre
- Canadian Security and Foreign Policy
- Geography of Canada
- Canadian Film

One or two courses in French will also be on offer; for this trial run, however, it is assumed that the language in which most students will be most at home will be English.

2.3 Courses offered by visiting teachers

These will be offered at intervals during the semester. Depending on the schedules of the individual teachers, these may last up to two weeks, and could be held in the following time slots.

6 October – 17 October

20 October – 31 October

3 November – 14 November; taught by Keith Battarbee (University of Turku, Finland) on Language Questions in Canadian Society

17 November – 28 November

1 December – 12 December; final guest course. This will be on the theme of multiculturalism, with theoretical texts on multiculturalism, literary and drama texts, film, newspapers, etc., taught by Katalin Kurtosi (University of Szeged, Hungary), with input from Masaryk University teachers

Some examples of the areas in which courses by visiting academics would be desirable:

Sociology - sociology of metropolis, immigrants, native questions

Religious studies

Politics, federalism, the Constitution

History (some particular period or area)

Gender

2.4 Requirements

Students will be required to take the Introduction to Canadian Studies course, and encouraged to take the final course focused on multiculturalism. Otherwise, they will have to take at least one course by a visiting lecturer, and at least two local courses (not including the foundation course). At least two courses should be outside the student's normal field of studies. No more than 40 percent of their courses should be on literature.

3 Timetable

November – December 2007 – Preparation of the final Forum offering

January – March 2008 – the signing of the necessary Erasmus agreements

Teachers wishing to take part in the Forum (the themes listed in 2.3 are only suggestions; we welcome as wide a possible range of suggestions for courses as possible) are asked to get in touch with Don Sparling (sparling@czs.muni.cz) with details of course(s) they would be willing to teach, and when.

In addition, it would be also useful at this stage for teachers to provide preliminary information about possible student participants (not necessarily names, but estimates of numbers).

Deadline: 21 December 2007

The Organizing Committee for the Brno Forum:

Keith Batterbee (University of Turku, Finland)

Katalin Kurtosi (University of Szeged, Hungary)

Don Sparling (Masaryk University, Brno, Czech Republic)