

Required Textbooks

Chak, Tings. *Where the Concrete Desert Blooms: A Graphic Novel by Tings Chak*. Self-published by Tings Chak, 2011. 102 pages. A graphic novel (meaning drawings and text, like comic books) about a newcomer making and finding home in Hamilton.

Freeman, Bill. *Hamilton: A People's History*. Toronto: Lorimer and Co, 2001. 192 pages. An illustrated history of Hamilton from its beginnings to the 21st century, with many historical paintings, photographs, and maps.

Terpstra, John. *Falling Into Place*. Kentville, NS: Gaspereau Press, 2002. 318 pages. A work of creative non-fiction, this book presents a social and ecological history of Burlington Heights, the piece of land between Hamilton Harbour and Cootes Paradise.

Ward, Frances, ed. *Road Work Ahead*. Hamilton, ON: Asphalt Tree Press, 2010. 70 pages. A collection of remarkably beautiful photographs of broken pavement, all taken in Hamilton, that show how much meaning can be found in surprising places. Between the photographs, there are poems by Hamilton-based poets.

Weihs, Ronald. *James Street* (a play). Will be distributed to the class in photocopy form.

Supplementary Texts - not required, but of interest to this course as samples of the kind of work students might think of for their projects.

Bouchier, Nancy and Ken Cruikshank. "Remembering the Struggle for the Environment: Hamilton's Lax Lands/Bayfront Park, 1950s-2008." *Left History* 13.1 (Spring/Summer 2008): 106-128. A historical photo essay about the development of and controversy over what are now the Bayfront Park lands.

- Buist, Steve. "Code Red" series of articles in *Hamilton Spectator*, May 2010, that produced city maps and statistics about the relations between poverty and health in Hamilton.
- Dawson, David (director). *Drummer Boy* (2004). (Alternative title: *Cutting for Stone*) Feature film shot in Hamilton about a teenage boy who deals with schizophrenia.
- Gilbert, Sky (playwright). *Hamilton Bus Stop* (16 pages, unpublished). A short, one-act play about two people from very different backgrounds who share a bus shelter during a rain storm.
- McGowan, Michael (director). *St. Ralph* (2004). Feature film shot in Hamilton, Cambridge, and Toronto, about a young boy in a Catholic school who goes on to run in the Boston Marathon.
- Photovoice (2008-09). Community Centre for Media Arts. www.photovoice.ca. Photo essays and videos by Hamilton youth and seniors and shot in and around the city.
- Stebbins, Peter (director). *Defendor* (2009). Feature film about a man who dresses like a superhero to defend Hamilton from his enemy Captain Industry.
- Strong, Larry (photographer). *Hamilton 365*. A series of portraits of Hamiltonians, one for each day of the year. See www.hamilton365.com.