

NEWS RELEASE

Wilfrid Laurier
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Subculture guru among new instructors at Laurier Brantford

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BRANTFORD – Students at Laurier Brantford this fall have the unique opportunity to learn from working professionals including award winning journalists, an internationally recognized documentary filmmaker, and the man the Toronto Star called the “guru of independent-alternative action.”

Subculture guru Hal Niedzviecki, the co-founder of *Broken Pencil*, the magazine of zine culture and the independent arts, will be teaching courses in children, toys and media, and gender theories and cultures. After spending the summer researching and hosting a CBC Radio series on subcultures, Niedzviecki brings his unique perspective and background in fiction and non-fiction to the classroom.

Emmy award winning documentary maker Tim Knight will be teaching a journalism course on social documentary, which will focus on the art of storytelling in documentary film and their societal impact.

Journalism students will also have the benefit of learning about the law and ethics from CBC Radio writer and executive producer Thomas Rose. Having specialized in global affairs for a number of years, Rose has worked around the world from Vietnam to Russia and Israel to South Africa.

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Subculture guru

Finally, Joan Walters, editor of The Hamilton Spectator's special reports section will introduce students to everything from newspaper design to investigative reporting techniques in a class covering print journalism skills. Walters and her team of reporters at the Spectator were recently awarded the National Newspaper Award for Investigation for their look at the relationship between university researchers and pharmaceutical firms.

Among the other talented instructors joining Niedzviecki, Knight, Rose and Walters are Tannis Atkinson, a fine artist and a bookbinder, teaching a course on the history of the book; and Rachael Preston, a published author who will bring her personal knowledge and experience to a third year creative writing class.

"The unique skills these instructors bring to the classroom can only enrich the students' learning experiences," says Dr. Kathryn Carter, program coordinator for contemporary studies. "Our campus is skills based and emphasizes learning from diverse disciplinary backgrounds, and these professionals bring new perspectives every time they step in front of a class."

Bringing practicing journalists into the classroom is an aide to student success, according to journalism professor and program designer.

"Journalism is not something done sitting down; it is a hands-on profession," she says. "There is no better way for students to learn the craft than working with accomplished professionals."