

**DEPARTMENT OF MODERN LANGUAGES
AND CULTURAL STUDIES**
<https://uofa.ualberta.ca/modern-languages-and-cultural-studies>

2016-2017 FREN 313 A1: Passions and Obsessions
(Fall Term)

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Time: MWF 11:00-11:50
Place: HC 1-15
Office Hours:
by appointment
Course Website: e-class by Moodle

Course Prerequisite: FREN 298 or consent of department

Course-based Ethics Approval in place regarding all research projects that involve human testing, questionnaires, etc.?

Yes No, not needed, no such projects approved.

Community Service Learning component

Required Optional None

Past or Representative Evaluative Course Material Available

- Exam registry – Students’ Union
<http://www.su.ualberta.ca/services/infolink/exam/>
 See explanations below
 Document distributed in class
 Other (please specify)
 NA

Additional mandatory Instructional fees (approved by Board of Governors)

Yes No

Course Description and Objectives:

This course proposes an eclectic vision of the concepts of passions and obsessions (i.e. through different angles – literary, sociological, psychological) in an approach that highlights the centripetal and centrifugal forces linked to the phenomena in our society. The objects of study will range from Obsessive Compulsive Disorders and the 19th century passion for monstrosity and insanity, to passionate love and passionate crime. The course encourages a cross-cultural approach and uses a variety of media, including texts that “go beyond language” such as audiovisual documents and multisemiotic texts (picture books, comic books).

Learning Outcomes:

At the end of this course, students should be able to:

- Investigate and tell about some CODs and the marginalization of persons suffering from these disorders; discuss potential solutions to include the people suffering from these disorders in our society.
- Show the importance of laughter/comedy when discussing sensitive or controversial topics.
- Explain and describe the different forms the passion for monstrosity and madness took in the 19th century and question its significance in today's society.
- Examine innovative, more inclusive types of works for juvenile audiences and experiment on this type of writing.
- Recollect and discuss the problematics at stake in *Phèdre* and compare the original text with its comic book adaptation in terms of the main problematics at stake.
- Discuss passionate love and its possible consequences.
- Present and comment on a real story of passionate crime.

Required texts: Available at the University of Alberta bookstore

A mes amourEs, de Claudine Galéa
Phèdre, Texte intégral BD, de Jean Racine.

Grade Distribution (see “Explanatory Notes”):

Participation in class activities and attendance – equal distribution	10%
(Self-evaluation to be handed in in class on Dec. 7 th)	
In-class Tests/Quizzes (Sept. 16 th & Dec. 7 th)	30% (15% & 15%)
Group “case study” and presentation	15%
Part 1 (50% of the grade) – “Case study” (Sept. 26 th)	
Part 2 (50% of the grade) – Oral presentation (Oct 3 rd , 5 th & 7 th)	
Individual written assignments (Nov. 4 th and Nov. 18 th)	30% (15% & 15%)
Group video (Dec. 12 th)	15%

Fall / Winter Exam Planner for the 2016-2017 academic year can be found at the following site: <http://www.registrarsoffice.ualberta.ca/en/Examinations/Fall-2016-Winter-2017-Exam-Planner.aspx>

Date of Deferred Final Exam (if applicable):

Please consult the following site:

[http://calendar.ualberta.ca/content.php?catoid=6&navoid=806#Examinations_\(Exams\)](http://calendar.ualberta.ca/content.php?catoid=6&navoid=806#Examinations_(Exams))

Explanatory Notes on Assignments:

1. Participation and attendance

In class, we will engage into active learning with individual and group activities. Your participation in these activities is evaluated for:

- how well prepared you come to class: you're supposed to prepare thoroughly all work assigned for each class session (e.g. readings, homework activities),
- your contribution to group activities and discussions
- your spontaneous and individual participation to class discussions

Important note:

Disruptive behaviour in class is a sign of disrespect both to the instructor and to your fellow students, and will not be tolerated. Activities, such as chatting, surfing the Internet, using or frequently checking your phone, studying for another class, etc., will result in a low participation grade.

2. In-class Tests/Quizzes

Test/Quiz 1 will be on our work on “La passion de la langue”.

Test/Quiz 2 will be on *Phèdre*.

3. Group case study and presentation

Part 1: Students are asked to select a testimony in English of a person suffering from OCD and to put together a short “case study” of this testimony in French, which means summarizing the testimony but also quoting *verbatim* (but in translation) some excerpts of the original document.

The instructor will then provide feedback on Part 1.

Part 2: Students will review their case study in light of the instructor’s feedback and will present their final version to the class.

4. Individual written assignments

- “Passion for monstrosity and insanity” – around 500 words

Instructions will be provided by the professor ahead of time.

- *À mes amourEs* – around 700 words

Students will be asked to write a new episode of the story adopting Rosalie’s viewpoint and style.

5. Group video

Students will be asked to create a short video in which they will present/document a real case of passionate crime through role play. This means, for instance, including the testimonies of victims, witnesses, or police officers who worked on the case, etc...

Required Notes:

“Policy about course outlines can be found in the [Evaluation Procedures and Grading System](#) of the University Calendar.”

Academic Integrity:

“The University of Alberta is committed to the highest standards of academic integrity and honesty. Students are expected to be familiar with these standards regarding

academic honesty and to uphold the policies of the University in this respect. Students are particularly urged to familiarize themselves with the provisions of the Code of Student Behaviour (online at <http://www.governance.ualberta.ca/en/CodesofConductandResidenceCommunityStandards/CodeofStudentBehaviour.aspx>) and avoid any behaviour that could potentially result in suspicions of cheating, plagiarism, misrepresentation of facts and/or participation in an offence. Academic dishonesty is a serious offence and can result in suspension or expulsion from the University.”

Learning and Working Environment:

The Faculty of Arts is committed to ensuring all students; faculty and staff are able to study and work in an environment that is safe and free from discrimination and harassment. It does not tolerate behaviour that undermines that environment. The Department urges anyone who feels that this policy is being violated to:

- Discuss the matter with the person whose behaviour is causing concern; or
- If that discussion is unsatisfactory, or there is concern that direct discussion is inappropriate or threatening, discuss it with the Chair of the Department.

For additional advice or assistance regarding this policy you may contact the [Office of the Student Ombuds](#). Information about the [University of Alberta Discrimination and Harassment Policy and Procedures](#) is described in [UAPPOL](#).

Academic Honesty:

All students should consult the information provided by the [Office of Judicial Affairs](#) regarding avoiding cheating and plagiarism in particular and academic dishonesty in general (see the [Academic Integrity Undergraduate Handbook](#) and [Information for Students](#)). If in doubt about what is permitted in this class, ask the instructor.

Students involved in language courses and translation courses should be aware that on-line “translation engines” produce very dubious and unreliable “translations.”

Students in languages courses should be aware that, while seeking the advice of native or expert speakers is often helpful, **excessive editorial and creative help** in assignments is considered a form of “cheating” that violates the code of student conduct with dire consequences.

An instructor or coordinator who is convinced that a student has handed in work that he or she could not possibly reproduce without outside assistance is obliged, out of consideration of fairness to other students, to report the case to the Associate Dean of the Faculty. See the [Academic Discipline Process](#).

Recording of Lectures:

Audio or video recording of lectures, labs, seminars or any other teaching environment by students is allowed only with the prior written consent of the content author(s) or as a part of an approved accommodation plan. Recorded material is to be used solely for

personal study, and is not to be used or distributed for any other purpose without prior written consent from the content author(s).

Attendance, Absences, and Missed Grade Components:

Regular attendance is essential for optimal performance in any course. In cases of potentially excusable absences due to illness or domestic affliction, notify your instructor by e-mail within two days. Regarding absences that may be excusable and procedures for addressing course components missed as a result, consult sections [Attendance](#) and [Examinations](#) of the University Calendar. Be aware that unexcused absences will result in partial or total loss of the grade for the “attendance and participation” component(s) of a course, as well as for any assignments that are not handed-in or completed as a result.

In this course, students are allowed to miss three sessions without penalty regardless of the reason for their absence (excusable or not), after which two percentage point per absence will be deducted from the 10% attendance and participation grade. It is recommended not to miss a session unless necessary.

Policy for Late Assignments:

Students who consult **in advance** with an instructor regarding contingencies preventing the timely completion of an assignment may, at the discretion of the instructor, be granted an extension **just one time throughout the course with no penalty**.

However, if a second excuse will be granted for late assignments, half of the mark assigned for this particular work will be deducted.

Otherwise, all assignments should be handed in on the stated deadline.

Any assignment not handed-in in time or unexcused late assignments will not be given any marks. Late excuses will not be accepted for any reason.

Student Accessibility Services:

If you have special needs that could affect your performance in this class, please let me know during the first week of the term so that appropriate arrangements can be made. If you are not already registered with [Student Accessibility Services](#), contact their office immediately (1-800 SUB; Email sasrec@ualberta.ca; Email; phone 780-492-3381).

Grading:

Assessment of the individual course components may be in the form of numerical marks or letter grades. The final letter grade will be based on "a combination of absolute achievement and relative performance in a class" (University Calendar, [Evaluation Procedures and Grading System](#)). The University Grading Procedure mandates that "a student's level of achievement of the goals/outcomes of a course, their grade, and the descriptor of that grade must

be aligned" (<https://policiesonline.ualberta.ca/>). The following guidelines have been adopted by the Department of Modern Languages and Cultural Studies:

“MLCS Undergraduate Grading Scale”

Descriptor	Letter Grade	Grade Point Value	%
Excellent. A+, A or A- is earned by work which is superior in content and form and demonstrates an exceptional grasp of the subject matter. The grade of A+ designates work that far exceeds course expectations. Grades in the A range are normally achieved by a small number of students.	A+	4.0	97-100
	A	4.0	93-96
	A-	3.7	90-92
Good. B+, B or B- is earned by work that demonstrates a thorough comprehension of the course material and a good command of relevant skills. Grades in the B range are normally achieved by the largest number of students.	B+	3.3	87-89
	B	3.0	83-86
	B-	2.7	80-82
Satisfactory. C+, C or C- is earned by work that demonstrates an adequate grasp of the course material and relevant skills. Grades in the C range designate work that has met the basic requirements of the course.	C+	2.3	77-79
	C	2.0	73-76
	C-	1.7	70-72
Poor/Minimal Pass. D+ or D is earned by work that demonstrates minimal familiarity with the course material. Grades in the D range generally indicate insufficient preparation for subsequent courses in the subject matter.	D+	1.3	65-69
	D	1.0	60-64
Failure.	F	0.0	0-59