

**DEPARTMENT OF MODERN LANGUAGES  
AND CULTURAL STUDIES**

<https://uofa.ualberta.ca/modern-languages-and-cultural-studies>

**2017-2018** C Lit 426 (A1) / EASIA 438 (A1): Orientalisms and Occidentalisms  
(Fall Term)

Instructor: Professor Daniel Fried  
Office: Pembina 3-05  
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E-mail: dfried@ualberta.ca  
Personal Website: n/a

Time: TR 9:30-10:50  
Place: T B-129  
Office Hours: W 1-3,  
or by appointment  
Course Website: see eClass

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**Course Prerequisite:** \*3 in a humanities discipline (C Lit 426) or EASIA 101 (EASIA 438), 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:**

The goal of this course will be to compare various kinds of representations of the ethnic Other, through examining “standard” orientalist texts with occidentalist texts produced about the West. Our purpose is to disentangle the specific political distortions of Western orientalism deriving from imperialist projects from the more general properties of representation of ethnicities from the outside which are common in many different historical circumstances. By the end of this course, students will be able to analyze how such representations create supposedly “common knowledge” about distant places and ethnicities, and to connect these to the historical circumstances of the representers, rather than to any supposed essences of the objects of representation.

**Texts:**

The only text required for purchase is Edward Said's *Orientalism*. Other assigned texts will be available for free online or on reserve at Rutherford library.

**Grade Distribution (see "Explanatory Notes"):**

Class Participation	20%	
Midterm exam	20%	Thursday, Oct. 12
Research paper	30%	Due Tuesday, Dec. 12
Final exam	30%	9-12, Tuesday, Dec. 19

**Date of Deferred Final Exam (if applicable):**

Available for scheduling with professor in cases of serious illness or family emergency only, upon approval of an application for a deferred exam by the student's home Faculty.

**Explanatory Notes on Assignments:**

**Class Participation:** Regular attendance and participation are an important part of this course, and are assigned a major portion of the grade. Attendance will be taken quietly at the beginning of each class; students are allowed one free absence for the semester. In addition, each student will be expected to demonstrate that s/he has read the material and is capable of engaging with the professor and the rest of the class. Note: In this class, the use of laptops, phones, etc. will be prohibited, except on occasions which may be specified by the instructor.

**Midterm:** There will be one midterm exam, on Oct 12, consisting of 50 multiple-choice questions. The exam will consist only of fifty multiple-choice questions, worth two points each. However, students should expect that these multiple-choice questions will be difficult, requiring both a knowledge of the facts presented in the class, as well as an ability to analyze these facts. All information sources (textbook, powerpoints, film clips, lectures, class discussions, etc.) will be fair game for exam questions.

**Final exam:** The final exam, on Dec. 19, will use the same format as the midterm exam, and will cover the second half of the course only.

**Research Paper:** Students are required to write a 2000-word research paper about one orientalist or occidentalist text. The paper must cite at least four works of relevant scholarship, and use MLA format.

**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 [www.governance.ualberta.ca](http://www.governance.ualberta.ca)) 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 [Student Conduct & Accountability Office](#) 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, digital or otherwise, of lectures, labs, seminars or any other teaching environment by students is allowed only with the prior written consent of the instructor or as a part of an approved accommodation plan. Student or instructor content, digital or otherwise, created and/or used within the

context of the course 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**, participation will be graded as described above.

***Policy for Late Assignments:***

Extensions may be granted if negotiated with the instructor in advance of the due date. (These are more likely to be given if requested far in advance, with a good explanation of an unavoidable schedule conflict. “Having other things due at the same time” will not be considered valid grounds for an extension.) If an assignment is turned in late without an extension, then a penalty of one grade-step per day will be assessed. For example, if a paper which would otherwise earn an A- is turned in two days late, the grade given will be a B.

***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 (1-80 SUB; Email [sasrec@ualberta.ca](mailto: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	%
<b>Excellent.</b> 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.	<b>A+</b>	4.0	<b>97-100</b>
	<b>A</b>	4.0	<b>93-96</b>
	<b>A-</b>	3.7	<b>90-92</b>
<b>Good.</b> 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>B+</b>	3.3	<b>87-89</b>
	<b>B</b>	3.0	<b>83-86</b>
	<b>B-</b>	2.7	<b>80-82</b>
<b>Satisfactory.</b> 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.	<b>C+</b>	2.3	<b>77-79</b>
	<b>C</b>	2.0	<b>73-76</b>
	<b>C-</b>	1.7	<b>70-72</b>
<b>Poor/Minimal Pass.</b> 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.	<b>D+</b>	1.3	<b>65-69</b>
	<b>D</b>	1.0	<b>60-64</b>
<b>Failure.</b>	<b>F</b>	0.0	<b>0-59</b>

Note: Because the Department of East Asian Studies does not have a unified grading scale, those registered in EASIA 438 will also be graded on this same scale which must be applied to the students in C LIT 426.