

**DEPARTMENT OF MODERN LANGUAGES
AND CULTURAL STUDIES**

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

2020-2021 FREN 445 A1: *Contemporary Cinema in French*
(Fall Term)

Note: Remote Delivery

Instructor: Dr. Sathya Rao

Office: remote

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Personal Website: <https://ualberta.academia.edu/SathyaRao>

Course Website: Moodle

Time: TTh 11.00am-12.20pm

Place: remote delivery

Office Hours: TTh 1pm-2pm (*GoogleMeet*)

or by appointment

Bachelor of Arts / Major in Modern Languages and Cultural Studies:

<https://www.ualberta.ca/modern-languages-and-cultural-studies/undergraduate-program-information/prospective-undergraduate-students>

Course Prerequisite: FREN 301 or FRANCO 225 and one of FREN 311, 312, 313, 314, 315, 316, 333 or consent of department

It is your responsibility as a student to ensure that you have the appropriate prerequisites for the course.

Technology requirements (minimum):

A computer which can run a current supported version of Windows or MacOS, Windows (Version 8, 8.1, or 10) or Mac (Version 10.13 or higher)

Intel Core i5 or higher processor

Google Chrome or Firefox web browser

4 GB RAM Memory minimum; 8 GB RAM recommended.

500 GB HDD

Wireless adapter that supports the University's wireless (UWS) standards 802.11n or 802.11ac

Microphone, and speakers or headphones

A webcam is highly recommended and may be a requirement for synchronous, proctored assessments in courses.

A screen large enough and sufficient resolution to easily view documents and videos.

The ability to access and use productivity software such as Google Suite or Microsoft Office suites.

It is your responsibility as a student to ensure that you have the appropriate technology for the course.

Experiential Learning Component

- this course has a significant experiential learning component (15% or more of the course grade)

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

Yes No, not needed

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

Course Description, Objectives and Expected Learning Outcomes:

The aim of this course is to introduce students to French Cinema as a cultural industry, an artistic practice, and a means of social representation through the study and analysis of a diversified corpus of French films. A special emphasis will be placed on the history of French cinema, and its most significant trends (e.g., Poetic realism, and Nouvelle Vague), and celebrated film makers (e.g., Méliès, Godard, Demy, and Pialat). Students will also be introduced to basic film studies concepts and apply them to movies discussed in class.

At the end of this course students are expected (1) to display a comprehensive knowledge of French cinema from the end of 19th century to the present day; (2) to identify most significant French cinematic traditions and filmmakers’ styles based on their characteristic features; (3) to apply appropriate concepts to analyze cinematic aspects, such as editing, framing, and camera moves; (4) to produce informed film criticisms and reviews; and (5) to improve their written and oral proficiency in French.

Course Format: The objectives of the course will be learned through a combination of asynchronous and synchronous teaching. Students will have access to detailed course notes along with PPT presentations, and complete activities to test their knowledge of topics and concepts covered. It is recommended that students work in teams during the semester to maintain their motivation. Opportunities to foster peer-to-peer interactions will be encouraged through *Flipgrid* and other similar apps. While synchronous teaching will be kept to a minimum to accommodate students’ privacy, students will have the opportunity to interact with the instructor via chat or video conference (e.g., *GoogleMeet* and *Zoom*) during class time to ask questions.

Films studied: (available for free on *Youtube*, *Kanopy* and *Criterion*)

Le Voyage dans la lune (Méliès, 1902) [*Youtube*]
La souriante Madame Beudet (Dulac, 1923) [*Youtube*]
L’Atalante (Vigo, 1934) [*Kanopy*]
La belle et la bête (Cocteau, 1946) [*Kanopy*]
À bout de souffle (Godard, 1960) [*Kanopy*]
Les demoiselles de Rochefort (Demy, 1967) [*Kanopy*]
À nos amours (Pialat, 1983) [*Kanopy*]

Additional Course Fees

Yes No

Important Dates: [See Academic Schedule in current Calendar](#)

First Day of Class: September 1, 2020

Add/Delete Date: September 15, 2020

50% Withdrawal Date: October 2, 2020

Fall Term Reading Week: November 9-13, 2020

Withdrawal Date: November 30, 2020

Last Day of Class: December 7, 2020

Components of Course Grade (see “Explanatory Notes”):

3 in-class assignments:	3x5% = 15% (date to be determined)
1 film review:	15% (no later than October 8, 2020)
1 clip analysis:	10% (no later than October 8, 2020)
1 essay:	25% (no later than November 5, 2020)
1 presentation:	25% (date to be determined based on the choice of movie)
Participation:	10%

Explanatory Notes on Assignments:

In-class assignments: Throughout the semester, students will complete activity sheets (“feuilles d’activités”) for each section of the course and submit them at the end of the class on Moodle. 3 of those activity sheets will be graded.

Film review & clip analysis: The film review and clip analysis should be **at least 500 words** and **350 words** long respectively. They require students to apply film studies concepts and writing techniques presented in class. Students should write their review and analysis on the same movie (to be chosen in the list of movies for the presentation), and submit both assignments on the same Word file.

Essay: The essay should be **at least 1500 words** long and compare two movies from both a content and cinematic perspective. Students have also the possibility to compare any two movies they pick up from the list on a topic that interests them. Students can write their essay on the films they reviewed and/or presented.

Presentation: The presentation is done in teams of two students (unless exception is granted). Each student will do a 15 minutes presentation on a particular aspect of the movie and answer questions from their peers and the instructor. Various presentation formats are available (e.g., *PPT*, *Zoom*) depending on the students’ technical skills. Students cannot present on the same movie they reviewed.

Participation: Participation includes several components: 1) completing activity sheets

(“feuilles d’activités”) and submitting them in due time; 2) participating in class activity be they synchronous or asynchronous; 3) completing homework; 4) asking questions to the instructor and presenters. Students will have the opportunity to boost their participation grade by attending events in the local francophone community and providing evidence to the instructor.

Required Notes:

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

Student Responsibilities:

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](#) 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.

All students should consult [the Academic Integrity website](#). If you have any questions, ask your instructor.

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](#).

Language and Translation Courses:

Students involved in language courses and translation courses should be aware that the use of on-line translation to complete assignments constitutes a form of cheating as the student’s own understanding and work is therefore not reflected. Also, students in language 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 Behaviour.

Learning and Working Environment:

The Faculty of Arts is committed to ensuring all students, faculty and staff are able to work and study 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](#).

Sexual Violence Policy:

It is the policy of the University of Alberta that sexual violence committed by any member of the University community is prohibited and constitutes misconduct. Resources and more information can be found at <https://www.ualberta.ca/campus-life/sexual-violence>

Territorial Statement:

“The University of Alberta acknowledges that we are located on Treaty 6 territory, and respects the histories, languages, and cultures of the First Nations, Métis, Inuit, and all First Peoples of Canada, whose presence continues to enrich our vibrant community.” (*from the beginning of the Calendar*).

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.

Deferral of term work is a privilege and not a right; there is no guarantee that a deferral will be granted. Misrepresentation of facts to gain a deferral is a serious breach of the Code of Student Behaviour.

In this course, participation is an essential component and will be factored **10% of the overall grade**. Participation includes completing and positing in due time activity sheets (“feuilles d’activités”) and taking part in class online activities (e.g., chat and discussion forum). Students who fail to complete activity sheet in due time **will lose 3% of their participation grade** unless they provide a legitimate excuse. Students have the opportunity to **increase their grade by attending a maximum of 2 community events** from the list posted on the “Activités dans la communauté 2020-2021” Moodle website.

Students can also attend events listed on the [Francopass](#) web application. They will receive a **3% bonus** on their participation grade for each event upon showing evidence of attendance (e.g., selfie, receipt, and stamp on their “passeport”, Francopass).

Policy for Late Assignments:

Students who consult **in advance** with the 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. Otherwise, all assignments should be handed in on the stated deadline. Students who submit assignments late with no acceptable excuse will lose **10% of the assignment's value for each day following the deadline**. Late excuses will **not** be accepted.

Disclaimer:

Any typographical errors in this syllabus are subject to change and will be announced in class and posted on eClass. The date of the final examination is set by the Registrar and takes precedence over the final examination date reported in this syllabus.

Student Resources:

The best all-purpose website for student services is: <https://www.ualberta.ca/current-students>.

Accessibility Resources: (1 – 80 SUB)

The University of Alberta is committed to creating work and learning communities that inspire and enable all people to reach their full potential. Accessibility Resources promotes an accessible, inclusive, and universally designed environment. For general information to register for services visit the [Accessibility Resources](#) webpage.

The Academic Success Centre: (1-80 SUB)

[The Academic Success Centre](#) offers a variety of workshops on effective study and exam strategies. There are in-person and online sessions available for a modest fee.

The Centre for Writers: (1-42 Assiniboia Hall)

The [Centre for Writers](#) offers free one-on-one writing support to students, faculty, and staff. Students can request consultation for a writing project at any stage of development. Instructors can request class visits and presentations.

Health and Wellness Support: There are many health and community services available to current students. For more information visit the [Health and Wellness Support](#) webpage.

Office of the Student Ombuds:

The [Office of the Student Ombuds](#) offers confidential interviews, advice and support to students facing academic, discipline, interpersonal and financial difficulties.

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

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