

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

2016-2017 C-LIT 228 A1: Literature, Popular Culture and the Visual Arts
(Spring Term)

Instructor: Mansoureh Modarres
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Personal Website: N/A

Time: MWF 2:00-3:50
Place: T B 5
Office Hours: MW 4:30-6,
or by appointment
Course Website: eClass

Course Prerequisite: N/A

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:

In this course, students will be introduced to select works, including stories, visual adaptations, films, and other forms of literature. Texts to be discussed in this course are chosen from various popular genres such as Detective Fiction, Science Fiction, Mystery, and Adventure from around the world. In addition to examining these specific genres, students will be introduced to select critical concepts in literary theory and will be given assignments to apply the theoretical concepts on texts. At the end of this course, students will be able to think critically about literature and popular fiction and will be able to compare and contrast texts thematically across times, genres, and forms.

Texts:

Required (Other required and optional readings will be available on eClass.)

Auster, Paul. *The New York Trilogy*. London: Faber and Faber/Penguin, 2015.

Recommended:

Berberich, Christine. *The Bloomsbury Introduction to Popular Fiction*. London: Bloomsbury, 2015.

Cawelti, John. G. *Adventure, Mystery, and Romance: Formula Stories as Art and Popular Culture*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1976.

Fiske, John. *Understanding Popular Culture*. 2nd ed. London: Routledge, 2010.

Grade Distribution (see “Explanatory Notes”):

Attendance and Class Participation: 20%

Exam 1 (24 May): 20%

Exam 2 (12 June): 20%

Short Response Paragraphs: 10% (2*5%)

Final Project (14 June): 30%

(Abstract and Presentation: 10% + Critical Review: 20%)

Date of Deferred Final Exam (if applicable):

N/A

Explanatory Notes on Assignments:

Class Participation: Students are expected to take an active role in class, ask questions and engage in and contribute to class discussions every session. In addition, class activities will be offered every session and their participation in the forms of pair/group discussions and individual/group written reports will be evaluated throughout the course.

Exams: The two exams will test students’ knowledge of the topics, themes and critical analysis of texts discussed in each half of the course. These written exams will consist of multiple choice questions, short answers and essay type questions in these exams.

Response Papers: Students are expected to hand in two response paragraphs (200-300 words) written on two titles from the reading list posted on eClass. These paragraphs should answer the critical questions that will be given to students based on specific readings and themes introduced each week. These response papers should be handed in on designated dates throughout the term, before the readings are discussed in class.

Final Project: This assignment consists of 3 parts: an abstract, a presentation, and a critical review. The critical review is an essay of 800-1000 words analyzing and evaluating a chosen title (self-study), to be submitted on 14 June. The chosen topic and the critical questions to be answered in the review should be first proposed in the form of a one paragraph (~200 words) abstract (by 31 May) to be approved by the instructor. Moreover, students are expected to deliver a 5-7-minute presentation of their projects.

*Additional assignment descriptions will be available on eClass.

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 2 absences from the course, and any additional absence will result in losing 5% of the attendance grade. In addition, students will lose the chance to earn points for the class participation activities offered in the sessions they miss from class.

Policy for Late Assignments:

Students who cannot meet the deadlines for submitting their assignments need to consult the instructor **at least one week in advance**. The assignments which are submitted late will not be accepted. Moreover, students are in charge of making sure their electronic or hard copies of their assignments are received by the instructor before the deadlines.

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; 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