

**DEPARTMENT OF MODERN LANGUAGES
AND CULTURAL STUDIES**

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

2015-2016 FREN 312 B1: Colonialism and Postcolonialism
(Winter Term)

Instructor: Sathya Rao

Office: 217 B Arts building

Telephone: n/a Fax: 780-492-9106

E-mail: srao@ualberta.ca

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

Time: MWF 11 A.M. – 11.50 A.M

Place: CAB 377

Office Hours: T. & Th. 1-P.M.-2.P.M.,

or by appointment

Course Website: Moodle

Course Prerequisite: FREN 298 or consent of department 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 aim of this course is to explore the various manifestations of colonialism as well as the emergence of a postcolonial discourse in the Francophone world. Drawing upon a wide range of material (e.g., novels, poetry, and movies) as well as canonical authors (e.g, Aimé Césaire, Albert Memmi, and Assia Djébar), this course will introduce students to pivotal concepts in the field of Francophone postcolonial theory such as “Négritude”, “Créolité”, “hybridité”, and “métissage.” Students will have the opportunity to use those concepts along with their hands-on experience gained through the Community-Service Learning (CSL) component to critically examine the cultural diversity within the local Francophone community. At the end of this course, students are expected: to have a good grasp of French colonialism, its causes and long-

lasting effects; to be able to apply postcolonial concepts and discourses presented in class to cultural issues pertaining to the Francophone world and beyond; to improve their writing and oral skills in French through both individual and collaborative assignments; and to have a deeper understanding of the social and cultural issues at stake in the local Francophone community.

Texts:

- *Novels:*

L'Aventure ambiguë, Cheikh Hamidou Kane [available through the UofA bookstore]

Nootka, Monique Genuist [available through the UofA bookstore]

- *Texts* (posted on Moodle)

Discours de Jules Ferry et de Georges Clémenceau.

Nicolas Bancel, Pascal Blanchard et Sandrine Lemaire, « Ces zoos humains de la République coloniale », *Le Monde diplomatique*.

Aimé Césaire, *Discours sur le colonialisme*.

L. S. Senghor, « Femme noire »

Paroles francophones de l'Ouest et du Nord canadiens (exerpts)

- *Movies:*

Inch'Allah Dimanche (Yamina Benguigui, 2001)

L'Afrance (Alain Gomis, 2001)

Grade Distribution (see “Explanatory Notes”):

- **Creative text (10%): due January 27 or sooner [at least 600 words]**
- **Research project (15%) [at least 2000 words]**
 - **First version due February 12 or sooner**
 - **Final version due March 18 or sooner**
- **Reading assignment (20%): due April 6 or sooner [at least 1500 words]**
- **In-class quiz (15%): April 8**
- **Class Presentation (10%) [date to be determined in consultation with the instructor]**
- **CSL report (10%): due April 8 or sooner [at least 500 words]**
- **Research presentation (10%) [date to be determined in consultation with the instructor]**
- **Participation (10%)**

Explanatory Notes on Assignments:

Creative text: Students will have the opportunity to write a creative text on a topic related to the colonial representation of Otherness.

Reading assignment: The reading assignment will focus on *Nootka* and *L'Aventure ambiguë*.

In-class quiz: The quiz will cover the two novels as well as the material discussed in class.

Research project: Each team of students will pick up a Francophone cultural community, collect relevant information pertaining to that community, and present it in an organized manner. Research projects will be part of an exhibition and of a website both showcasing the multiculturalism within the Francophone community.

Research presentation: Students will present on their findings about the cultural community they picked up for their research project.

Class presentation: Students will present on a topic among those proposed by the instructor. Topics include: French colonial schooling system; representation of colonized in movies, comics, and other media; Négritude; and Créolité.

CSL report: Students will write a reflection on their CSL experience using concepts discussed in class.

Required Notes:

“Policy about course outlines can be found in Section 23.4(2) 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 which 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 safe and free of discrimination and harassment. It does not tolerate behaviour that undermines that environment. The Department urges anyone who feels this policy has been or 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 directs 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 student

ombudservice (<http://www.ombudservice.ualberta.ca/>).

Information about the University of Alberta Discrimination and Harassment Policy and Procedures is described in UAPPOL at <https://policiesonline.ualberta.ca/PoliciesProcedures/Pages/DispPol.aspx?PID=110>.

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 instructor 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 23.3(1) and 23.5.6 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, attendance and participation are an essential component and will be assigned 10% of the overall grade. Students who **have missed three classes and more without providing valid justification will receive 0% as their final participation grade**. Students who cannot attend class should let the instructor know ahead of time.

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 hand in assignments late with no acceptable excuse will lose **10% of the assignment's value for each day that it is late**. 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 Specialized Support & Disability Services, contact their office immediately (2-800 SUB; Email sasrec@ualberta.ca; Email; phone 780-492-3381; WEB www.ssds.ualberta.ca).

Grading:

Marks for assignments, tests, and exams are given in percentages, to which letter grades are also assigned, according to the table below (“**MLCS Undergraduate Grading Scale**”). The percentage mark resulting from the entire term work and examination then produces the final letter grade for the course.

“MLCS Undergraduate Grading Scale”

Letter	%	Pts	Descriptor
A+	95-100%	4.0	Excellent: Superior performance showing understanding and knowledge of subject matter far exceeding expectations.
A	90-94%	4.0	Excellent: Superior performance showing comprehensive understanding of subject matter.
A-	86-89%	3.7	Excellent: Clearly above average performance with complete knowledge of subject matter.
B+	82-85%	3.3	Good
B	75-81%	3.0	Good: average performance with knowledge of subject matter generally complete.
B-	70-74%	2.7	Good
C+	66-69%	2.3	Satisfactory: Basic understanding of the subject matter
C	61-65%	2.0	Satisfactory
C-	58-60%	1.7	Satisfactory
D+	55-57%	1.3	Poor: Marginal performance; generally insufficient preparation for subsequent courses in the subject matter.
D	50-54%	1.0	Minimal Pass: Marginal performance; generally insufficient preparation for subsequent courses in the subject matter.
F	0-49%	0.0	Failure: Unsatisfactory performance or failure to meet course requirements