

**DEPARTMENT OF MODERN LANGUAGES  
AND CULTURAL STUDIES**

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

**2015-2016** FREN 314-B1: Beauty/Aesthetics  
(Winter Term)

Instructor: Chris Reys-Chikuma

Office: Arts 210A

Telephone: / Fax: 780-492-9106

E-mail: Reyschi@ualberta.ca

Personal Website: /

Time: TR 11:00-12:20

Place: T 1 83

Office Hours: W 10-12am,  
or by appointment

Course Website: xxx

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**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 will cover what aesthetics means in the arts and in literature in French cultures (mostly in France). We will see how comics can express the complexity of the reality of French cultures through its many genres and characteristics (frames, bubbles, drawing designs, ...).

Our objectives are to know the vocabulary of aesthetics in French and specifically of comics, to be able to talk and debate in French some of the issues these comics are dealing with (colonialism, censorship, sexism, racism, ...) and understand the complexity of these issues both in formal terms and the realities these comics refer to.

## Outcomes

The students will be able to :

- a) identify the specific elements that characterize comics (Bande Dessinée) such as the variety of frames, speech bubbles, drawing styles, etc. ;
- b) explain and discuss in small groups the specific techniques used by artists to express their emotions and ideas ;
- c) identify the ideologies that the artists are not always aware of (sexism, racism, ...) through the analysis of words, images and their interactions ;
- d) present orally in French one comics of their choice to the class and to write a short essay about it using the comics vocabulary (esthetics and critical) and various critical tools used in class (basic elements of qualitative and quantitative analysis, of narratology, and of art and design and visual culture).

## Texts:

Semaine	Auteur	Titre	Any edition is ok
1	McCloud, Scott	<i>L'Art invisible</i>	Delcourt ISBN10:2756009695
2	Hergé	<i>Tintin, Le Sceptre d'Ottokar</i>	Casterman ISBN10:2203001097
3	Franquin	<i>Idées noires</i>	Dupuis
4	Yann & Schwartz	<i>Le Groom Vert-de-gris</i>	Dupuis SBN10:2800152877
5	Uderzo & Goscinny	<i>Astérix: Le Ciel</i> <i>OU Le Papyrus</i>	Albertreine ISBN10:2864971704 Or ?
6	Satrapi, Marjane	<i>Persépolis, Vol. 1, ou Intégrale</i>	L'Association ISBN10:2844142400
7	Maudoux, Flo.	<i>Freaks, vol. 1</i>	Ankama ISBN10:291673936
8	About et Oubrière	<i>Aya, vol. 1</i>	Folio ISBN10:2070455084
9	Lehman & Créty	<i>Masqué, vol.1</i>	ISBN10: 2756029866
10	Trondheim	<i>La Nouvelle Porn</i>	Copies-10 pages

**Grade Distribution (see “Explanatory Notes”):**

Participation	20
Quizzes 5	15 [5x3]
Midterm (Feb. 11)	15
Oral Presentation TBD in class	15
Final paper (due last class)	20
Final exam Friday, Apr. 15, 9am	15

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

*Recommended; please consult the following site:*

[http://www.registrar.ualberta.ca/calendar/Regulations-and-Information/Academic-Regulation/23.5.html#23.5.6\(3\)](http://www.registrar.ualberta.ca/calendar/Regulations-and-Information/Academic-Regulation/23.5.html#23.5.6(3))

**Explanatory Notes on Assignments:**

Reading of the material is required before the class. Quizzes on 5 textbooks will assess the basic understanding of the reading. Textbooks and ideas discussed in class will be on the midterm for the first part and on the final exam for the second part (after the Reading Week).

Final project will be due the last class. Students will have the choice between a tradition essay or a creative project. The traditional essay will be eight full pages double space TNR (+ x page/s for the work cited and pictures), using at least two academic French references to support your argumentation. The creative project will be made up of two parts: the first one a BD-comics of 5 full pages; the second one, an essay of 3 full pages explaining the choices made in the creative project (color, frames-panels, ...). While the essays are individual only, the creative project could be made by two students (one for the script and text and one for the drawing). The oral presentation will be a minimum of 10 minutes and a maximum of 15 using a written/visual support (PPT, ...) and will be sent to the instructor 24 hours before presenting in class. It will be graded on the clarity of the ideas and of the presentation (voice, textual/visual support, ...).

**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>

[rds/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 is essential to practice your language skills and participate in the exchange of ideas. Participation means, first, reading the assignment before entering the class; second, it means asking and answering questions from the instructor and classmates.

***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. 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 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 Specialized Support & Disability Services, contact their office immediately (2-800 SUB; Email [sasrec@ualberta.ca](mailto:sasrec@ualberta.ca); Email; phone 780-492-3381; WEB [www.sds.ualberta.ca](http://www.sds.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	<b>Excellent:</b> Superior performance showing understanding and knowledge of subject matter far exceeding expectations.
A	90-94%	4.0	<b>Excellent:</b> Superior performance showing comprehensive understanding of subject matter.
A-	86-89%	3.7	<b>Excellent:</b> Clearly above average performance with complete knowledge of subject matter.
B+	82-85%	3.3	<b>Good</b>

B	75-81%	3.0	<b>Good:</b> average performance with knowledge of subject matter generally complete.
B-	70-74%	2.7	<b>Good</b>
C+	66-69%	2.3	<b>Satisfactory:</b> Basic understanding of the subject matter
C	61-65%	2.0	<b>Satisfactory</b>
C-	58-60%	1.7	<b>Satisfactory</b>
D+	55-57%	1.3	<b>Poor:</b> Marginal performance; generally insufficient preparation for subsequent courses in the subject matter.
D	50-54%	1.0	<b>Minimal Pass:</b> Marginal performance; generally insufficient preparation for subsequent courses in the subject matter.
F	0-49%	0.0	<b>Failure:</b> Unsatisfactory performance or failure to meet course requirements