

**DEPARTMENT OF MODERN LANGUAGES
AND CULTURAL STUDIES**

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

2017-2018 FREN 310/B1: Composition, Style and Expression
(Winter Term)

Instructor: *Julie Tarif, PhD*
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Time: *T&R: 9:30-10:50 am*
Place: *HC 1-3*
Office Hours: *TBD*
or *by appointment*
Course Website: *e-class*

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:

The objectives of this course are to hone students’ linguistic and writing skills. The course will put the emphasis on analytic reading and on several types of written expression (*factual non-prose texts* (text messages; press titles)); *factual prose texts* (*faits divers*; defense pleas; dialectical argumentation; gender-inclusive language; professional letters - CVs and statements of interest); *fictional writing* (the fantastic genre). The course is based on three main activities:

1. Exercises to acquire vocabulary and understand the fundamentals of structures and stylistics;
2. Writing and revision exercises;
3. Texts to read, analyse and comment.

At the end of this course, students should be able to:

- Rephrase text messages into standard French.
- Interpret puns in press titles
- Memorize and recognize false cognates
- Paraphrase and rephrase a “fait divers”
- Write a defense plea
- Discriminate between various levels of formality
- Exercise critical thinking
- Write a dialectical argumentation
- Explain what gender-inclusive language is and on what linguistic strategies it relies.
- Invent a short story that conforms to the fantastic genre conventions.
- Write a professional letter, in particular a statement of interest

Texts:

There is no required text for this course. All the materials will be either distributed in class and/or posted on e-class.

Grade Distribution (see “Explanatory Notes”):

- | | |
|--|-----------------|
| 1. Participation in class activities (including homework) and attendance (self-evaluation due on e-class - April 10 th by midday) | 10% |
| 2. Two tests (in class, week of January 29 th or February 5 th & week of March 12 th) and Exercise (to be handed in by March 6 th) | 30% (10% each) |
| 3. Two individual compositions (one at home, one in class) (February 27 th and March 27 th) | 25% (10% / 15%) |
| 4. In-class group or individual composition (February 13 th & 15 th) | 15% |
| 5. Final assignment (due on e-class - April 13 th by midday) | 20% |

Fall / Winter Exam Planner for the 2017-2018 academic year can be found at the following site: <https://www.registrarsoffice.ualberta.ca/en/Examinations/Fall-2017-Winter-2018-Exam-Planner.aspx>

Explanatory Notes on Assignments:

All explanations will be provided in class in a separate Power Point posted on e-class. The length of individual compositions will be around 500 words and the group composition and the final assignment will be between 800-1000 words.

1. Attendance and Participation

Very regular attendance is expected.

In class, we will engage into active learning with individual and group activities. Your participation in these activities is evaluated for:

- how well prepared you come to class: you’re supposed to prepare all work assigned for each class session (e.g. readings, homework activities),
- your spontaneous contribution to class discussions and activities,
- your use of the French language.

The marking rubrics will be provided on e-class.

2. Two tests (in class) and one exercise:

This is designed to test the students' knowledge of class material, including language points.

- ⇒ Test 1 is on Séquences 1 & 2;
- ⇒ Test 2 is on Séquence 3b (Gender-neutral language)
- ⇒ The “exercise” is on the reformulation of a *faits divers* of your choice.

3. Two individual compositions (one at home, one in class)

Composition 1 (at home) requires students to work on a defense plea.

Composition 2 (in class) requires students to work on a statement of interest.

4. In-class group or individual composition (around 900 words in length)

This composition requires students to work on a dialectical argumentation.

Detailed instructions will be provided by the professor ahead of time.

5. Final assignment (around 1 000 words in length)

This composition requires students to work on fictional writing, more specifically on the fantastic genre.

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) 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, students are allowed to miss three sessions without penalty regardless of the reason for their absence (excusable or not), after which two percentage point per absence will be deducted from the 10% attendance and participation grade. It is recommended not to miss a session unless necessary.

Policy for Late Assignments:

Late assignments will **not** be accepted without prior arrangements made with the instructor for an extension **at the latest one day** before the due date. If no such

arrangement is made **5%** will be deducted from the assignment's mark for **each day past the due date**.

Important note: Disruptive behaviour in class is a sign of disrespect both to the instructor and to your fellow students, and will not be tolerated. Activities, such as chatting, surfing the Internet, using or frequently checking your phone, studying for another class, etc., will result in a low participation grade. Cell phones should be turned OFF during class, and should remain put away.

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