

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

**2018-2019** ITAL 205 B1: When the Saints Came Home, A Review of the Sopranos.

(Winter Term)

Instructor: W. Anselmi

Office: 369-HC

Telephone: n/a

E-mail: wanselmi@ualberta.ca

Personal Website: n/a

Fax: 780-492-9106

Time: Tue./Thu. 2-3,20

Place: HC 2-41

Office Hours: Thu. 3:30-4:30,

or by appointment

Course Website: n/a

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**Course Prerequisite:** no consent of department necessary

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

**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, Objectives and Expected Learning Outcomes:**

The course will be a *re-viewing* of the television program *The Sopranos* through select episodes from the six seasons. The list will be provided during the first class. This selection will highlight the vision and scope of factotum David Chase as an auteur, as a critic of the American Dream, and as a trickster ethnographer. Beside these aspects of the program, the course will foreground the relevance of the 'image' or the 'visual' in our contemporary

Western society to the detriment of critical discourses - *optics* in place of *logos* so to speak. Topoi, such as: language(s), representation, displacement, authenticity, racial tensions, gender issues, gay rights, waste and recycling, violence, the modern myth of the cowboy/gangster and its possible origins in the Ulysses character of the *Iliad* [the book that along with the *Odyssey*, according to Italian critic Franco Ferrucci, constitutes the basis of Western narratives], will be interrogated along the lines of the *film noir* and cinema as modern magic. The students will be able to cultivate a number of conceptual and critical tools that will allow them to navigate more aptly the undergoing visual turn as well as enjoy the richness of the television program as it will relate to David Chase's proposed prequel, *The Saints of Newark* envisioned for the end of 2019. In other words, at the end of this course, successful students will be able to understand the visual turn in contemporary society: the loss of reflective cognition (the written word) as opposed to the immediacy of the seductive, emotive image; the power relations at play within the societal structure in North America, and such components as marginalization and racism, and historical hierarchies; and, the role of the 'auteur' in film-making. To summarize and put it bluntly: you will be able to go see the movie with your friends and/or dear ones and talk them out / be the center of attention during the post-film inevitable discussion. Please, be aware that some might be offended by the language, and/or by certain scenes in the various episodes to be watched.

#### **Suggested and/or useful readings:**

Biesen, Sheri Chinen *Blackout – World War II and the Origins of Film Noir*.

Booker, M. Keith. *Postmodern Hollywood – What's New in Film and Why It Makes Us Feel So Strange*.

De Stefano, George. *An Offer We Can't Refuse – The Mafia in the Mind of America*.

Grieverson, Lee; Sonnet, Esther, Stanfield; Peter. *Mob Culture - Hidden Histories of the American Gangster Film*.

Lecherbonnier, Bernard. *La television, c'est l'art nouveau*.

Postman, Neil. *Amusing Ourselves to Death*.

Sartori, Giovanni. *Homo videns*.

#### **Grade Distribution (see "Explanatory Notes"):**

**10% - Reflection on your knowledge of what you consider to be the difference between film and television as tools of communication** (to be handed in the third class in January 2019, about 600 words).

**20% - Dossier** (to be handed in last term class, April 2019)

**20% - In-class presentation** (starting third week of classes, about twenty minutes)

20% - In-class **participation**

30% - **Final essay** (minimum 2000 words, to be handed in second-last week of classes)

*Fall / Winter Exam Planner for the 2018-2019 academic year can be found at the following site: <https://www.ualberta.ca/registrar/examinations/exam-schedules/fall-2018-winter-2019-exam-planner>*

### **Explanatory Notes on Assignments:**

*The dossier, which should consist of two entries per week and which should be about two to three hundred words per week, consists of reflections, ideas, and developments from class work and that the student can refer to in terms of the final essay.*

### **Date of Deferred Final Exam (if applicable): N/A**

Please consult the following site:

[https://calendar.ualberta.ca/content.php?catoid=6&navoid=806#Examinations \(Exams\)](https://calendar.ualberta.ca/content.php?catoid=6&navoid=806#Examinations (Exams))

For information on how to apply for a deferred exam see [“I Missed my Final Exam, Now What?”](#)

### **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 (online at [www.governance.ualberta.ca](http://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.

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 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 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](#).

***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*).

***University of Alberta Sexual Violence Policy:***

The Sexual Violence Policy was approved by GFC in June 2017. It plays a vital role in ensuring a safe and respectful learning and working environment.

As defined in the policy, **sexual violence** is any sexual act or act of a sexual nature, or act targeting sexuality, whether physical or psychological, committed without consent. **Sexual violence** is a complex and serious problem in society and on university campuses. Sexual violence can affect individuals of all gender identities, gender expressions, and sexual orientations, as well as those from all ages, abilities, racial, cultural and economic backgrounds. Through this policy, the University of Alberta recognizes its responsibility to reduce sexual violence in the University community. The university aims to do so by fostering a culture of **consent** and support through education, training and policy. The University recognizes the possible effects of trauma on those who have experienced sexual violence and supports the efforts of individuals to seek support and recover.

To read the policy in more detail, please visit:

<https://policiesonline.ualberta.ca/PoliciesProcedures/Policies/Sexual-Violence-Policy.pdf>

***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**, attendance is mandatory. Reminder: participation in this course is worth 20%.

***Policy for Late Assignments:***

Students who consult **in advance** with an 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. Any assignment not handed-in in time or unexcused late assignments will not be given any marks. Late excuses will **not** be accepted for any reason.

***Disclaimer:***

Any typographical errors in this syllabus are subject to change and will be announced in class.

**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	%
<b>Excellent.</b> 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	<b>97-100</b>
	A	4.0	<b>93-96</b>
	A-	3.7	<b>90-92</b>
<b>Good.</b> 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	<b>87-89</b>
	B	3.0	<b>83-86</b>
	B-	2.7	<b>80-82</b>
<b>Satisfactory.</b> 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	<b>77-79</b>
	C	2.0	<b>73-76</b>
	C-	1.7	<b>70-72</b>

<b>Poor/Minimal Pass.</b> 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.	<b>D+</b>	1.3	<b>65-69</b>
	<b>D</b>	1.0	<b>60-64</b>
<b>Failure.</b>	<b>F</b>	0.0	<b>0-59</b>

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