

**DEPARTMENT OF MODERN LANGUAGES AND CULTURAL STUDIES
DEPARTMENT OF EAST ASIAN STUDIES**

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

<https://www.ualberta.ca/east-asian-studies>

2019-2020 EASIA 421 B1/ C LIT 426 B1: Orientalisms and Occidentalisms
(Winter Term)

Instructor: Daniel Fried
Office: Pembina 3-05
E-mail: dfried@ualberta.ca
Personal Website: n/a
Course Website: eClass

Time: TR 9:30-10:50
Place: T 1-83
Office Hours: T 1-3,
or by appointment

Bachelor of Arts / Major in Modern Languages and Cultural Studies:

<https://www.ualberta.ca/modern-languages-and-cultural-studies/undergraduate-program-information/prospective-undergraduate-students>

Course Prerequisite: prerequisites as listed on Bear Tracks will be waived for this course
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

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

Course Description, Objectives and Expected Learning Outcomes:

The goal of this course will be to compare various kinds of representations of the ethnic Other, through examining “standard” orientalist texts with occidentalist texts produced about the West. Our purpose is to disentangle the specific political distortions of Western orientalism deriving from imperialist projects from the more general properties of representation of ethnicities from the outside which are common in many different historical circumstances. By the end of this course, students will be able to analyze how

such representations create supposedly “common knowledge” about distant places and ethnicities, and to connect these to the historical circumstances of the representers, rather than to any supposed essences of the objects of representation.

Course Format: Students will learn through a combination of assigned readings, lectures and class discussions, and a final research paper on a topic relevant to the course.

Texts:

The only text required for purchase is Edward Said’s *Orientalism*. Other assigned texts will be available for free online or on reserve at Rutherford library.

Additional Course Fees

Yes No

Important Dates: [See Academic Schedule in current Calendar](#)

First Day of Class: January 6, 2020

Add/Delete Date: January 17, 2020

50% Withdrawal Date: February 5, 2020

Winter Term Reading Week: February 18-21, 2020

Withdrawal Date: April 1, 2020

Last Day of Class: April 8, 2020

Final Exam Date (if applicable): n/a

Date of Deferred Final Exam (if applicable): 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)

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

Grade Distribution (see “Explanatory Notes”):

Class Participation	30%	
Midterm exam	30%	Thursday, Feb. 13
Research paper	40%	Due Tuesday, Apr. 14

Explanatory Notes on Assignments:

Class Participation: Regular attendance and participation are an important part of this course, and are assigned a major portion of the grade. Attendance will be taken quietly at the beginning of each class; students are allowed one free absence for the semester. In addition, each student will be expected to demonstrate that s/he has read the material and is capable of engaging with the professor and the rest of the class.

Midterm: There will be one midterm exam, consisting of 50 multiple-choice questions. The exam will consist only of fifty multiple-choice questions, worth two points each. However, students should expect that these multiple-choice questions will be difficult, requiring both a knowledge of the facts presented in the class, as well as an ability to analyze these facts. All information sources (textbook, powerpoints, film clips, lectures, class discussions, etc.) will be fair game for exam questions.

Research Paper: Students are required to write a 2000-word research paper about one orientalist or occidentalist text. The paper must cite at least four works of relevant scholarship, and use MLA format.

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](#) 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](#).

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](#).

Sexual Violence Policy:

It is the policy of the University of Alberta that sexual violence committed by any member of the University community is prohibited and constitutes misconduct. Resources and more information can be found at <https://www.ualberta.ca/campus-life/sexual-violence>

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*).

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, participation will be graded as described above.

Policy for Late Assignments:

Extensions may be granted if negotiated with the instructor in advance of the due date. (These are more likely to be given if requested far in advance, with a good explanation of an unavoidable schedule conflict. “Having other things due at the same time” will

not be considered valid grounds for an extension.) If an assignment is turned in late without an extension, then a penalty of one grade-step per day will be assessed. For example, if a paper which would otherwise earn an A- is turned in two days late, the grade given will be a B.

Disclaimer:

Any typographical errors in this syllabus are subject to change and will be announced in class and posted on eClass. The date of the final examination is set by the Registrar and takes precedence over the final examination date reported in this syllabus.

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	%
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

Copyright: Daniel Fried, Faculty of Arts, University of Alberta 2019-2020

C LIT 426/EASIA 421 Assignment Schedule

- Tuesday, Jan. 7 Introduction
- Thursday, Jan. 9 Said, *Orientalism* Part 1 (at bookstore, Rutherford reserve)
- Tuesday, Jan. 14 Said, *Orientalism* Part 2
- Thursday, Jan. 16 Said, *Orientalism* Part 3
- Tuesday, Jan. 21 Herodotus, *Histories* Bk I-III
http://www.gutenberg.org/files/2707/2707-h/2707-h.htm#link32H_NOTE
- Thursday, Jan. 23 *Travels of Marco Polo* Book II (p. 152-320)
<https://archive.org/stream/marcopolo00polouoft#page/152/mode/2up>
- Tuesday, Jan. 28 Conrad, *Heart of Darkness*
<http://www.gutenberg.org/files/219/219-h/219-h.htm>
- Thursday, Jan. 30 Puccini, *Turandot* (2016 performance)
Met Opera on Demand, available through library website.
- Tuesday, Feb. 4 Heidegger, “A Dialogue on Language”
On the Way to Language (on Rutherford reserve)
- Thursday, Feb. 6 Barthes, *Empire of Signs*
<https://rosswolfe.files.wordpress.com/2015/04/roland-barthes-empire-of-signs1.pdf>
- Tuesday, Feb. 11 **pre-midterm review**
- Thursday, Feb. 13 **MIDTERM**
- Tuesday, Feb. 18 **READING WEEK**
- Thursday, Feb. 20 **READING WEEK**
- Tuesday, Feb. 25 research paper discussion
- Thursday, Feb. 27 *Songs of the South*: “Far-off Journey”, “Summons of the Soul”,
“The Great Summons” pp. 191-203; 219-38 (at Rutherford reserve)
- Tuesday, Mar. 3 *Classic of Mountains and Seas* pp. 88-131 (at Rutherford reserve)
- Thursday, Mar. 5 *Flowers in the Mirror* Chapters 1-9 (p. 17-76) (at Rutherford reserve)

- Tuesday, Mar. 10 Wang Ning, "Orientalism versus Occidentalism?" (on JSTOR)
- Thursday, Mar. 12 Xiaomei Chen, *Occidentalism* p. 3-67 (ebook accessible through library website)
- Tuesday, Mar. 17 Salih, *Season of Migration to the North* (at bookstore, Rutherford reserve)
- Thursday, Mar. 19 Salih, *Season of Migration to the North*
- Tuesday, Mar. 24 James Carrier (ed.) *Occidentalism* p. 1-32, 135-160, 192-217 (ebook accessible through library website)
- Thursday, Mar. 26 Nagai Kafu, *American Stories*: "Night Talk in a Cabin", "Bad Company", "The Sea in Summer", "Two Days in Chicago", "Chronicle of Chinatown." (ebook accessible through library website)
- Tuesday, Mar. 31 Junichiro Tanizaki, *Naomi* Ch. 1-13 (at bookstore, Rutherford reserve)
- Thursday, Apr. 2 Junichiro Tanizaki, *Naomi* Ch. 14-28
- Tuesday, Apr. 7 *Great Wall* (Blu-ray, available at Rutherford reserve)

Class Participation Grading Standard

The following is a list of the standards by which class participation grades will be determined. Since there are many factors which are incorporated into this grade, it is possible that different aspects of your class participation will fall under different grade levels (e.g., if you always come to class, but rarely volunteer interesting comments, that would be a mix of one 'A' level aspect, and one 'D' level aspect). In such cases, your grade will be an average of the different aspects of your participation.

A-level

- Always or almost-always present and on-time
- Always attentive to discussion and lecture
- Always able to demonstrate that you have read and thought about the material
- Always give an intelligent answer when called on (whether that answer is right or wrong)
- Have enthusiastic, interested attitude toward class material
- Volunteers at least one intelligent comment or question each class session
- Frequently engage directly with other classmates in small-group discussion

B-level

- Usually present and on-time
- Usually attentive to discussion and lecture
- Usually able to demonstrate that you have read and thought about the material
- Usually give an intelligent answer when called on, and always can at least try
- Have interested attitude toward class material
- Volunteers at least one comment or question each class session, some of which are intelligent
- Sometimes engage directly with other classmates in small-group discussion

C-level

- Frequently late or absent
- Sometimes attentive, but sometimes distracted/daydreaming/sleeping
- Have sometimes read and thought about the material, and sometimes not
- Often draw a blank when called on
- Indifferent toward class material
- Sometimes volunteer a comment or question, though rarely intelligent ones
- Little interest in interacting with other students in small-group discussion

D-level

- Absent more often than not
- If present, sending text messages, on facebook or twitter, playing games, etc.
- Have rarely read or thought about the material
- Can rarely give a coherent answer when called on
- Sullen and hostile toward class material
- Rarely make any voluntary contribution to class
- No interest in interacting with other students in small-group discussion

F-level

- Rarely or never comes to class
- Not only distracted, but disturbing other people
- Never demonstrates having read material
- Never gives a coherent answer when called on
- Actively rude, insulting, or engaging in other inappropriate behaviour
- Never volunteers any contribution
- Anti-social to the point of refusing assigned group activities

Research Paper Grading Standards

The following is a list of the standards by which class participation grades will be determined. Since there are many factors which are incorporated into this grade, it is possible that different aspects of your class participation will fall under different grade levels (e.g., if you have a perfect thesis, but have serious problems with your research, that would be a mix of one 'A' level aspect, and one 'D' level aspect). In such cases, your grade will be an average of the different aspects of your participation, with one exception: an F-level element will guarantee an F for the paper grade, no matter how good in other aspects.

A-level

- Thesis is exactly on-topic for the course and the assignment
- Thesis is highly specific, interesting, and original
- Paper shows complete mastery of the subject matter
- Paper shows that you thoroughly understand the state of the field, and your thesis begins where other scholarship has left off
- The argument is constantly dedicated to proving the specific thesis offered, and makes no diversions into other issues
- Evidence is unimpeachable, deployed effectively in support of your argument, and took diligence and cleverness to discover
- Secondary sources are in significant excess of minimum requirements, are all highly pertinent and from highly trustworthy scholarly venues, and are used as supplements to your own analysis, rather than as simple proof-texts
- Structure is clear and well-suited to the argument, which it presents effectively
- Tone is scholarly, and assumes that both you and your reader are intelligent and well-informed.
- Paper always offers analysis, rather than summary or speculation
- Paper is excellently written, in a style suitable to advanced academic research
- Grammar and spelling are flawless
- Conclusion, rather than summarizing, suggests the larger significance of what has been argued, and does so in a convincing and thought-provoking manner
- Paper length and formatting are perfectly in accordance with requirements
- Bibliographic citations are given in perfect accordance with MLA format

B-level

- Thesis is mostly on-topic for the course and the assignment
- Thesis has two of the following three attributes: highly specific, interesting, and original
- Paper shows general understanding of the subject
- Paper shows that you largely understand the state of the field, and your thesis takes into account some previous scholarship
- The argument is usually faithful to the specific thesis offered, and has few diversions into other issues
- Evidence is sound, usually relevant to your argument, and occasionally shows diligence and cleverness

- Secondary sources are at or slightly above minimum requirements, and are mostly pertinent, from scholarly sources, and used with analytical competence
- Structure is mostly clear and well-suited to the argument
- Tone is intelligent, but sometimes lapses into unnecessarily basic summary
- Analysis predominates over summary and speculation
- Paper is well-written, in a clear style which communicates the ideas well
- Grammar and spelling are very good, with only a few minor problems
- Conclusion attempts to point beyond a summary of the argument to a larger significance
- Paper length and formatting are mostly in accordance with requirements
- Bibliographic citations are largely in accordance with MLA format

C-level

- Thesis is only tangentially related to the course and/or the assignment
- Thesis has one of the following three attributes: highly specific, interesting, and original
- There are some major errors in understanding of the material
- Paper has only a vague conception of the state of the field, and repeats common knowledge or makes basic errors in assumption
- The argument does address the thesis directly, but also frequently switches into discussion of issues which are not directly relevant
- Evidence is present, but not sufficient to what is being argued, or else consists mostly of obvious points which did not require diligence or cleverness to discover
- Secondary sources are below minimum requirements, or are irrelevant, or from unreliable (i.e., non-peer-reviewed) sources, or are uncritically cited
- Structure is often unclear or unsuited to the argument
- Tone is unsuitable for a college paper, and assumes that a reader knows little or nothing of the subject at hand
- Summary and speculation predominate over analysis
- Paper is not well written, with serious problems of clarity
- Numerous problems can be found with grammar or spelling
- Conclusion merely repeats or summarizes the content of the paper
- There are serious departures from length or formatting requirements
- Bibliographic citations are not in MLA format or contain numerous errors

D-level

- Thesis is off-topic for this course or this assignment
- Thesis is neither highly specific, interesting, nor original (or there is no thesis at all)
- Paper shows little understanding of the material
- Paper is oblivious to what any scholar has previously said or thought about the topic
- There is little connection between the argument offered in the body of the paper,

- and the thesis statement.
- Little or no evidence is presented in support of assertions
 - There are few or no secondary sources used, or those used are notoriously unreliable (such as from Wikipedia, random personal websites, etc.)
 - Structure is badly disorganized or ill-suited to the argument
 - Tone is actively condescending or insulting to the reader
 - There is little or no analysis in the paper, all summary and speculation
 - Paper is written in a style wholly unsuitable for university-level research
 - Problems with grammar and spelling are common to the point of displaying inadequate grasp of the mechanics of formal written English
 - There is no formal conclusion to the paper
 - Length and format requirements seem to have been ignored
 - Few or no bibliographic citations are given.

F-level

- No paper is turned in
- The paper is turned in late, and no extension has been given.
- A paper is turned in which contains plagiarized passages or other cheating (NOTE: Plagiarism will not be given an automatic F by the instructor; instead, all instances of plagiarism must be reported to the Dean, who will assign a punishment which might be an F on the paper, or an F on the course, or suspension from one's program. In such cases, no grade will be assigned until the Dean makes a judgment on the case.)