

**DEPARTMENT OF MODERN LANGUAGES
AND CULTURAL STUDIES**

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

**2019-2020 MLCS 210-B1: Introduction to Cultural Studies: Language(s) of Culture
(Winter Term)**

Instructor: Astrid Ensslin

Time: T R 9:30-10:50am

Office: 241-C, Main Arts

Place: T B 5

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

Office Hours: t.b.c.,

E-mail: ensslin@ualberta.ca

or by appointment

Personal Website: <https://www.ualberta.ca/arts/about/people-collection/astrid-ensslin>

Course Website: eClass

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: None.

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

Course Description, Objectives and Expected Learning Outcomes:

This course introduces students to the major issues being analyzed and debated within the discipline of Cultural Studies and will provide them with the terminology, definitions, and theoretical tools to examine general topics within the fields of culture, media, language, literature, linguistics, folklore, and/or translation. Emphasis is placed on interdisciplinary approaches to exploring how culture and cultural processes are

shaped, distributed, and responded to in diverse ways. Through discussion, case studies, and writing, the class investigates these varied dimensions of culture. Key concepts pertaining to the study of culture, such as signs, image, representation, identity, otherness, space, power, nation, minority, race, gender, sexuality, technology, popular culture, and the anthropocene will be dealt with.

LEARNING OUTCOMES:

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

- 1) Discuss major issues within the discipline of Cultural Studies and related areas.*
- 2) Identify key concepts and leading theorists in the field of Cultural Studies and related areas (as above)*
- 3) Construct and present a coherent argument in writing.*

Course Format: The objectives of this course will be learned from a combination of interactive lectures, group work, presentations, assigned readings, audiovisual materials, and experiential learning. The course can be taken through two routes: a regular, more scholarly oriented route, and an experiential learning route, through Community Service Learning. Details of each will be discussed in class.

Texts:

Required: *The Cultural Studies Reader* (3rd Edition), edited by Simon During (Routledge 2007). The course will use additional texts and audiovisual materials provided by the instructor and other presenters. The book can be purchased from the SUB bookstore or online. Please ensure you order the right edition. 2 copies of the book are available from Rutherford Library (2 hour loan).

Additional Course Fees

Yes No

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

First Day of Class: January 6, 2020 (first class of this course: Jan 7, 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 Winter Term: April 8, 2020

Final Exam Date (if applicable): There will be no final exam in this course.

Grade Distribution (see “Explanatory Notes”):

Effort / activity / assignment	Description / break-down	Percentage of grade
1) Participation	a. Attendance and punctuality (see ‘Attendance, Absences, and Missed Grade Components’)	15%
	b. Proactive engagement with in-class and out-of-class activities; regular verbal contributions that prove that reading assignments have been completed adequately	15%
2) Forum posts	Critical-reflexive forum posts (about 100-200 words per entry), min. 1 per week, about reading/viewing assignments. Submissions through eClass, by 8pm the day before class.	20%
3) Presentation	<p>a. In class: presentation (team-based or individual) of a topic on the class schedule (non-CSL) or on the CSL placement.</p> <p>Non-CSL route: The presentation should analyze a primary media text (e.g. film, game, short story, radioplay, music clip, etc.) against the backdrop of relevant cultural studies theories.</p> <p>CSL route: the presentation should report back on the activities and learning outcomes of the student’s CSL placement, framed within and engaging critically with one or more theoretical texts relevant for or covered in class.</p> <p><i>Due date: allocated class session</i></p>	20%
4) Final project	<p>Critical-analytical essay (composed by students individually and duly referenced) of approx. 2,000-2,500 words that expands on the student’s presentation topic and combines critical cultural theory and analysis.</p> <p><i>Due date: Tue, April 9th, 23:59h</i></p>	30%

Explanatory Notes on Assignments:

Note that 30% of the final grade depends on attendance and active participation in class, in out-of-class teamwork and on CSL placements (if appropriate). The presentation will give you a chance to research your topic either individually or in a small team (depending on class size and CSL distribution), which you will then develop into a full, individually composed and submitted essay as your Final Project. Feel free to contact your instructor if there are any questions.

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) 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](#).

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 a mandatory assessment component.

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. 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 / presented on the stated deadline / date. Any assignment not delivered 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 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. [Instructor note: This class does not have a final exam.]

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