

**DEPARTMENT OF MODERN LANGUAGES
AND CULTURAL STUDIES**

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

2019-2020 MLCS 652 B-1 Critical Theory II
(Winter Term)

Instructor: Dr Daniel Laforest
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Time: W 9:00 – 11:50 AM
Place: T B 125
Office Hours: Tr 2:00-3:30,
or by appointment
Course Website: eClass

Course Prerequisite: Consent of department

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 XNo, not needed, no such projects approved.

Community Service Learning component

Required Optional XNone

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)
- XNA

Course Description, Objectives, and Expected Learning Outcomes:

A varied, international and transcultural approach to the thinkers and texts in cultural studies and critical theory of the second half of the 20th Century to the present. The course will favour an open-ended approach to the canon and will showcase the new directions and contemporary questions that define the field today. Students will read primary texts.

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

- Demonstrate a general knowledge of the development of theoretical trends in critical theory.
- Engage with multiple cultural perspectives pertaining to such material.

- Evaluate ethical and social issues relating to the analysis of different types of texts.
- Demonstrate advanced critical research and writing skills.
- Conduct research on/of different texts using both primary and secondary resources.
- Analyze, argue, and communicate ideas and critical perspectives in both written and oral formats.
- Formulate research questions and evaluate the appropriateness of using various methodological and theoretical approaches.
- Accept constructive feedback and revise work accordingly.
- Work collaboratively in a shared environment to achieve a common goal.

Course Format

The objectives of this course will be learned from a combination of formal lectures, guest presentations, assigned readings and audiovisuals materials.

Texts:

Readings will be available on eClass.

** Recommended textbook: The Norton Anthology of Theory and Criticism - Third Edition (2018), Eds. Vincent B. Leitch et al., W.W. Norton & Co..

Additional Course Fees

Yes No

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

First Day of Class: January 8, 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

Grade Distribution :

Short reaction papers (30%): Each student will hand in two reaction papers of **3 to 5 pages** in length. The purpose of these assignments is to demonstrate the students' ability to express themselves critically in written form in reaction to a theoretical text pertaining to the current canon of cultural studies and theory. Reaction paper #1 **due January 30**. Reaction paper #2 **due March 13**.

Oral Presentation (20%): Each student will present one theoretical concept through the close reading of one of the course readings and open the discussion for the day. Presentations should be clear, comprehensively structured, and manage openings for further discussion. **Between 20-30 minutes in length**. Since these presentations are dealing with complex theoretical approaches, students must prepare reasonably in advance and be sufficiently familiar with the general context of their given text. A presentation schedule will be made at the beginning of the semester. Once a student signs up they are responsible for presenting on the assigned date.

Participation (10%): Class attendance is crucial and thus students are expected to attend class prepared to contribute to discussions, make comments, and ask questions. This will make the learning experience more stimulating and enjoyable for all.

Final Paper (40%): Students will write a research paper (18-20 pages) **on a novel** chosen from the list provided on eClass, and conduct a critical reading of **one or more of its major themes** based on the theory provided in **one of the texts** studied over the semester. The paper will need to include at least **10 secondary sources** in reference. The final paper will be **due on April 19, 2018**.

Explanatory Notes on Assignments:

See 'grade distribution'

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](#).

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, attendance is mandatory, and participation is strongly encouraged.

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. Otherwise, late assignments will get a 5% (of the final grade) - per-day penalty (including weekends and holidays) for each day of lateness.

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 Graduate Grading Scale”

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|----|--------|-----------|
| A+ | 97-100 | Excellent |
|----|--------|-----------|

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|----|-------|--------------|
| A | 93-96 | Excellent |
| A- | 90-92 | Excellent |
| B+ | 87-89 | Good |
| B | 79-86 | Good |
| B- | 74-78 | Satisfactory |
| C+ | 68-73 | Satisfactory |
| C | 63-67 | Failure |
| C- | 58-62 | Failure |
| D+ | 54-57 | Failure |
| D- | 50-53 | Failure |
| F | 00-49 | Failure |

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