

**DEPARTMENT OF MODERN LANGUAGES
AND CULTURAL STUDIES**

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

2018-2019 C Lit 101, A2: World Literature I
(Fall Term)

Instructor: Shanna Mumm
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Time: M W F: 9:00-9:50
Place: HC 1-11
Office Hours: Wed 10:00-11:00
or by appointment

Course Prerequisite: No prerequisite.

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:

This course aims to introduce students to a selection of classic literary works (from the beginnings of literary civilizations until the 17th century) across various cultural, national and linguistic boundaries. In a close reading of myths, epics, poems, novels and plays (in translation), we will discuss these works in relation to their socio-cultural and political context, but also in relation to the question of what constitutes “world literature?” The students’ critical engagement with various literary traditions, forms, genres, and themes will develop their critical reasoning, writing, and reading skills. Students will also demonstrate familiarity with Western and non-Western literatures and methods of analysing these literary works and other media from a global/comparative perspective. Furthermore, at the end of this course, students will be able to:

- Identify and define major thematic concepts in world literature
- Recognise the works of world literature and key authors
- Identify thematic connections between texts
- Effectively articulate personal responses to course materials
- Develop critical thinking tools to devise original ideas and interpretations of texts
- Analyse literary and popular works in relation to their form, content, and/or medium

Text (Required)

Puchner, Martin. *The Norton Anthology of World Literature*. Vol. 1. Shorter Third edition. New York: W.W. Norton & Company, 2013. (Additional readings will be available on eClass.)

Grade Distribution (see “Explanatory Notes”):

Class Attendance and Participation	15%
Group Presentation, Discussion Questions, and Debate	10%
Midterm (November 7)	20%
Abstract and Annotated Bibliography (December 4)	10%
Research Paper (December 6)	15%
Final Exam (December 20 9am)	30%

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

Explanatory Notes on Assignments:

Presentation and Discussion Questions (15 min): This is a group activity (3 members) on the author(s)/ texts/ themes of your choice. Define your topic clearly and keep your presentation focused. You are encouraged to use visual elements for your presentation. Don’t forget that your presentation needs an eye-catching title. Each presenter is required to prepare **2 critical questions** in relation to their presentation and email them to the instructor **24 hours** prior to their session. The questions must be open-ended and prompt discussion within the class about the text’s thematic issues, socio-political context, or formal aspects. Each presenter is responsible to use their discussion questions and lead a group debate following the presentation.

Abstract (250 words) and Annotated Bibliography (2-3 pages): Your abstract summarizes the major aspects of your research paper, and your annotated bibliography gives an account of the sources you have consulted for your research paper. You must use a minimum of **5 secondary sources**. In addition to bibliographic data, the annotated bibliography provides a short summary of each source and assesses its value or relevance to your research topic. We will workshop how to write an abstract and how to write annotated bibliography before they are due.

Research Paper (1200-1500 words): This is an individual assignment. Each short research paper (MLA style) presents a thoughtful analysis of relationships, themes, motifs, and/or literary techniques in the works of one or two authors. You should base your argument upon specific details from the texts, but you must do more than offer an accurate description of content. Besides your primary text(s), you need a minimum of **5 secondary sources**. Please keep in mind that you can write your paper on the same topic that you have selected for your presentation. Submit a hard copy of your revised abstract and annotated bibliography together with your research paper.

Midterm (50 min): For your midterm, you will have 2 short essay questions and 1 short answer (2-3 sentences) question. The questions will revolve around the texts and discussions we have in class. You will choose from 3 essay questions and 2 short answer.

Final Exam (120 min): For the final exam, you will be given 5 essay questions to answer. The questions will revolve around the texts and discussions we have in class.

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, regular attendance is mandatory. Any absences from the class will lead to partial or total loss of the participation segment of the course grade (15%), unless the student has a valid excuse for his/her absence (e.g., health problems, serious emergency case, serious domestic issues).

Policy for Late Assignments:

All assignments must be handed in on the stated deadline. Students who consult **in advance** (at least 3 days before the deadline) with the instructor regarding contingencies preventing the timely completion of an assignment may be granted an extension just **one time** throughout the course with no penalty. 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.

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
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