

**DEPARTMENT OF MODERN LANGUAGES
AND CULTURAL STUDIES**

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

2018-2019 C LIT 228: A1 Literature, Popular Culture and the Visual Arts
(Fall Term)

Instructor: Derya Cinar

Office: Arts 413-C

Telephone: N/A Fax: 780-492-9106

E-mail: cinar@ualberta.ca

Personal Website: N/A

Time: M W F 10:00 AM – 10:50 AM

Place: T 1 105

Office Hours: M W 13:00 – 14:00 PM

or by appointment

Course Website: eclass

Course Prerequisite: N/A or 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 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 is designed to introduce students to a selection of key 19th and 20th century popular works in fiction and on screen through genres of Horror, Fantasy, Romance and Science Fiction. In a close reading of contemporary fictions, filmic and artistic works of bodily metamorphoses, we will approach popular narratives via dichotomies of self and other, body and mind, individual and society in socio-cultural and transnational contexts in the forms of lectures and in-class debates. Based on motifs of metamorphoses, the course will demonstrate to students the immanence and significance of popular culture in their lives. We will explore the ways that language is used to

construct the world around us and whether the culturally constructed artistic products preserve the same formulae in the 21st adaptations. By the end of this course, successful students will be able to identify representative characteristics of these genres, use a critical approach to understand the uses and abuses of popular culture, and develop critical engagements and creative writing practices to construct original syntheses in literature, film and various media through a cross-cultural and comparative analysis of the text(s) of their choice.

Texts:

Required Texts:

Kafka, Franz. "Metamorphosis". *Metamorphosis and Other Stories*. Dover Publications, 1996.

Shelley, M. W. *Frankenstein: or The Modern Prometheus*. Random Century, 1992.

Recommended:

Cawelti, John G. *Adventure, Mystery, and Romance: Formula Stories as Art and Popular Culture*. University of Chicago Press, 1976.

Guins, Raiford and Omayra Zaragoza Cruz. *Popular Culture: A Reader*. Thousand Oaks: SAGE Publications, 2005.

Storey, John. *Cultural Theory and Popular Culture: An Introduction*. Routledge/Taylor & Francis Group, 2015.

In addition to the above texts, a selection of other required literary and critical resources will be available to students on eClass.

Grade Distribution (see "Explanatory Notes"):

Attendance and Participation	10% (ongoing)
2 Critical Response Papers (500-600 words)	10% X 2 (due October 31st)
1 Blog Post (400-600 words)	15% (throughout)
Take Home Essay (2000 words)	25% (due November 19)
Final Examination	30% (December 14, 9 AM, 2 hours)

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>

Date of Deferred Final Exam (if applicable):

January 15, 2018 **OR** mutually agreeable arrangements prior to January 15 will be made with student(s) eligible for deferred exam.

Please consult the following site:

<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:

Critical Response Paper: The 500-600-word response paper will be designed to show your critical engagement with a text in question of your choice from the class reading list. The paper will include a short plot summary, and the main scope of the argument is to offer a critical analysis of the text in question and how/why it may communicate with filmic and artistic works to draw on any socio-cultural aspects.

Blog Post: For each blog students will write about a current object/event in popular culture. There is a lot of leeway for each student to determine the subject of the blog post. Possible subjects include, but are not limited to: albums, movies, video games, television shows, songs, musicians, TV/movie stars, policies that affect popular culture, media technology, genres, etc. Each blog should engage this subject by connecting to ideas from class (both discussions and readings). To do so, students will take on the role of “culture critic.”

Take-home essay is a research essay (about 2000 words excl. bibliography, typed in MLA style 8th edition) where you are expected to compose a critical, contextualized analysis of the primary source(s) of your choice. A research essay will allow you to develop a more complex argument (compared to a critical response paper) and engage with the current scholarship on the subject.

Final Examination consists of a short essay where students are expected to address questions of their choice from the list offered by the instructor, and present a critical and informed discussion of one or more literary or visual texts covered in class.

More detailed assignment guidelines will be available on eClass.

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, participation is an essential component and it constitutes 10% of the total grade. Students are expected to participate in class discussions, they should have their readings done for each class and be prepared to participate actively to master and retain the materials; therefore, it is **imperative that students should attend classes every day**.

Emergencies are unpredictable; therefore, for excusable absences defined above, students may plead for an excused absence within two working days, or at their earliest convenience, and inform the instructor of the underlying reasons for the missed classes with a proper documentation. Unexcused absences and late excuses will not be accepted for any reason. 1% will be deducted from students' participation and attendance grade for each unexcused absence. More than one unexcused absence or a late excuse will result in a grade no higher than a B.

In the cases of religious holidays, students should contact the instructor within two weeks at the start of the academic term. In terms of medical conditions which would involve any operations, potential travels or continuous medication, the students should consult the instructor in advance at the beginning of the term and provide a “Medical Declaration Form for Students”

https://uofa.ualberta.ca/arts/-/media/arts/student_services/documents/medicaldeclarationformforstudents.pdf).

Policy for Late Assignments:

All assignments should be handed in on the stated deadlines. 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. The instructor should be provided with a formal written documentation for a consideration of an extension. Should a student be given an extension for a late assignment but fails to abide by this deadline, no further extension will be granted and the student will be given a grade of zero. In case of any state of emergency which restrains students from submitting an assignment by the deadline, an email will be sent to instructor within 48 hours following the due date explaining why the assignment was not handed in on time. Unless supported by substantial reasons, a grade of zero will be assigned to any assignments not submitted on time.

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: Derya Cinar, Faculty of Arts, University of Alberta 2018