

**DEPARTMENT OF MODERN LANGUAGES
AND CULTURAL STUDIES**
<https://uofa.ualberta.ca/modern-languages-and-cultural-studies>

2018-2019 FREN: 465/A1 (Caribbean Culture)
(Fall Term)

Instructor: Dr. Anne Malena
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Time: MWF: 2 pm
Place: HC 2-30
Office Hours: M: 3:00 pm,
or by appointment
Course Website: e-class

Course Prerequisite: FREN 301 and one of FREN 311, 312, 313, 314, 315, 316 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 and Objectives:

This course will familiarize students with Francophone cultural practices, including literature, from the French Caribbean. Students will gain knowledge in the history, religion and socio-political context of Caribbean culture as it relates to France, Guadeloupe, Martinique, Haïti, and Louisiana. In addition, students will learn rudimentary concepts about Guadeloupean Creole. They will also come to reflect upon various aspects of cultural discourse. We will ask ourselves many questions, for example: how do French- or Creole-speaking people define

their own culture? How do they deal with the threat of extinction of their language and culture? How did colonialism influence the cultural development of Caribbean culture? We will explore these questions and others from the perspective of literary texts and criticism as well as audio-visual materials when available.

At the end of the course, students will be knowledgeable about the French Caribbean and its culture, including literary production and the key concepts that concern it. They will also be able to think critically about issues of colonialism, cultural identity, agency in a colonial context, strategies of resistance, and gain some initial familiarity with Creole language and culture.

Texts:

Agnant, Marie-Célie. *Alexis d'Haïti* (récit)

Condé, Maryse. *Le cœur à rire et à pleurer : contes vrais de mon enfance*

Laferrière, Dany. *L'odeur du café*

Other readings/viewings distributed in class or posted on e-class

Grade Distribution (see “Explanatory Notes”):

| | |
|--|--------------|
| 5 Book Reports | 40% (5 x 8%) |
| 1 Essay, due November 9 | 20% |
| Final Exam: December 12 | 30% |
| Participation (attendance and preparedness): | 10% |

<https://www.ualberta.ca/registrar/examinations/exam-schedules/fall-2018-winter-2019-exam-planner>

Explanatory Notes on Assignments:

Topics for the book reports (due in general every two weeks) will follow the reading schedule of the primary texts (1 for Agnant and 2 for each Condé and Laferrière). They will consist of a minimum of 250 words and a maximum of 400 words, to be posted on e-class as a response to a forum question. Students will have to consider others’ responses before writing and the first student to post will have to provide as complete a response as possible.

The topics for the essay will include all three texts plus any other readings distributed in class or posted on e-class.

The final exam will most likely be a cumulative take-home whose topics will be given during the last class. The length will be of 10-12 pages with a bibliography formatted according to the MLA citation guide.

Please note that you will only receive letter grades in this course, **no percentages**, and that your **final grade** will be calculated according to the **4 points scale**.

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 of lectures, labs, seminars or any other teaching environment by students is allowed only with the prior written consent of the content author(s) or as a part of an approved accommodation plan. Recorded material 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, your participation mark will be based on regular attendance and how well prepared you come to class. Deductions will be made for **more than 3 absences** without legitimate excuses, such as illness or accidents. As much as possible these excuses will have to be sent to the professor before the date of your absence. When in doubt it is best to contact the instructor by e-mail.

Policy for Late Assignments:

Late assignments will **not** be accepted without prior arrangements made with the instructor for an extension **at the latest one day** before the due date. If no such arrangement is made **5%** will be deducted from the assignment’s mark for **each day past the due date**.

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 |

| | | | |
|--|-----------|-----|--------------|
| <p>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.</p> | B+ | 3.3 | 87-89 |
| | B | 3.0 | 83-86 |
| | B- | 2.7 | 80-82 |
| <p>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.</p> | C+ | 2.3 | 77-79 |
| | C | 2.0 | 73-76 |
| | C- | 1.7 | 70-72 |
| <p>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.</p> | D+ | 1.3 | 65-69 |
| | D | 1.0 | 60-64 |
| <p>Failure.</p> | F | 0.0 | 0-59 |