

Course Description, Objectives and Expected Learning Outcomes:

This course deals with the intermedial influence of cyberspace and its concepts on international media culture (film, television, digital media). The first part will introduce iconic examples in literature (William Gibson, Bruce Sterling) and theoretical approaches. Afterwards subsequent adaptations in media in the 1980s and 1990s (*Tron*, 1982, *Max Headroom*, 1988, *Total Recall*, 1989, *eXistenZ*, 1998, *Matrix*, 1999) will be evaluated. The second part will have a look of recent examples of technology (Virtual Reality, Augmented Reality, nanotechnology) in setting theoretical expectations and anticipations in context with actual examples. There will be a focus on non-fictional projects using VR as a method of alternative reality presentation (*Project Syria*, 2014, *Bosch VR*, 2016, *Titanic VR*, 2018, *The Antarctica Project*, 2019 etc.). Students will be able to evaluate and analyze works of cyberpunk (and subsequent cyberculture) from the perspectives of content, means of production, type of electronic platform as well as publishing and circulation method.

Course Format: Students are asked to present texts and perspectives they like to examine, participate in online discussions, and present an example of cyberculture for further discussion. Due to asynchronous teaching of the course, presentations are uploaded to eClass and discussions will be held in Kialo.edu.

Texts:**Recommended:**

Kennedy, Barbara M., David Bell: *The Cybercultures Reader*. Second Edition. London, New York: Routledge 2007.

All other literature and media will be provided via eClass by the instructor.

Additional Course Fees

Yes No

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

First Day of Class: September 1, 2021

Add/Delete Date: September 15, 2021

50% Withdrawal Date: October 4, 2021

Withdrawal Date: November 30, 2021

Last Day of Class: December 7, 2021

Final Exam Date: not applicable

Components of Course Grade (see “Explanatory Notes”):

1. Watching online lessons, participation in online discussions, preparation of texts and media —20%
2. Either/or —30%

Commented [NVD1]: can you please list the due date for this, since it's over 30% of the final grade?

- Online presentation of a [primary text](#) or
 - Online presentation of a [media adaptation in cyberculture](#) (film, game, VR project)
3. Blog entry on an eClass section on cyberculture —10%
 4. Final Essay: 2,000-2,500 words— 40% (due on December 17, 2021)

Explanatory Notes on Assignments:

Guidelines will feature on eClass and be further explained in class.

Online preparation: evidence of having read/played provided materials, and participation in group and class-wide discussions on eClass and Kialo.edu.

Online presentation of a primary text: reporting about textual material featured in the class. Students can choose the text they will present and if they present individually or in group.

Online presentation of an adaptation in cyberculture: reporting about a film, a game, or VR project in one of the two example-based parts of the seminar and relating it to the theoretical literature. Students can choose the project they will present and if they present individually or in group.

Blog entry on an eClass section on cybercultural adaptations: short statement as part of the seminar’s summary on a special eClass site (will be announced during the first session).

Final essay: a 2,000-2,500 word essay that will ask students to critically analyze an example of cyberculture using theories and concepts seen throughout the course.

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, preparation, and regular participation go hand in hand; students will not only be expected to prepare each session, but they are expected to participate in discussions. There will be regular online discussions, and the success of the course is dependent on informed and lively discussions driven by student engagement. It is therefore vital that each student completes the required readings, film screenings, or written exercises assigned for the scheduled class. Preparation, and regular participation

will count for 20% of the overall grade for the course.

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 on the stated deadline. Any assignment not handed-in in time or unexcused late assignments will not be given any marks. Late excuses will **not** be accepted for any reason

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](#).

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).

Those enrolled in a class will be fully informed:

- I. That the lecture or discussion is being recorded. Students will be asked to ensure that no other people are in the student's camera/recording view and that there is nothing identifiable or sensitive in that view (personal belongings, records, medications, etc.) prior to the class recording starting. Students can turn off their computer's camera or microphone if they are uncomfortable with being recorded.
- II. Why the recording is being made and any additional uses (beyond sharing with the students in the course) that will be made of the recording.
- III. Who will have access to the recording and how it will be disseminated (through eclass, google drive, zoom cloud drive, etc.). And
- IV. How long this access will be provided and when the recordings will be destroyed or otherwise deleted.

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>.

[The Academic Success Centre](#) provides professional academic support to help students maximize their academic success and achieve their academic goals. We offer appointments, advising, group workshops, online courses, and specialized programming year-round to students in all university programs, and at all levels of achievement and study.

They also administer the University of Alberta's [Duty to Accommodate procedure](#) for students and works with students, instructors, campus units, Faculties and departments, community and government agencies, and on and off-campus service providers to coordinate students' disability-related accommodation needs for participation in university programs.

For general information and to register for services visit the [Academic Accommodations](#) webpage.

[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.

[The First Peoples' House](#) provides an environment of empowerment for First Nations, Métis, and Inuit learners to achieve personal and academic growth.

[Health and Wellness Support for Students](#) outlines available mental and physical health resources that are offered on-campus and in the community.

[The Office of the Student Ombuds](#) is a confidential service that strives to ensure that university processes related to students operate as fairly as possible. We offer information, advice, and support to students, faculty, and staff as they deal with academic, discipline, interpersonal, and financial issues related to student programs.

Learning and working environment:

The Faculty of Arts is committed to ensuring that all students, faculty and staff are able to work and study in an environment that is safe and free from discrimination and harassment. It does not tolerate behaviour that undermines that environment.

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>

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.

Policy about course outlines can be found in the [Evaluation Procedures and Grading System](#) section of the University Calendar.

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.	A+	4.0	95-100
	A	4.0	90-94
	A-	3.7	86-89
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	B+	3.3	82-85
	B	3.0	75-81
	B-	2.7	70-74

are normally achieved by the largest number of students.			
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	66-69
	C	2.0	61-65
	C-	1.7	58-60
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	55-57
	D	1.0	50-54
Failure.	F	0.0	0-49

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