

**DEPARTMENT OF MODERN LANGUAGES  
AND CULTURAL STUDIES**

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

**2021-2022** FREN 445 A1: *Contemporary Cinema in French*  
(Fall Term)

Instructor: Dr. Sathya Rao  
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Course Website: Moodle

Time: MWF 11AM-11.50AM  
Place: HC 2-30  
Office Hours: TTh 3.30PM-4.30PM  
or by appointment

**Bachelor of Arts / Major in Modern Languages and Cultural Studies:**

<https://www.ualberta.ca/modern-languages-and-cultural-studies/undergraduate-program-information/prospective-undergraduate-students>

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**Course Prerequisite:** FREN 301 or FRANCO 225 and one of FREN 311, 312, 313, 314, 315, 316, 333 or consent of department It is your responsibility as a student to ensure that you have the appropriate prerequisites for the course.

**Technology requirements (minimum):** A computer which can run a current supported version of Windows or MacOS, Windows (Version 8, 8.1, or 10) or Mac (Version 10.13 or higher) with Internet access. Students should bring their own electronic device (e.g., laptop and tablet) with Internet access in class in order to watch movie clips and videos relevant to the course.

It is your responsibility as a student to ensure that you have the appropriate technology for the course.

**Experiential Learning Component**

this course has a significant experiential learning component (15% or more of the course grade)

**Course-based Ethics Approval** in place regarding all research projects that involve human testing, questionnaires, etc.?

Yes       No, not needed

**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

**Course Description, Objectives and Expected Learning Outcomes:**

The aim of this course is to introduce students to French cinema as a cultural industry, artistic practice, and social discourse through the study and analysis of a diversified corpus of French films. The first part of the course will provide an introduction to basic cinematic concepts (e.g., camera moves, editing techniques, and framing) and the second part will be devoted to exploring the history of French cinema with an emphasis on its most significant movements (e.g., Poetic Realism, Tradition française, and Nouvelle Vague), and celebrated film makers (e.g., Méliès, Godard, Demy, and Pialat).

At the end of this course students are expected (1) to display a comprehensive knowledge of French cinema from the end of 19th century to the present day; (2) to identify main French cinematic traditions based on their characteristic features; (3) to become familiar with basic cinematic concepts, such as editing, framing, and camera moves, and apply them to conduct a critical analysis; (4) to produce informed and well-structured film criticisms and reviews; and (5) to improve their written and oral proficiency in French.

**Course Format:** The objective of the course will be learned through a combination of formal lectures, self-assessments, individual and group activities. All the course material (e.g., PPT, course notes, and activity sheets) will be posted on the course Moodle website. Students who cannot temporarily attend class for a legitimate reason will be accommodated. However, students are expected to be present in class throughout the semester since the course is delivered in in-person.

**Films studied: (available for free on *Youtube*, *Kanopy* and *Criterion*)**

*Le Voyage dans la lune* (Méliès, 1902) [*Youtube*]

*La souriante Madame Beudet* (Dulac, 1923) [*Youtube*]

*L'Atalante* (Vigo, 1934) [*Kanopy*]

*La belle et la bête* (Cocteau, 1946) [*Kanopy*]

*À bout de souffle* (Godard, 1960) [*Kanopy*]

*Les demoiselles de Rochefort* (Demy, 1967) [*Kanopy*]

*À nos amours* (Pialat, 1983) [*Kanopy*]

**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

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

Quiz	10% (date to be determined)
1 film review:	15% (no later than October 8, 2021)
1 clip analysis:	15% (no later than November 1, 2021)
1 essay:	25% (no later than November 22, 2021)
1 presentation:	20% (date based on the choice of movie)
Participation:	15%

### **Explanatory Notes on Assignments:**

**Quiz:** Students will have to complete a short timed quiz after each section on the history of French cinema. These quizzes are meant to help students self-assess their understanding of the content. Students are expected to complete all quizzes throughout the semester.

**Film review:** Students will have the opportunity to write a film review on one of the recently released French movies proposed by the instructor. The film review should be **at least 500 words**. Outstanding film reviews will be posted on the [Francopains blog](#).

**Clip analysis:** The clip analysis will provide the students with the opportunity to apply cinematic concepts covered in class. Students can write their clip analysis on the same movie they selected to write their film review. The clip analysis should be **at least 350 words**.

**Essay:** The essay should be **at least 1500 words** and compare two movies from both a thematic and cinematic perspective. Movies discussed in the essay should be different from the one(s) selected for the film review and clip analysis. However, they could be the same as the movie selected for the presentation. Outstanding essays will be posted on the [Francopains blog](#).

**Presentation:** The presentation is done in pairs (unless exception is granted). Each of the students will do a **15 minutes presentation** on a selected movie, and answer questions from their peers and instructor. In their presentation, students are expected to discuss a particular aspect of the movie (10 minutes) and analyze a clip (5 minutes). Students cannot present on the same movie they chose for their review and clip analysis. However, they can do their presentation on the movie discussed in their essay.

**Participation:** Students are expected to be present in class throughout the semester (unless they have a valid reason not to attend). Participation includes: 1) taking an active part in class activities and discussions; 2) completing activity sheets in class or at home, and submitting them when requested by the instructor; 3) watching required movies; 4) asking questions to the instructor and other students during presentation time. Students will have the opportunity to boost their participation grade by attending events in the local francophone community, and providing evidence to the instructor.

### **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 will be factored **15% of the overall course grade**. Participation includes: 1) taking an active part in class activities and discussions; 2) completing activity sheets in class or at home, and submitting them when requested by the instructor; 3) watching required movies; 4) asking questions to the instructor and other students during presentation time. Students who cannot be present in class for a valid reason should inform the instructor as early as possible. Students are expected to complete activity sheets and quizzes in class or at home. Students who fail to complete and submit activity sheets in due time (unless they have a valid reason) will be penalized by losing 3% on their overall participation grade for each late assignment. Students who have missed 3 classes without a valid reason will lose 3% on their overall participation grade. After that, students will lose 3% for each class they miss without a valid reason.

Students have the opportunity to **increase their grade by attending a maximum of 2 community events** from the list posted on the “Activités dans la communauté 2021-2022” Moodle website. Students can also attend events listed on the [Francopass](#) web application. They will receive a **3% bonus** on their overall participation grade for each event they attended upon showing evidence of attendance (e.g., selfie, receipt, and stamp on their “passeport”, Francopass email notification).

#### **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 just one time throughout the course with no penalty. Otherwise, all assignments should be handed in on the stated deadline. Students who submit assignments late with no acceptable excuse will lose **10% of the assignment's value for each day following the deadline**. Late excuses will **not** be accepted.

#### **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](#).

***Language and Translation Courses: delete this section if not applicable***

Students involved in language courses and translation courses should be aware that the use of on-line translation to complete assignments constitutes a form of cheating as the student's own understanding and work is therefore not reflected. Also, students in language courses should be aware that, while seeking the advice of native or expert speakers is often helpful, excessive editorial and creative help in assignments is considered a form of cheating that violates the [Code of Student Behaviour](#).

***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).

***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	%
<p><b>Excellent.</b> 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.</p>	<b>A+</b>	4.0	<b>95-100</b>
	<b>A</b>	4.0	<b>90-94</b>
	<b>A-</b>	3.7	<b>86-89</b>
<p><b>Good.</b> 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>B+</b>	3.3	<b>82-85</b>
	<b>B</b>	3.0	<b>75-81</b>
	<b>B-</b>	2.7	<b>70-74</b>
<p><b>Satisfactory.</b> 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>	<b>C+</b>	2.3	<b>66-69</b>
	<b>C</b>	2.0	<b>61-65</b>
	<b>C-</b>	1.7	<b>58-60</b>
<p><b>Poor/Minimal Pass.</b> 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>	<b>D+</b>	1.3	<b>55-57</b>
	<b>D</b>	1.0	<b>50-54</b>
<p><b>Failure.</b></p>	<b>F</b>	0.0	<b>0-49</b>

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