

**DEPARTMENT OF MODERN LANGUAGES  
AND CULTURAL STUDIES**

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

**2016-2017** FREN 565/B1: Caribbean Culture  
(Winter Term)

Instructor: Dr. Anne Malena  
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Time: T&Th: 2 – 3:20  
Place: HC2-14

Office Hours: T: 3:30 pm,  
or by Appointment  
Course Website: e-class

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**Course Prerequisite:** Consent of department

**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 also come to reflect upon various aspects of cultural discourse and be required to read several theoretical essays and explain them to the undergraduate students. 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 be conversant in some of the main theories in the field of Caribbean Studies.

**Texts:**

- Condé, Maryse. *Traversée de la mangrove*
- Laferrière, Dany. *Pays sans chapeau*
- Confiant, Raphaël. *Régisseur du rhum*
- Ollivier, Émile. *Passages*
- Césaire, Aimé. *Discours sur le colonialisme*
- Fanon, Frantz. *Peau noire, masques blancs*
- Glissant, Édouard. Excerpts from *Discours antillais*
- Other material posted on e-class

**Grade Distribution (see “Explanatory Notes”):**

3 Oral Presentations (February 2; March 2; April 6)	30% (3 x 10%)
1 summary (February 16)	15%
A Final Essay (publishable quality) due April 21:	45%
Participation (attendance and preparedness):	10%

**Explanatory Notes on Assignments:**

Each **presentation** (20 minutes, followed by a discussion period) will be on a topic related to the book being read by the class at the time and will aim to provide one possible theoretical approach to deepen the understanding of these particular book and author.

The summary (400 words) will be based on an article chosen by the student and approved by the professor.

**Required Notes:**

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

**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 <http://www.governance.ualberta.ca/en/CodesofConductandResidenceCommunitySta>

[ndards/CodeofStudentBehaviour.aspx](#) ) 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.”

***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](#).

***Academic Honesty:***

**All students** should consult the information provided by the [Office of Judicial Affairs](#) regarding avoiding cheating and plagiarism in particular and academic dishonesty in general. If in doubt about what is permitted in this class, ask the instructor.

**Students involved in language courses and translation courses** should be aware that online “translation engines” produce very dubious and unreliable “translations.” **Students in languages 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 conduct with dire consequences.

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 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.

**In this course**, participation is worth 10%, which includes attendance and preparedness.

***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**.

***Student Accessibility Services:***

If you have special needs that could affect your performance in this class, please let me know during the first week of the term so that appropriate arrangements can be made. If you are not already registered with [Student Accessibility Services](#), contact their office immediately (1-80 SUB; Email [sasrec@ualberta.ca](mailto:sasrec@ualberta.ca); Email; phone 780-492-3381).

***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 Graduate Grading Scale”**

A+	97-100	Excellent
A	93-96	Excellent
A-	90-92	Excellent
B+	87-89	Good
B	79-86	Good
B-	74-78	Satisfactory
C+	68-73	Satisfactory
C	63-67	Failure
C-	58-62	Failure
D+	54-57	Failure
D-	50-53	Failure
F	00-49	Failure

