

**DEPARTMENT OF MODERN LANGUAGES
AND CULTURAL STUDIES**

www.mlcs.ualberta.ca

2015-2016 FREN 481-A1: Topics in Folklore and Popular Culture:
Literature, Culture, and Folklore of Francophone Louisiana
(Fall Term)

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Time: Tues and Thurs 3:30-4:50 pm

Place: CAB 365

Office Hours: 11-noon Tuesdays

or by appointment

Course Website: eclass

Course Prerequisite: FREN 301 or FRANCO 225; and one of FREN 311, 312, 313, 314, 315, 316 or 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 aims to introduce the student to the French culture, folklore and literature of Louisiana, with particular emphasis on the status of French in the 20th century and today. Students will gain a good understanding of the history of Louisiana, of the richness of its oral and written traditions, and of various efforts to preserve and revive what was once its dominant language.

Texts:

to purchase:

Jeanne Castille, *Moi Jeanne Castille de Louisiane*

All other texts are freely available online. Links will be posted on the course website.

Grade Distribution (see “Explanatory Notes”):

Participation and attendance	10%
Discussion questions for each session	15%
Midterm paper (due Oct. 13)	35%
Final paper (due Dec. 3)	40%

Explanatory Notes on Assignments:

Participation and attendance: You are expected to attend and actively participate in class. This includes:

1. Thoroughly preparing all work assigned for each class session
2. Contributing actively to class discussion and activities. This includes not only regularly sharing your own thoughts about what we read, but also listening attentively and responding to your classmates’ ideas.

Important note: Disruptive behaviour in class is a sign of disrespect both to the instructor and to your fellow students, and will not be tolerated. Activities such as chatting, surfing the Internet, using or frequently checking your phone, studying for another class, etc. will result in a low participation grade. **Cell phones should be turned OFF during class, and should remain put away.**

Discussion Questions: Each student will prepare one discussion question for each class session, based on the text(s) under consideration in that session. Guidelines for these questions are available on the course website.

Midterm paper: Each student will write a midterm paper approximately midway through the semester. Possible topics and detailed instructions will be provided by the professor.

Final paper: Each student will write a final paper at the end of the semester. Possible topics and detailed instructions will be provided by the professor.

Required Notes:

“Policy about course outlines can be found in Section 23.4(2) 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/CodesofConductandResidenceCommunityStandards/CodeofStudentBehaviour.aspx>) and avoid any behaviour which 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 safe and free of discrimination and harassment. It does not tolerate behaviour that undermines that environment. The Department urges anyone who feels this policy has been or 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 directs 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 student ombudservice (<http://www.ombudservice.ualberta.ca/>).

Information about the University of Alberta Discrimination and Harassment Policy and Procedures is described in UAPPOL at

<https://policiesonline.ualberta.ca/PoliciesProcedures/Pages/DispPol.aspx?PID=110> .

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 (see the [Academic Integrity Undergraduate Handbook](#) and [Information for Students](#)). 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 on-line “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 instructor 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 23.3(1) and 23.5.6 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, attendance is part of your participation grade, which is worth 10 percent of the total grade. Each student may miss two class sessions without penalty, whether due to illness, doctor’s appointments, other commitments, etc. Each absence beyond the allotted two will result in a one percent penalty on the final course grade.

Policy for Late Assignments:

All work is due **in class**, on the day for which it has been assigned. Work turned in after class on the due date will be assessed a 5% penalty, with an additional 5% assessed for each subsequent day of lateness. 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.

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 Specialized Support & Disability Services, contact their office immediately (2-800 SUB; Email sasrec@ualberta.ca; Email; phone 780-492-3381; WEB www.ssds.ualberta.ca).

Grading:

Marks for assignments, tests, and exams are given in percentages, to which letter grades are also assigned, according to the table below (“**MLCS Undergraduate Grading Scale**”). The percentage mark resulting from the entire term work and examination then produces the final letter grade for the course.

“MLCS Undergraduate Grading Scale”

Letter	%	Pts	Descriptor
A+	95-100%	4.0	Outstanding: Superior performance showing understanding and knowledge of the subject matter far exceeding expectations.
A	90-94%	4.0	Excellent: Superior performance showing comprehensive understanding of subject matter.
A-	86-89%	3.7	Very good: Clearly above average performance with complete knowledge of subject matter.
B+	82-85%	3.3	Very good
B	75-81%	3.0	Good: average performance with knowledge of subject matter generally complete.
B-	70-74%	2.7	Good
C+	66-69%	2.3	Satisfactory: Basic understanding of the subject matter
C	61-65%	2.0	Satisfactory
C-	58-60%	1.7	Satisfactory
D+	55-57%	1.3	Minimal Pass: Marginal performance; generally insufficient preparation for subsequent courses in the subject matter.
D	50-54%	1.0	Minimal Pass: Marginal performance; generally insufficient preparation for subsequent courses in the subject matter.
F	0-49%	0.0	Fail: Unsatisfactory performance or failure to meet course requirements.