

**DEPARTMENT OF MODERN LANGUAGES
AND CULTURAL STUDIES**
www.mlcs.ualberta.ca

2015-2016 GERM 451–A1
Genre, Text, Technique
(Fall Term)

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Time: M W F 11-11.50am
Place: HC 1.15
Office Hours: M 12:30-13:30,
or by appointment
Course Website:
<https://eclass.srv.ualberta.ca/course/modedit.php?update=1186321&return=o&sr=o>

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:

The course will cover some of the most popular genres across different media, from letters and short stories to blogs and melodramas, from graphic novels to road movies. What defines a genre, how do elements of genres travel, mix and how are new genres created? We will also talk about how different genres develop and get re-appropriated over time.

Texts:

Required Course Material, Texts, and Films:

Books (available at U of A Bookstore):

Annette von Droste-Hülshoff: *Die Judenbuche*, (1842) München: dtv, 2014.

Ferdinand von Schirach: *Verbrechen*, (2009) München: Piper, 2012.

Short texts and course material will be distributed in class and additional material posted on posted on eClass.

Films (available at Rutherford Library or ARC, Arts Building):

IM JULI by Fatih Akin (2000)

GOLD by Thomas Arslan (2014)

Grade Distribution (see “Explanatory Notes”):

Attendance, participation, preparation, homework (throughout the semester)	10%
Text preparation	15%
Roundtable debate (depending on topic: Sept 28, Oct 19, Nov 6, Nov 30)	15%
2 Short essays (essay #1 due Oct 16, essay #2 due Dec 2; 15% each)	30%
Creative project (due Nov 16)	15%
Test (Oct 28)	15%

Explanatory Notes on Assignments:

Attendance, Participation, Preparation, and Homework

Regular attendance is essential for optimal performance in a foreign-language course. Students are expected to participate fully in all aspects of class work and assignments. That means coming to class prepared, viewing the assigned films and reading all texts carefully in advance, doing written or oral homework diligently, participating in group work, and contributing meaningfully to class discussions.

Text preparation

The text discussed in class need to be well prepared, with annotations, vocabulary needs to be clarified. Individual text preparation will be checked regularly.

Roundtable Debate

Each student is expected to participate in a roundtable discussion on a specific topic by preparing a 5-7 minute statement and by actively engaging in the debate following the short presentations. The statement should give an introduction to and overview of the topic including important facts and dates; it should then focus on a specific aspect and introduce an assumption or opinion, and finally articulate related questions that will be discussed during the debate.

Short Essays

Two short essays are due during the term. The essays should reflect and elaborate on the objectives and materials learned and used in class, this can be a rendition of a text, it can mean to re-write it or to re-interpret it. At least one essay should display a structured argument with a compelling thesis and insightful conclusion. You are welcome to use secondary sources, articles

and books. To choose a topic for each unit, please contact the instructor in advance. Each essay should be 2-4 pages or 600-800 words in length.

Creative Project

In this course students will be asked to complete a group project (2-3 students per group) on the topic of their respective roundtable. Topics will be discussed in class.

Test

There will be one test in the middle (Oct 28) of the term that will consist of questions relating to the theories, texts, and films studied in class, as well as to the group work and discussions. The test will be 40 minutes long.

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 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)) <http://www.registrar.ualberta.ca/calendar/Regulations-and-Information/Academic-Regulation/23.3.html#23.3>) and 23.5.6 (<http://www.registrar.ualberta.ca/calendar/Regulations-and-Information/Academic-Regulation/23.5.html#23.5>) 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, 10% is assigned to attendance, preparation, participation, and homework, i.e. students must view all assigned films and read and prepare texts for the assigned class period so that they can participate successfully in the group work and class discussions.

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.

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; phone 780-492-3381; Web www.ssd.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.