

**DEPARTMENT OF MODERN LANGUAGES  
AND CULTURAL STUDIES**

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

**2016-2017 FRENCH 445 A1: Contemporary Cinema in French**  
(Fall Term)

Instructor: *Dr. Anna Gural-Migdal*  
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Time: *T,Th 3:30 to 4:50 PM*  
Place: *HC 2-37*  
Office Hours: *2:00 to 3:00 PM*  
or by appointment  
Course Website: *eClass Moodle*

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**Course Prerequisite:** FREN 301 or FRAN 225 and one of FREN 311, 312, 313, 314, 315, 316, 333 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:**

The goal of this course is to describe and analyze contemporary French Cinema as cultural industry, artistic practice, and social representation through a corpus of films by well-known and young directors. A special emphasis will be placed on the way these films show the evolution of French society during the last twenty years. Social topics discussed in class will deal with youth, education, friendship, love, sexual orientation, feminism, family, unemployment, racism, immigration, politics, and violence.

At the end of this course students are expected to understand what characterizes

French cinema and what are its specific aspects in relation to its own tradition. They should also be able to discuss orally and in written form some of the social ideas expressed in contemporary French films. Finally, they will become aware of the major challenges that the film industry is presently facing in France.

### **Films Studied:**

*Le Fabuleux Destin d'Amélie Poulain* (2001), Jean-Pierre Jeunet  
*Huit Femmes* (2002), François Ozon  
*Tanguy* (2002), Étienne Chatiliez  
*L'Auberge espagnole* (2002), Cédric Klapisch  
*Les Témoins* (2007), André Téchiné  
*Entre les murs* (2008), Laurent Cantet  
*Welcome* (2009), Philippe Lioret  
*Intouchables* (2011), Olivier Nakache et Éric Toledano

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

1 Mid-term Exam:	20% (October 18, 2016)
1 Final exam	30% (December 14, 2016)
1 Essay	20% (November 29, 2016)
1 presentation	20% (date to be determined in class with students) - Content: 10% - Form: 10%
Participation:	10%

Fall/Winter Exam Planner for the 2016-2017 academic year can be found at the following site: <http://www.registrarsoffice.ualberta.ca/en/Examinations/Fall-2016-Winter-2017-Exam-Planner.aspx>

**Date of Deferred Final Exam (if applicable):** December 19, 2016

Please consult the following site:

<http://calendar.ualberta.ca/content.php?catoid=6&navoid=806#Examinations> (Exams)

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

**Presentation:** The length of the presentation, undertaken by groups of 4-5 students, will be 30 to 40 minutes (approximately 8 minutes per student). This assignment will focus on one of the films selected for the course. A detailed guide for the presentation and a marking rubric will be provided electronically.

**Essay:** The term essay on films studied in class (to be handed in on November 29, 2016), will have a length of 1500 words. The mark given for the essay will take into account the coherence and the depth of the ideas (70%), as well as the quality of expression (spelling, vocabulary, and syntax: 30%). Students should re-read and carefully correct

their essay before handing it in to the professor.

**Exams:** The mid-term exam (scheduled on October 18, 2016) will cover the first part of the course content and the final exam (scheduled on December 14, 2016), the second part of the course content. The mid-term exam will be 80 minutes long and divided into one theoretical part and one analytical part. The final exam will be a three-hours exam. For both exams a preparation guide will be provided electronically.

**Participation:** Participation will be assessed based on course attendance, the use of French during classroom activities, preparedness, and active participation in class and in the Moodle discussion forum. Note that the professor expects students to have seen the relevant film before coming to class.

**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/CodesofConductandResidenceCommunityStandards/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 (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 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**, regular attendance and active participation in class discussion are essential. The grade distribution for attendance and active participation is as follows:

Attendance (5%)

Active participation (5%)

Please Note: It is the responsibility of the student not to miss class or to be late on the day scheduled for his/her group presentation. No absence will be excused unless special arrangements have been made with the instructor prior to the presentation.

***Policy for Late Assignments:***

Students who confer 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.

Otherwise there will be a grade reduction of 15% for any assignment that is submitted 1 to 2 days after the deadline, and a penalty of 25% for those submitted 3 to 4 days late. No assignment submitted five days late, or more, will be accepted unless special arrangements have been made with the instructor prior to 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 Undergraduate Grading Scale”**

Descriptor	Letter Grade	Grade Point Value	%
<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.	<b>A+</b>	4.0	<b>97-100</b>
	<b>A</b>	4.0	<b>93-96</b>
	<b>A-</b>	3.7	<b>90-92</b>
<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.	<b>B+</b>	3.3	<b>87-89</b>
	<b>B</b>	3.0	<b>83-86</b>
	<b>B-</b>	2.7	<b>80-82</b>
<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.	<b>C+</b>	2.3	<b>77-79</b>
	<b>C</b>	2.0	<b>73-76</b>
	<b>C-</b>	1.7	<b>70-72</b>

<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.	<b>D+</b>	1.3	<b>65-69</b>
	<b>D</b>	1.0	<b>60-64</b>
<b>Failure.</b>	<b>F</b>	0.0	<b>0-59</b>

***Important websites for the French section:***

e-class Moodle: Activités dans la communauté et ressources en français 2015-2016.

Les Francopains: <http://www.artsrn.ualberta.ca/lesfrancopains/>