

**DEPARTMENT OF MODERN LANGUAGES
AND CULTURAL STUDIES**
<https://uofa.ualberta.ca/modern-languages-and-cultural-studies>

2017-2018 FREN 314 A1: Beauty / Aesthetics
(Fall Term)

Instructor: *Julie Tarif, PhD*
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Time: *T & Tr, 9:30-10.50*
Place: *HC 2-26*
Office Hours:
by appointment

Course Prerequisite: FREN298 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 examines the notions of beauty and aesthetics through their representations in art, language, culture and literature. Students will gain a broader understanding of the historical development of the notions of beauty and aesthetics in France, although not exclusively. This is a “cours intégré”, which means that language skills will be practiced at the same time as critical tools for textual/pictorial analysis will be taught. The course will be delivered in French and the students will be encouraged to speak French but room will be made for discussions in English when necessary.

At the end of this course, successful students will be able to:

- show the richness and the shifting/variable component of the concepts of Beauty and Aesthetics through various definitions of the terms and various quotations (by artists and writers) and examples.

- paraphrase in modern French the complex language used in Classical Antiquity or in the Middle Ages in the texts that theorize Beauty.
- name the key theoretical parameters set by the Ancients as the core aspects of Beauty and examine/recognize how they were concretely implemented in architecture, sculpture, literature, etc.,
- assess how some of these key concepts were "recycled" in the Middle Ages, while other elements, not being "in the spirit" of those times, were not.
- discuss the question of Beauty and gender.
- contrast the vision of Beauty that was predominant in the Renaissance period, with the ones that were prevalent in the Middle Ages and in the Ancient world.
- examine and question the link between Beauty/Aesthetics and the notions of "good" and "bad".
- list and define the characteristics of some art movements from the 18th and 19th centuries (i.e. Barocco, Classicism, Romanticism, Impressionism, etc.) and recognize their influence in architecture or in the art of gardening.
- summarize how the various approaches to the concepts of Beauty and Aesthetics shaped themselves throughout the centuries.
- collect information as a group during an interview and (still as a group) discuss and select the key information to be used for an oral presentation.
- show in that oral presentation to what extent these two notions are relevant to some professions today.

Texts:

All documents and links to documents required for the class will all be posted on the course website.

Grade Distribution (see "Explanatory Notes"):

Participation in class activities and attendance (self-evaluation due on e-class – Dec. 5, by noon)	20%
Test and/or Quiz (in class, week of Sept. 25 th or Oct. 2 nd)	15%
Mid-Term assignment (in class, Nov. 2 nd)	20%
Group presentation (Oct. 24 th and 26 th)	20%
Final written assignment (due on e-class – Dec. 7 th , by noon)	25%

Fall / Winter Exam Planner for the 2017-2018 academic year can be found at the following site: <https://www.registrarsoffice.ualberta.ca/en/Examinations/Fall-2017-Winter-2018-Exam-Planner.aspx>

Date of Deferred Final Exam (if applicable):

Please consult the following site:

[http://calendar.ualberta.ca/content.php?catoid=6&navoid=806#Examinations_\(Exams\)](http://calendar.ualberta.ca/content.php?catoid=6&navoid=806#Examinations_(Exams))

Explanatory Notes on Assignments:

1) Participation and attendance

Very regular attendance is expected.

In class, we will engage into active learning with individual and group activities. Your participation in these activities is evaluated for:

- how well prepared you come to class: you're supposed to prepare all work assigned for each class session (e.g. readings, homework activities),
- your spontaneous contribution to class discussions and activities,
- your use of the French language.

The marking rubrics will be provided on e-class.

Students are also strongly encouraged to use the course *Moodle* to share any of their questions on the course content and answer them. This is particularly relevant for shy students, although *all* are expected to participate orally in class.

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.

2) Test and/or Quiz

- ♦ This is designed to test the students' knowledge of class material, including language points.
- ♦ Detailed instructions will be provided by the professor ahead of time.

3) Mid-term assignment (around 900 words in length)

- ♦ Students will be asked to write a commentary in class about a document (not studied in class) linked to the work done on Beauty and Aesthetics in Antiquity and in the Middle Ages. Class material, bilingual dictionary (English<->French) and monolingual French dictionary allowed.

4) Group presentation (20-25 minutes)

- ♦ Students will give short presentations in class, in small groups to share the results of their interviews with professionals on the relation between their profession and the key notions of *beauty and aesthetics*.

5) Final assignment (around 1 000 words in length)

- ♦ Students will choose between two different written assignments. One will be more research-oriented.
- ♦ Detailed instructions will be provided by the professor ahead of time.

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 www.governance.ualberta.ca) 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 [Student Conduct & Accountability Office](#) 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, 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).

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, students are allowed to miss three sessions without penalty regardless of the reason for their absence (excusable or not), after which two percentage point per absence will be deducted from the attendance and participation grade. It is recommended not to miss a session unless necessary.

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. 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 [Student Accessibility Services](#), contact their office immediately (1-80 SUB; Email 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	%
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	Grade	Point Value	
<p>Excellent. 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>	A+	4.0	97-100
	A	4.0	93-96
	A-	3.7	90-92
<p>Good. 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+	3.3	87-89
	B	3.0	83-86
	B-	2.7	80-82
<p>Satisfactory. 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>	C+	2.3	77-79
	C	2.0	73-76
	C-	1.7	70-72
<p>Poor/Minimal Pass. 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>	D+	1.3	65-69
	D	1.0	60-64
<p>Failure.</p>	F	0.0	0-59