

**DEPARTMENT OF MODERN LANGUAGES
AND CULTURAL STUDIES**

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

2017-2018 MLCS 630 X01: The Disciplines of Literature
(Fall Term)

Instructor: Dr LK Penrod
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Personal Website: NA

Time: W 17:00-20:00
Place: HC 2-19
Office Hours: TBA
or by appointment
Course Website: NA

Course Prerequisite: Reading knowledge of one language other than English or consent of the 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:

“Nowadays, there are people everywhere studying literature; but no one approaches it as a whole, or as independent subject of study.” --Zheng Zhenduo

The resurgence of world literature is widely considered the most significant development in contemporary literary studies. Much of the focus of the discussion has been on the expansion of the canon, or its “deprovincialization,” to finally make it truly global. However, the querying of world literature must also take on the nature of national literatures, indeed of literature itself.

This is particularly true considering that, because of migration the broader dissemination of texts, and other globalizing forces, national literatures are becoming increasingly international in character. In this course we will examine the dynamic interplay between world literature and national literatures. In the process, we will explore such issues as translation, intermedia adaptation, and the circulation of texts, as well as the relationship between so-called peripheries and centres within a given tradition between different literary systems. All the readings for this course are in English, although students are encouraged to analyze text in the language (or languages) of their choice. At the end of the course, successful students will be able to make an informed contribution to the scholarship on the nature and function of literature regionally, nationally, and internationally.

Texts:

Required:

Damrosch, David, ed. *World Literature in Theory*. Malden MA: Wiley Blackwell, 2014.

Apter, Emily. *Against World Literature: On the Politics of Untranslatability*. London and New York: Verso, 2013.

Other texts will be provided either online or by photocopy by the instructor.

Grade Distribution (see “Explanatory Notes”):

Presentation:	20%	(assigned during first two weeks of course)
Written version of presentation	20%	(between 1500 and 2500 words + bibliography)
Final Essay	50%	(5000-6000 words: DUE 7 DEC 2018)
Participation	10%	

Note: There is no final examination in this course.

Date of Deferred Final Exam (if applicable): NA

Explanatory Notes on Assignments:

Each student will be required to give one presentation, which must focus on a topic distinct from that of the final essay. The presentation will be about 20 minutes in length (conference style), and will be followed by a response from the class (questions and comments). At least two days before the presentation, the student must provide the instructor with a 200-word abstract and a 50-word biographical note. Then one week following the presentation, the student must deliver to the instructor a written version of the talk, including a comprehensive list of works cited. In addition, the student must be prepared to initiate discussion after the next presentation.

The essay will be between 5000 and 6000 words and it may deal with works discussed in the

course or with other critical or creative texts that, in some way, address the nature of the relationship between national and world literature. In either case, students must discuss their intentions with the instructor as early as possible to ensure that she considers the topic feasible. All essay topics must be discussed in advanced and be approved by the instructor.

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. 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, attendance and informed participation are crucial. Since this is a graduate seminar, every member is expected to do all the readings beforehand and to be in class in order to be able to contribute positively to discussion.

Policy for Late Assignments: Late Assignments will be penalized 2% per day and will receive no comments.

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 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