

**DEPARTMENT OF MODERN LANGUAGES
AND CULTURAL STUDIES**

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

2017-2018 SLAV 299 A2: Witchcraft in Slavic Cultures
(Fall Term)

Instructor: Jelena Pogosjan
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Time: MWF 3:30-4:20
Place: HC 1-15
Office Hours: MWF 12:00-1:00
or by appointment
Course Website: eClass

Course Prerequisite: No prerequisites

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 consists of three major segments. The first segment is dedicated to a “village witch.” Students will be introduced to pagan and Christian elements of popular beliefs and rituals related to witchcraft in Slavic cultures, to fairy tales and epic songs from this region, and to incantation and counter-spells preserved in oral and written traditions. The second segment of the course examines the historical construction of the witch in the context of witch trials in Poland and Russia in the 17th and the 18th centuries. The third part of the course examines witchcraft in the context of the 20th century occult movements, as well as contemporary neo-pagan beliefs and practices in Poland, Russia and Ukraine. Each segment of the course will be followed by a study of related themes represented in literary works and on screen.

By the end of this course, students will be able to recall major witchcraft themes and narratives, as well as related recurring images and motifs in different genres of Slavic folklore; to discuss how a diverse range of witchcraft narratives function within the context of witch trials in Slavic countries; students will be able to analyze examples of Slavic Witchcraft folklore, as well as literary and film adaptations of witchcraft narratives that are unfamiliar to them, and to articulate their personal responses to various witchcraft narratives.

Texts: all required and recommended texts will be provided through eClass, or available from the university library (in electronic format, or placed on reserve).

Grade Distribution (see “Explanatory Notes”):

Participation	30%
Group discussion and presentation (Sept. 27, Nov. 22)	20% (10%+10%)
Midterm (Oct. 20)	15%
Final project (proposal, Nov. 20)	5%
Final project (presentation, week of Dec. 27)	10%
Final project (essay, Dec. 13)	20%

Explanatory Notes on Assignments:

Participation – 30% of the grade: students are expected to be consistently well prepared for the class (reading assignments and dates are posted on eClass), to contribute actively and regularly to class discussions; to listen and respond to contributions of others.

Group discussion and presentation – 20% of the grade: there will be two in-class group discussions (10% of the grade each) followed by short (5 min.) group presentations. More detailed description of each discussion will be available on eClass.

Midterm – 20% of the grade: take-home essay on literary or film adaptation of folklore witchcraft narratives, 3-5 pages, double-spaced; students are expected to summarize the plot, to identify the folklore narratives, to explain the role of folklore narratives in the literary work/film chosen. List of suggested literary works/films and guidelines will be posted on eClass.

Final project – 5%+10%+20% of the grade: students are encouraged to choose their own research topic related to the course content and objectives (a list of suggested topics, bibliography and filmography will be available on eClass); written proposal (5% of the grade) – up to 1 page, double-spaced plus tentative bibliography; final presentation (10% of the grade) – 10 min. presentation; final essay (20% of the grade) – a research paper, 10 pages, double-spaced plus bibliography.

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.

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 [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	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