

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

2019-2020

C Lit 266 (A1) Women and World Literature
(Fall Term)

Instructor: Dr. Elli Dehnavi
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Time: Tues/Thurs 12:30-1:50 p.m.
Place: ESB 1-31
Office Hours: Tues/Thurs 2:00-2:30 p.m.
or by appointment

Course Prerequisite: None

It is your responsibility as a student to ensure that you have the appropriate prerequisites for the course.

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

Course Description, Objectives and Expected Learning Outcomes:

This course explores literary and cinematic works produced from the early 20th Century to the present, by and about women, from different cultural, social and historical perspectives. We will look at the history of women's literature and read theoretical texts to help us better understand women's writing and representations of women's experiences in literature and cinema. As we discuss novels, autobiographies, graphic novels, short stories and films from North America, the Middle East, Africa, and Europe, we will examine questions of identity, sexuality, agency, and power relations.

Course Format: The objectives of this course will be learned from a combination of lectures, guest presentations, class discussions, assigned readings and audiovisual

materials.

Required Texts (Available at the University Bookstore)

Walker, Alice. *The Color Purple*. Harcourt, 2003.
Adichie, Chimamanda Ngozi. *Purple Hibiscus*. Algonquin, 2003.
Satrapi, Marjane. *Embroideries*. Trans. Anjilah Singh. Pantheon, 2005.
Shraya, Vivek. *I'm Afraid of Men*. Penguin, 2018.
Thuy, Kim. *Ru*. Random House of Canada, 2015.

*Other required texts will be available online or on eClass. The complete list will be distributed on the first day of class.

Additional Course Fees

Yes * No

Important Dates: [See Academic Schedule in current Calendar](#)

First Day of Class: September 3, 2019
Add/Delete Date: September 16, 2019
50% Withdrawal Date: October 3, 2019
Withdrawal Date: November 29, 2019
Last Day of Class: December 6, 2019
Final Exam Date (if applicable): December 17, 2019 at 9:00am

Date of Deferred Final Exam (if applicable): December 19, 2019

Please consult the following site:

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

Deferred Final Examination: For information on how to apply for a deferred exam see [“I Missed my Final Exam, Now What?”](#)

Grade Distribution (see “Explanatory Notes”):

Class Attendance and Participation 15%
Presentation, Discussion Questions, and Debate 15%
Short Research Paper (about 1000 words) 10%
Creative Project (Dec. 3 & 5, 2019) 10%
Midterm 20% (Oct. 22, 2019)
Final Exam 30% December 17, 2019 (Confirm details on Bear Tracks.)

Explanatory Notes on Assignments:

Presentation, Discussion Questions, and Debate: This is a group activity (3 members) on the author(s)/ texts of your choice and deliver a 15-minute presentation. Define your topic clearly and keep your presentation focused. You are encouraged to use visual elements for your

presentation. Don't forget that your presentation needs an eye-catching title. Each student is required to prepare 2 critical questions in relation to their presentation and email them to the instructor one day before the date of the presentation. The questions must be open-ended and prompt discussion within the class about the text's thematic issues, socio-political context, or formal aspects. Each presenter is responsible to use their discussion questions and lead a group debate following the presentation.

Short Research Paper: This is an individual assignment. Each short research paper (MLA style) presents a thoughtful analysis of relationships, themes, motifs, and/or literary techniques in one or two fairytales. You should base your argument upon specific details from the text, but you must do more than offer an accurate description of content. Besides your primary text(s), you need a minimum of 3 secondary sources. Please keep in mind that you should write your paper on the exact same topic you have selected for your presentation. You must submit your paper one session after your presentation.

Midterm (80 min): For your midterm, you will have 4 essay questions to answer. The questions will revolve around the texts and discussions we have in class.

Creative Project (in pairs): Find a teammate and work together to create your own adaptation of your favorite story, novel, or film on the syllabus, or develop a creative response to any of the texts discussed in class. You can present your project as a poster, a blog with comics content, a video, etc. You will need to prepare handouts for your classmates so that they can follow the project as you present it in class. For your choice of the text and the medium of your response, please consult the instructor.

Final Exam (100 min): For the final exam, you will be given 5 essay questions and you should answer 3 of them. The questions will revolve around the texts and discussions we have in class.

Required Notes:

Policy about course outlines can be found in the [Evaluation Procedures and Grading System](#) of the University Calendar.

Student Responsibilities:

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](#) 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.

All students should consult [the Academic Integrity website](#). If you have any questions, ask your instructor.

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](#).

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](#).

It is the policy of the University of Alberta that sexual violence committed by any member of the University community is prohibited and constitutes misconduct. Resources and more information can be found at <https://www.ualberta.ca/campus-life/sexual-violence>

Territorial Statement:

“The University of Alberta acknowledges that we are located on Treaty 6 territory, and respects the histories, languages, and cultures of the First Nations, Métis, Inuit, and all First Peoples of Canada, whose presence continues to enrich our vibrant community.”

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. Deferral of term work is a privilege and not a right; there is no guarantee that a deferral will be granted. Misrepresentation of facts to gain a deferral is a serious breach of the Code of Student Behaviour.

In this course, regular attendance is mandatory. Any absences from the class will lead to partial or total loss of the participation segment of the course grade (15%), unless the student has a valid excuse for his/her absence (e.g., health problems, serious emergency case, serious domestic issues).

Policy for Late Assignments:

All assignments must be handed in on the stated deadline. Students who consult in advance (at least 3 days before the deadline) with the instructor regarding contingencies preventing the timely completion of an assignment may be granted an extension (max of 2 days) 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.

Disclaimer:

Any typographical errors in this syllabus are subject to change and will be announced in class and posted on eClass. The date of the final examination is set by the Registrar and takes precedence over the final examination date reported in this syllabus.

Student Resources:

The best all-purpose website for student services is: <https://www.ualberta.ca/current-students>.

Accessibility Resources: (1 – 80 SUB)

The University of Alberta is committed to creating work and learning communities that inspire and enable all people to reach their full potential. Accessibility Resources promotes an accessible, inclusive, and universally designed environment. For general information to register for services visit the [Accessibility Resources](#) webpage.

The Academic Success Centre: (1-80 SUB)

[The Academic Success Centre](#) offers a variety of workshops on effective study and exam strategies. There are in-person and online sessions available for a modest fee.

The Centre for Writers: (1-42 Assiniboia Hall)

The [Centre for Writers](#) offers free one-on-one writing support to students, faculty, and staff. Students can request consultation for a writing project at any stage of development. Instructors can request class visits and presentations.

Health and Wellness Support: There are many health and community services available to current students. For more information visit the [Health and Wellness Support](#) webpage.

Office of the Student Ombuds:

The [Office of the Student Ombuds](#) offers confidential interviews, advice and support to students facing academic, discipline, interpersonal and financial difficulties.

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	%
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.	A+	4.0	97-100
	A	4.0	93-96
	A-	3.7	90-92
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.	B+	3.3	87-89
	B	3.0	83-86
	B-	2.7	80-82
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.	C+	2.3	77-79
	C	2.0	73-76
	C-	1.7	70-72
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.	D+	1.3	65-69
	D	1.0	60-64
Failure.	F	0.0	0-59