

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

2019-2020 C LIT 347: A1 Elements of Genre
(Fall Term)

Instructor: Irene Sywenky
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Time: MWF 11:00 – 11:50
Place: HC 2-12
Office Hours: M 14:00-15:00, W 13:00-14:00,
or by appointment
Course Website: eClass

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

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 is a survey of the dystopian novel from a historical and cross-cultural perspective as one of the influential and distinctive genres of contemporary literature. The course explores the evolution of dystopian fiction and representation of dystopia across the media in the light of socio-political, technological, and environmental changes with a specific focus on the second half of the 20th century and beyond. Students will examine a wide range of representative contemporary texts from a variety of cultural and linguistic contexts. By the end of this course successful students will be able to identify and discuss representative characteristics and themes of the contemporary dystopian novel as a global form; develop a theoretical vocabulary for discussing the

genre; recognize the diverse audiences and ideological functions of this literary form; and present an analysis of the text(s) of their choice in a specific cultural and socio-political context.

Course Format: The objectives of this course will be achieved through a combination of formal lectures, assigned readings and audiovisual materials, class discussions and presentations.

Required Texts:

Atwood, Margaret. *Oryx and Crake*. Random, 2009.
Dick, Philip K. *Do Androids Dream of Electric Sheep?* Random, 1996.
Houellebecq, Michel. *The Possibility of an Island*. Trans. Gavin Bowd. Random, 2007.
Le Guin, Ursula K. *The Left Hand of Darkness*. Penguin, 1987.
Murakami, Haruki. *Hard-Boiled Wonderland and the End of the World*. Trans. Alfred Birnbaum. Knopf Doubleday, 1993.
Saramago, José. *Blindness*. Trans. Giovanni Pontiero. Harcourt, 1999.
Vassanji, M. G. *Nostalgia*. Doubleday Canada, 2017.

A selection of required and recommended critical texts will be available on eClass.

Additional Course Fees

Yes No

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

First Day of Class: September 4, 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

Date of Deferred Final Exam (if applicable): N/A

Grade Distribution (see “Explanatory Notes”):

Term work:

2 critical response papers (500-600 words, flexible submission)	10% (2 x 5%)
Presentation	20%
Midterm examination (October 21, 50 minutes)	25%
Attendance and participation	10%

Final project proposal (due November 18)	5%
<u>Final project</u> (essay, 2500 words, due December 6)	30%

Explanatory Notes on Assignments:

Critical Response Paper: The paper is expected to be approximately 500-600 words long and show your critical engagement with the text in question. Because this is a short assignment, the paper is expected to offer a narrowly focused critical discussion/analysis of a specific aspect of the text of your choice from the class reading list.

Presentation is expected to be about 10-12 min. long. It is a focused discussion of a specific topic related to one of the texts from the class reading list. Students will sign up for topics throughout the term. All presentation topics must be approved by the instructor.

Midterm Examination follows an essay format. You will be asked to provide a critical analysis of one or more texts covered in class. The examination assignment will provide a selection of questions to choose from.

Final Project Proposal includes a paragraph-long description of the essay topic, a tentative thesis statement, and a list of secondary sources to be used in the essay.

Final Project is a research essay (about 2500 words) where you are expected to present a critical, contextualized analysis of the primary source(s) of your choice. A research essay will allow you to develop a more complex argument (compared to a critical response paper) and engage with the current scholarship on the subject.

Attendance and participation mark includes attendance, preparedness with readings and informed participation in class discussions.

More detailed assignment guidelines will be available on eClass.

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](#).

Sexual Violence Policy:

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.” (from the beginning of the Calendar).

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, participation mark includes attendance, preparedness with readings, and informed participation in class discussions and group activities.

Policy for Late Assignments:

Students who consult in advance with the instructor regarding contingencies preventing the timely completion of an assignment may, at the discretion of the instructor, be granted an extension. Otherwise, assignments may be handed in with a 5%-per-day penalty assessed for each day of lateness.

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

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