

**DEPARTMENT OF MODERN LANGUAGES  
AND CULTURAL STUDIES**

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

**2019-2020** MLCS 650 A1: Teaching Strategies for Postsecondary Language Instructors  
(Fall Term)

Instructor: Dr. Yvonne Lam  
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Time: W 1:00-3:50pm  
Place: HC 2-37  
Office Hours: TR 12:30-1:30pm  
or by appointment

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**Course Prerequisite:** consent of department

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 is designed to introduce students to a variety of issues in post-secondary teaching and learning. Based on theoretical and methodological underpinnings of instruction in higher education, we will apply these concepts in the design and completion of a variety of activities. We will develop teaching practices based on current pedagogical approaches and theories for courses on literature, film, media, etc., as well as foreign languages.

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

- Analyze and critique principles of communicative and task-based language teaching

- Discuss and assess techniques and strategies for teaching language skills and other aspects such as grammar and vocabulary
- Discuss and assess techniques and strategies for content courses in higher education
- Design activities and lessons for language and content courses in higher education
- Critically analyze and evaluate teaching practices

**Course Format:**

The objectives of this course will be met through a combination of class discussions, assigned readings, reflective papers, and assignments.

**Texts:**

None. All materials are available online via eClass.

**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 4, 2019

**Grade Distribution (see “Explanatory Notes”):**

Component	Value	Due date
Participation and attendance	20%	
Classroom observations	30% (2 x 15%)	Oct 9, Nov 6
Leading class session and reflective paper	25%	various (sign-up)
Language lesson plan	25%	Dec 4

**Explanatory Notes on Assignments:**

Participation and attendance: Regular attendance and participation are essential for optimal performance in a graduate course. Each unexcused absence will result in a deduction of 5 of the 20 points assigned to the participation and attendance mark.

Since class discussions focus on the assigned readings, you are asked to prepare them carefully at home and engage in the material in a thoughtful and informed manner so that you can contribute to a productive class discussion. For every topic for which there are assigned readings, you must prepare one question or one comment that generates discussion (not a simple comprehension question). An example of an acceptable question is: “What are the pros and cons of inductive vs. deductive grammar

instruction?” An example of an unacceptable question is: “Is it important to learn grammar?”. You must submit your question to the course eClass site **no later than 9am on the day of the class** and be prepared to initiate discussion of your question in class. If you do not have a question prepared by the required time above, or the question clearly shows that you have not done the readings, 1 of the 20 points assigned to the participation mark will be deducted per occurrence.

Classroom observations: Twice during the semester, you will observe an undergraduate class. These classes must be one content class and one language class, and must be taught by different instructors. You will be asked to observe a particular aspect of the class (e.g. teacher’s language use, the learning environment...), reflect critically on what you saw, and prepare a written report (approx. five pages, double-spaced, typed). Further details to be discussed in class.

The observations will be evaluated on their completeness, the depth and breadth of the analysis and reflections, and clarity of expression. The instructor to be visited should be asked several days in advance whether s/he agrees to an observation and when you can come in. You must be punctual and courteous when visiting someone else’s class, and thank the instructor afterwards for allowing you to observe their class.

Leading class session and reflective paper: You will be responsible for preparing and leading a class session on one technique or strategy for courses in higher education (a sign-up sheet will be posted on eClass). You will present a brief description of the technique or strategy, lead the class discussion about it, and develop and present an activity that shows the technique or strategy. A week after leading the class session, you will hand in a written reflective paper about that session (approx. five pages, double-spaced, typed). Leading the class session is worth 15% and the reflective paper is worth another 10%. Further details to be discussed in class.

Language lesson plan: You will design an 80-minute language lesson in which several skills (speaking, listening, reading, and writing) and language aspects (vocabulary, grammar, etc.) are integrated. You will submit the lesson plan along with a critical discussion of your pedagogical decisions. The critical discussion must be about 5 pages in length, typed and double-spaced. Further details to be discussed 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**, participation is an essential component. You are expected to attend every class. Unexcused absences are not allowed in this course; each unexcused absence will result in a deduction of 5 of the 20 points assigned to the participation and attendance mark. Excused absences (examples can be found [here](#)) are not automatic and are at the discretion of the instructor. It is your responsibility to notify the instructor by email no later than two working days following the class which was missed. You may be asked to provide additional documentation and/or fill out a Faculty form. Regardless of the reason for the absence, it is your responsibility to make sure you are caught up with the class material.

For missed term work due to an excusable absence, the instructor has the final decision as to whether to grant an extension or refuse to accept the assignment. Missed work due to an unexcused absence will automatically be assigned a grade of zero. There will be no "extra" assignments for "extra" marks under any circumstances.

***Policy for Late Assignments:***

All assignments are due **at the beginning** of the scheduled class time, except discussion questions which are due no later than **9am on the day of the class**. 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. In the case of emergencies, you must notify the instructor by email within two working days explaining why you could not complete the assignment on time. The instructor has the final decision on whether to grant an extension, deduct up to 5% per day of lateness, or assign a grade of zero.

***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 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

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