

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

**2015-2016**    Comp Lit 230 X50: Scandalous Fictions  
(Winter Term)

Instructor: Massimo Verdicchio  
Office: A239C  
Telephone: 780-439-7119    Fax: 780-492-9106  
E-mail: Massimo.verdicchio@ualberta.ca  
Personal Website: N/A

Time: M 6:30  
Place: HC-1-7  
Office Hours: TBD  
or by appointment  
Course Website: xxx

---

**Course Prerequisite:**    No prerequisite

**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:**

The course examines the “scandalous” fictions of our modern times. The term “scandalous” is interpreted in many ways because what was scandalous yesterday is no longer scandalous today; or, in some cases, what was scandalous then is still scandalous today. We are dealing with personal perceptions, and social and political censorship of literary fiction which, by definition, is created free and independent of social restraints, but its products never are. By the end of the course students will have gained a better knowledge of what is meant by “scandal” and what constitutes a “scandalous novel”, as well as, how notions of “scandalous” and “scandal” may vary from the novel to their translation into movie.

**Texts:**

All novels we study in the course (e.g., Joyce's *Ulysses*, Nabokov's *Lolita*, Orwell's *1984*) will be placed on Library Reserve. A tentative reading list will be made available before the beginning of class.

**Grade Distribution (see "Explanatory Notes"):**

**Class participation: 20%; In-Class Presentations: 20%** (scheduled throughout the term); **Paper 1, due Feb 8: 20%; Paper 2, due March 14: 20%; Paper 3, due April 4: 20%.** All papers should be no longer but no less than 10 pages, double spaced and well-written. There is no midterm or final exam.

<http://www.registrarsoffice.ualberta.ca/en/Examinations/Fall-2015-Winter-2016-Exam-Planner.aspx>

**Date of Deferred Final Exam (if applicable):**

N/A

**Explanatory Notes on Assignments:**

**More information on the format of the essays and on the presentations will be given on the first day of class.**

**Required Notes:**

"Policy about course outlines can be found in Section 23.4(2) 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

<http://www.governance.ualberta.ca/en/CodesofConductandResidenceCommunityStandards/CodeofStudentBehaviour.aspx> ) and avoid any behaviour which 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 safe and free of discrimination and harassment. It does not tolerate behaviour that undermines that environment. The Department urges anyone who feels this policy has been or 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 directs 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 student ombudservice (<http://www.ombudservice.ualberta.ca/>). Information about the University of Alberta Discrimination and Harassment Policy and Procedures is described in UAPPOL at <https://policiesonline.ualberta.ca/PoliciesProcedures/Pages/DispPol.aspx?PID=110> .

***Academic Honesty:***

**All students** should consult the information provided by the [Office of Judicial Affairs](#) 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 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. Recorded material 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 23.3(1) and 23.5.6 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**, which is three hours long, attendance is compulsory. Participation is also encouraged as it is very relevant to the success of the course which is why it is 20% of the overall grade.

***Policy for late assignments:***

**All term papers are due on time. Late papers will not be penalized if the student informs the instructor ahead of time and provides justification for its lateness.**

***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 Specialized Support & Disability Services, contact their office immediately (2-800 SUB; Email [sasrec@ualberta.ca](mailto:sasrec@ualberta.ca); Email; phone 780-492-3381; WEB [www.sds.ualberta.ca](http://www.sds.ualberta.ca) ).

***Grading:***

Marks for assignments, tests, and exams are given in percentages, to which letter grades are also assigned, according to the table below (“**MLCS Undergraduate Grading Scale**”). The percentage mark resulting from the entire term work and examination then produces the final letter grade for the course.

**“MLCS Undergraduate Grading Scale”**

Letter	%	Pts	Descriptor
A+	95-100%	4.0	<b>Excellent:</b> Superior performance showing understanding and knowledge of the subject matter far exceeding expectations.
A	90-94%	4.0	<b>Excellent:</b> Superior performance showing comprehensive understanding of subject matter.
A-	86-89%	3.7	<b>Excellent:</b> Clearly above average performance with complete knowledge of subject matter.
B+	82-85%	3.3	<b>Good</b>
B	75-81%	3.0	<b>Good:</b> average performance with knowledge of subject matter generally complete.
B-	70-74%	2.7	<b>Good</b>
C+	66-69%	2.3	<b>Satisfactory:</b> Basic understanding of the subject matter
C	61-65%	2.0	<b>Satisfactory</b>
C-	58-60%	1.7	<b>Satisfactory</b>
D+	55-57%	1.3	<b>Poor:</b> Marginal performance; generally insufficient preparation for subsequent courses in the subject matter.
D	50-54%	1.0	<b>Minimal Pass:</b> Marginal performance; generally insufficient preparation for subsequent courses in the subject matter.
F	0-49%	0.0	<b>Failure:</b> Unsatisfactory performance or failure to meet course requirements