

**DEPARTMENT OF MODERN LANGUAGES
AND CULTURAL STUDIES**

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

**2015-16 FREN 310 B2: Composition, Style, and Expression
(Winter Term)**

Instructor: Micah True, PhD
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Personal Website: N/A

Time: MWF 9-9:50
Place: HC 2-25
Office Hours: Tuesday 1-2
or by appointment
Course Website: Moodle

Course Prerequisite: FREN 298 or consent of department

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 objective of this course is to help students hone their writing skills in French. Students will read and write expository, critical, and creative texts, and will study general rules for the gender of French nouns that will help them eliminate errors from their written French. At the end of this course, successful students will be able to write in mostly error-free French, formulate coherent arguments in written form, and express their ideas in clear and succinct language.

Texts:

Required to purchase:

Camus, *l'Étranger*

Marivaux, *Le Jeu de l'Amour et du Hasard*

Required and freely available online (links on eclass)

François de la Rochefoucault, *Les Maximes*

Le Bruyère, *Les Caractères*

Emile Zola, "Histoire d'un Fou" and "Une Victime de la Réclame"

Honoré de Balzac, "Le Chez d'Oeuvre Inconnu"

We will also make use of material that students find on the websites of French and Francophone newspapers and magazines. Links will be provided on eclass.

Grade Distribution (see "Explanatory Notes"):

Participation and attendance	10%
Quizzes	10%
In-class writing	20%
Short papers (3)—due on Feb. 1, Feb. 29, and April 8	60%

Explanatory Notes on Assignments:

Participation and attendance: You are expected to attend and actively participate in class. This includes:

1. Thoroughly preparing all work assigned for each class session
2. Contributing actively to class discussion and activities. This includes not only regularly sharing your own thoughts about what we read, but also listening attentively and responding to your classmates' ideas.

Important note: Disruptive behaviour in class is a sign of disrespect both to the instructor and to your fellow students, and will not be tolerated. Activities such as chatting, using or frequently checking your phone, studying for another class, etc. will result in a low participation grade. **Cell phones should be turned OFF during class, and should remain put away.**

Quizzes: Most weeks, students will take a short quiz on Fridays on grammatical rules that will be presented on Mondays. These quizzes will be cumulative.

In-class writing: Every Friday, students will work in small groups on a writing exercise. These written assignments will be produced individually, and then edited and improved in small groups.

Papers: Students will write three short papers of approximately 3-4 pages each over the course of the semester. Each paper will reflect a different style of writing studied in class: exposition, persuasion, and creative writing. Topics and detailed instructions will be provided by the professor ahead of time.

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, you are allowed three unexcused absences maximum. Each unexcused absence beyond the allotted three will result in a 1 percent penalty on the final course grade.

Policy for Late Assignments:

All work is due **in class** on the day for which it is assigned. After class, work will be accepted with a 5% penalty, with an additional 5%-per-day penalty assessed for each subsequent day of lateness. Students who consult **in advance** with the professor regarding contingencies preventing the timely completion of an assignment may, **at the discretion of the instructor**, be granted an extension.

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; Email; phone 780-492-3381; WEB www.ssds.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	Excellent: Superior performance showing understanding and knowledge of the subject matter far exceeding expectations.
A	90-94%	4.0	Excellent: Superior performance showing comprehensive understanding of subject matter.
A-	86-89%	3.7	Excellent: Clearly above average performance with complete knowledge of subject matter.
B+	82-85%	3.3	Good
B	75-81%	3.0	Good: average performance with knowledge of subject matter generally complete.
B-	70-74%	2.7	Good
C+	66-69%	2.3	Satisfactory: Basic understanding of the subject matter
C	61-65%	2.0	Satisfactory
C-	58-60%	1.7	Satisfactory
D+	55-57%	1.3	Poor: Marginal performance; generally insufficient preparation for subsequent courses in the subject matter.
D	50-54%	1.0	Minimal Pass: Marginal performance; generally insufficient preparation for subsequent courses in the subject matter.
F	0-49%	0.0	Failure: Unsatisfactory performance or failure to meet course requirements.