

**DEPARTMENT OF MODERN LANGUAGES
AND CULTURAL STUDIES**

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

2015-2016 Fren 464-B1: Topic in 20th Century Lit.
(Winter Term)

Instructor: Chris Reyns-Chikuma

Time: TR 2:00-3:20

Office: Arts 210A

Place: HC 1-3

Telephone: / Fax: 780-492-9106

Office Hours: just after the class and W. 9-10am,

E-mail: Reynschi@ualberta.ca

or by appointment

Personal Website: /

Course Website: /

Course Prerequisite: Fren 298 and Fren 301 & 310 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:

This course will cover Francophone cultures in North Africa (« Arabic-Muslim ») and Sub-Saharan Africa (« Black » Africa) mostly in the 20th C.-21st C. We will study some cultural products such as short novels, « comics » (BD), and theatre plays produced by Africans, living in Africa or/and in France-Belgium. Our objectives are to know about the lives of Francophone Africans, to be able to talk and debate in French some of the issues they have to deal with (colonialism, dictatorship, patriarchalism, postcolonialism, ...) and understand the complexity of these issues.

Outcomes

At the end, the students will be able to :

- a) identify some main cultural issues encountered by African artists, intellectuals and writers through the reading of more or less famous texts (some popular ; others more elite--classics);
- b) debate these issues in small groups with classmates and talk about them through oral presentations in French;
- c) evaluate the impact of the connections between what used to be the old empire capitals (Paris, Brussels) and African countries during the colonization and after, up to recently, in both linguistic and cultural terms;
- d) finally, they will be able to write short essays, choosing one specific topic, and explaining why some issues are persisting in Africa and between African countries and the empire capitals, and how the influence of African countries on Paris and Brussels, although still unequal, is becoming more and more reciprocal.

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Texts:

- All required: (any edition is ok)
1. *Anthologie négro-africaine*, by Lilyan Kesteloot
 2. *Une Saison au Congo* [théâtre], by Aymé Césaire
 3. *Aya* (vol. 1, BD), by Abouet & Oubrierie
 4. *Eva K* (vol. 1, BD), by Baruti & Giroud
 5. *Meursault, Contre-enquête* [“roman”], by Kamel Daoud
 6. *L’hôte* (BD), by Camus & Ferrandez
 7. *Femmes d’Alger* [nouvelles], by Assia Djebar
 8. *Le Village allemand* [roman], by Sansal Boualem
 9. Articles on various topics (post-/colonialism, françafrique, langue française,) will be handed-out in class or available on eclass

Grade Distribution (see “Explanatory Notes”):

Participation	Including attendance	20	
Quizzes	5	20 (4x5)	
Midterm	Feb. 11	10	
Oral presentation	1 (TBD)	10	
Final essay	Due last class	20	
Final exam	April 19, at 2pm	20	

Date of Deferred Final Exam (if applicable):

Recommended; please consult the following site:

[http://www.registrar.ualberta.ca/calendar/Regulations-and-Information/Academic-Regulation/23.5.html#23.5.6\(3\)](http://www.registrar.ualberta.ca/calendar/Regulations-and-Information/Academic-Regulation/23.5.html#23.5.6(3))

Explanatory Notes on Assignments:

Reading of the material is required before the class. Quizzes on 5 textbooks will assess the basic understanding of the reading. Textbooks and ideas discussed in class will be on the midterm for the first part and on the final exam for the second part (after the Reading Week).

Final essay will be due the last class. It will be 10 full pages double space TNR (+ x page/s for the work cited and pictures), using at least two academic French references to support your argumentation.

The oral presentation will be a minimum of 10 minutes and a maximum of 15 using a written/visual support (PPT, ...) and will be sent to the instructor 24 hours before presenting in class. It will be graded on the clarity of the ideas and of the presentation (voice, textual/visual support, ...).

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. Each unexcused absence will result in a half letter down for Attendance/Participation: so from A to A- after the first unexcused absence, from A- to B+ for the second one, and so forth.

In this course, attendance is essential to practice your language skills and participate in the exchange of ideas. Participation means, first, reading the assignment before entering the class; second, it means asking and answering questions from the instructor and classmates.

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 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 deduced. 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 marks. Late excuses will not be accepted for any reason.

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 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