

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

2017-2018 C LIT 230 X51- Scandalous Fictions
(Winter Term)

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Time: Tuesdays, 5:30- 8:30 p.m.
Place: CAB 269
Office Hours: Monday, 5-6 p.m.
or by appointment

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 scandalous fictions from the late 19th Century to the present in order to understand how scandal is interpreted in different ways. By looking at scandalous texts from different historical and political contexts, it shows that what is scandalous in one culture may not be so in another culture, or the way we understand scandal today is not necessarily the same as it was understood in the past. The course is aimed at helping students have a better knowledge of scandal and what constitutes a scandalous work of fiction. By the end of this course, successful students will be able to identify representative characteristics of scandalous fiction; recognize the moral and political ideologies shaping our understanding of scandal in different historical periods; and present an analysis of the texts of their choice in a specific socio-historical context.

Texts (Required)

al-Shaykh, Hanan, *The Story of Zahra*

Boyden, Joseph. *Orenda*

All the other reading materials will be provided on eClass.

Grade Distribution (see “Explanatory Notes”):

Class Attendance and Participation 15%
In-class writing pieces (5 × 2%) 10%
Group Presentation and Discussion Questions 10%
Midterm (13 Feb. 2018) 15%
Abstract and Peer Review Workshop (27 March 2018) 5%
Research Paper (about 1500 words; 3 April 2018) 15%
Final Exam 30% (10 April 2018—Confirm details on BearTracks.)

Date of Deferred Final Exam (if applicable):

A student who has missed a final exam because of incapacitating mental and/or physical illness, severe domestic affliction or for circumstances as described in the University’s Discrimination, Harassment and Duty to Accommodate Policy (including religious belief) may apply for a deferred exam. Please consult the website for more information: [http://calendar.ualberta.ca/content.php?catoid=6&navoid=806#Examinations_\(Exams\)](http://calendar.ualberta.ca/content.php?catoid=6&navoid=806#Examinations_(Exams))

Explanatory Notes on Assignments:

Presentation and Discussion Questions (15 min): This is a group activity (3-4 members) on the author(s)/ texts of your choice. Clearly define your topic and keep your presentation focused. You are encouraged to use visual elements for your presentation. Don’t forget that your presentation needs an eye-catching title. Each student is required to prepare **2 critical questions** in relation to their presentation and email them to the instructor **one day before** the date of the presentation. The questions must be open-ended and prompt discussion within the class about the text’s thematic issues, socio-political context, or formal aspects. Each presenter is responsible to lead a group discussion around the critical questions.

In-Class Writing Pieces: On random dates you are asked to write a couple of paragraphs about the topic of the session. This activity is done in the beginning before we start lectures and discussions; therefore, make sure to arrive on time.

Here are some examples of questions you might ask yourself when writing the piece:

- What ideas or passages in particular do you find challenging, intriguing, or frustrating? Why?
- What new ideas does this text or topic offer? How do they relate to the debates or ideas established in a previous reading or class discussion?
- What are three challenges you could imagine to the arguments in the text/ topic?

Abstract (300 words): Your abstract summarizes the major aspects of your research paper. Bring a hard copy of your abstract to this workshop and get feedback on your topic, research questions, and the way you can write a convincing research paper.

Research Paper: This is an individual assignment. Each short research paper (MLA style) presents a thoughtful analysis of relationships, themes, motifs, and/or literary techniques in the works of one or two authors. You should base your argument upon specific details from the texts, but you must do more than offer an accurate description of content. Besides your primary text(s), you need a minimum of **3 secondary sources**. Please keep in mind that you can write your paper on the same topic that you have selected for your presentation.

Midterm: For your midterm, you will have 3 essay questions to answer. The questions will revolve around the texts and discussions we have in class.

Final Exam: For the final exam, you will be given 5 essay questions to answer. The questions will revolve around the texts and discussions we have in class.

Required Notes:

“Policy about course outlines can be found in the [Evaluation Procedures and Grading System](#) 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 www.governance.ualberta.ca) 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.”

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](#).

Academic Honesty:

All students should consult the information provided by the [Student Conduct & Accountability Office](#) 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, 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.

In this course, regular attendance is mandatory. Any absences from the class will lead to partial or total loss of the participation segment of the course grade (10%), unless the student has a valid excuse for his/her absence (e.g., health problems, serious emergency case, serious domestic issues).

Policy for Late Assignments:

All assignments must be handed in on the stated deadline.

Students who consult **in advance** (at least 3 days before the deadline) with the

instructor regarding contingencies preventing the timely completion of an assignment may be granted an extension just **one time** throughout the course with no penalty.

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 [Student Accessibility Services](#), contact their office immediately (1-80 SUB; Email sasrec@ualberta.ca; Email; phone 780-492-3381).

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