

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

2017-2018 C LIT 347: B1 Elements of Genre
(Winter Term)

Instructor: Irene Sywenky
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Time: MWF 11:00-11:50
Place: T B 5
Office Hours: M 14:00-15:00, W 12:00-13:00
or by appointment
Course Website: eClass

Course Prerequisite: N/A

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 is a study of narrative fiction with a focus on the genre of the novel in an age of globalization. Students will discuss the evolving ideas of world literature and canon, the concept of transnational novel, as well as related issues of translation, circulation and mobility of texts. Students will examine a wide range of representative contemporary texts from a variety of cultural and linguistic contexts (North America, Latin America, Middle East, Africa, Asia). By the end of this course successful students will be able to identify and discuss representative characteristics and themes of the contemporary novel as a global form; develop a theoretical vocabulary for discussing the

genre; recognize the diverse audiences and ideological functions of this literary form; and present an analysis of the text(s) of their choice in a specific cultural and socio-political context.

Required Texts (available at the University Bookstore):

- Bellatin, Mario. *Shiki Nagaoka: A Nose for Fiction*. Trans. David Shook. Phoneme Media, 2013.
- DeLillo, Don. *Cosmopolis*. Scribner, 2003.
- Diop, Boubacar Boris. *Doomi Golo: The Hidden Notebooks*. Trans. Vera Wülfing-Leckie and El Hadji Moustapha Diop. Michigan State UP, 2016 (selections; UofA library e-book)
- Geling Yan. *The Lost Daughter of Happiness*. Trans. Cathy Silber. Hachette Books, 2001.
- Hamid, Mohsin. *Exit West*. Riverhead Books, 2017.
- Houellebecq, Michel. *The Possibility of an Island*. Trans. Gavin Bowd. Vintage, 2005.
- Ondaatje, Michael. *Anil's Ghost*. Knopf Canada, 2000.
- Riverbend. *Baghdad Burning: Girl Blog from Iraq*. The Feminist Press at CUNY
- Tawada, Yoko. *Facing the Bridge*. Trans. Margaret Mitsutani. New Directions, 2007.

A selection of required and recommended critical texts will be available on eClass.

Grade Distribution (see “Explanatory Notes”):

Term work:

2 critical response papers (500-600 words, flexible submission)	10% (2 x 5%)
Presentation	20%
Midterm examination (February 16, 50 minutes)	25%
Attendance and participation	10%
Final project proposal (March 26)	5%
<u>Final project</u> (essay, 2500 words, due April 13)	30%

Fall / Winter Exam Planner for the 2017-2018 academic year can be found at the following site: <https://www.registraroffice.ualberta.ca/en/Examinations/Fall-2017-Winter-2018-Exam-Planner.aspx>

Date of Deferred Final Exam (if applicable):

N/A

Explanatory Notes on Assignments:

Critical Response Paper: The paper is expected to be approximately 500-600 words long and show your critical engagement with the text in question. Because this is a short assignment, the paper is expected to offer a narrowly focused critical discussion/analysis of a specific aspect of the text of your choice from the class reading list.

Presentation is expected to be about 10-12 min. long. It is a focused discussion of a specific topic related to one of the texts from the class reading list. Students will sign up for topics throughout the term. All presentation topics must be approved by the instructor.

Midterm Examination follows an essay format. You will be asked to provide a critical analysis of one or more texts covered in class. The examination assignment will allow you to choose from a selection of questions.

Final Project Proposal includes a paragraph-long description of the essay topic, a tentative thesis statement, and a list of secondary sources to be used in the essay.

Final Project is a research essay (about 2500 words) where you are expected to present a critical, contextualized analysis of the primary source(s) of your choice. A research essay will allow you to develop a more complex argument (compared to a critical response paper) and engage with the current scholarship on the subject.

Attendance and participation mark includes attendance, preparedness with readings and informed participation in class discussions.

More detailed assignment guidelines will be available on eClass

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, participation mark includes attendance and informed participation in class discussions and group activities.

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. Otherwise, assignments may be handed in with a 5% -per-day penalty assessed for each day of 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 [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

<p>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.</p>	C+	2.3	77-79
	C	2.0	73-76
	C-	1.7	70-72
<p>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.</p>	D+	1.3	65-69
	D	1.0	60-64
<p>Failure.</p>	F	0.0	0-59