

**DEPARTMENT OF MODERN LANGUAGES
AND CULTURAL STUDIES**

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

2017-2018 FRENCH 445 B1: Contemporary Cinema in French
(Winter Term)

Instructor: *Dr. Sathya Rao*

Office: *Arts 217-B*

Telephone: *N/A* Fax: *780-492-9106*

E-mail: *srao@ualberta.ca*

Personal Website: <https://ualberta.academia.edu/SathyaRao>

Time: *TR 3:30PM to 4:50 PM*

Place: *HC 1-3*

Office Hours: *TR 2:00PM to 3:00 PM*

or by appointment

Course Website: *Moodle*

Course Prerequisite: FREN 301 or FRANCO 225 and one of FREN 311, 312, 313, 314, 315, 316, 333 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 goal of this course is to describe and analyze contemporary French Cinema as cultural industry, artistic practice, and social representation through a corpus of films by well-known directors. A special emphasis will be placed on the history of French cinema and the presentation of aesthetic features pertaining to its different periods and trends (e.g., *Nouvelle vague*). Social topics discussed in class will cover youth, education, friendship, love, religion, sexual orientation, feminism, family, unemployment, racism, immigration, politics, and violence. Students will also be

introduced to film studies concepts and theories and asked to apply them.

At the end of this course students are expected (1) to display a comprehensive knowledge of French cinema from the end of 19th century to the present day; (2) to identify aesthetic and thematic (e.g., social) elements pertaining to most significant French cinematic traditions; (3) to produce informed criticisms, reviews and analyses of films using concepts and theories discussed in class; (4) and to improve their written and oral proficiency in French.

Films Studied:

- (1) *Le Fabuleux Destin d'Amélie Poulain* (2001), Jean-Pierre Jeunet [Criterion, Netflix]
- (2) *Huit Femmes* (2002), François Ozon [Reserve]
- (3) *La vie est un long fleuve tranquille* (2002), Étienne Chatiliez [Reserve]
- (4) *L'Auberge espagnole* (2002), Cédric Klapisch [Criterion, Reserve]
- (5) *Les choristes* (2004), Christophe Barratier [Criterion, Reserve]
- (6) *Indigènes* (2006), Rachid Bouchareb [Reserve]
- (7) *Les Témoins* (2007), André Téchiné [Reserve]
- (8) *Welcome* (2009), Philippe Lioret [Reserve]
- (9) *Des hommes et des Dieux* (2010), Xavier Beauvois [Criterion, Reserve]
- (10) *Amour* (2012), Michael Haneke [Criterion]
- (11) *La vie d'Adèle : chapitre 1 et 2* (2013), Abdellatif Kechiche [Criterion, Netflix, Reserve]
- (12) *Bienvenue à Marly-Gomont* (2016), Julien Rambaldi [Netflix, Reserve]

Grade Distribution (see “Explanatory Notes”):

Exam 1:	20% (February 15, 2018)
1 Essay:	25% (March 22, 2018)
Exam 2:	20% (April 13, 2018)
1 Presentation:	20% (date to be determined in class with students)
Participation:	15% (includes participation in Moodle forums)

Fall/Winter Exam Planner for the 2017-2018 academic year can be found at the following site: <http://www.registrarsoffice.ualberta.ca/en/Examinations/Fall-2016-Winter-2017-Exam-Planner.aspx>

Explanatory Notes on Assignments:

Presentation: Presentations will be done in groups of 3 and should be at least 45 minutes. Students will choose among the list of films studied (alternative films can be chosen if students have a particular interest not already covered by the list of films proposed by the instructor). Each student will do a 15-minute presentation, which includes choosing a relevant sequence and analyzing it.

Essay: The term essay on films studied in class should be **at least 1000 words**. Essays will tackle films studied in class. Language will be factored in the grade as well as

knowledge of the material discussed in class.

Mid-term exam: The mid-term exam will cover the historical portion of the course.

End-of-term exam: The end-of-term exam will cover the movies studied in class during the second part of the semester from an analytical and comparative perspective.

Participation: Participation will be assessed based on course attendance, involvement in class activities, preparedness (students are expected to watch the relevant movies and read the material before coming to class), and participation in the Moodle discussion forum. Students will be expected to write **at least 5 posts throughout the semester**.

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 and active participation in class discussion are essential. **In this course, attendance and participation are an essential component and will be assigned 15% (including participation in forums) of the overall grade. For each class that is missed without valid justification, students will lose 1% on their final participation grade.** Students who cannot attend class should let the instructor know ahead of time and make necessary arrangements.

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. Otherwise, all assignments should be handed in on the stated deadline. Students who hand in assignments late with no acceptable excuse will lose **10% of the assignment's value for each day following the deadline**. Late excuses will **not** be accepted.

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