

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

2018-2019 C LIT 425 / EASIA 425, B1: East/West Critical Theory
(Winter Term)

Instructor: Professor Daniel Fried
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Time: TR 11-12:20
Place: T 1-5
Office Hours: T 10-10:50
or by appointment
Course Website: eClass

Course Prerequisite:

[C Lit 425] *3 in a humanities discipline, or consent of department
[EASIA 425] EASIA 101, or *3 in literary theory, or consent of department

It is your responsibility as a student to ensure that you have the appropriate prerequisites for the course.

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, Objectives and Expected Learning Outcomes:

The term “critical theory” is vague, with many competing possible usages, but in general refers to debates about the nature of language, literature, and rhetoric which occur at the intersection of literary criticism, philosophy, and

politics. Often critical theory is assumed to take a primary interest in modern or postmodern phenomena, and to begin from leftist assumptions, but it also can encompass classical and seemingly apolitical texts of literary theory. In this class, “critical theory” will be used in a very broad sense, to refer to any philosophical consideration of how texts (including literary texts, but also oral expression, visual culture, etc.) relate to non-texts (physical reality, human emotions, the social and political realm, etc.). By jointly considering critical theory from East Asia and the West, this course will examine how different civilizational assumptions and historical experience result in different theorizations of the relationship between texts and the world. The goal is absolutely not to reify “East” and “West” as fixed terms with internally consistent essences, but to show the diversity of ways in which certain philosophical questions about culture can be approached. Given the breadth of this topic, no attempt is made here to provide a unitary survey of all European and East Asian thought. Instead, the course will be devoted to four topic-based case studies, in rhetorical ontologies, affect and expression, culture and class-consciousness, and postcolonialism and identity. By the end of this course, students will be able to analyze how certain questions in critical theory are amenable to very different kinds of answers, depending on the starting presuppositions prevalent in a given society, and to coherently explain (orally and in writing) the significance of theoretical ideas and their relationship to the historical circumstances in which they were first proposed.

Texts:

There are no texts which students are required to purchase for this class, nor any coursepack. There are, of course, required readings (listed below), but these are all available online or on library reserve. In a few cases, students might prefer to purchase copies of longer texts which have been placed on reserve.

Grade Distribution (see “Explanatory Notes”):

Class Participation	30%	
Midterm	30%	Thursday, February 14
Presentation (optional)	10%	Tuesday, April 9
Final Paper	30% (or 40%)	Monday, April 15 (noon)

Explanatory Notes on Assignments:

Participation and Attendance 30%

This is a senior/graduate seminar, and hence is focused around discussion, not lectures. You will be expected to come to class well-prepared and able to participate actively and intelligently in discussion of the assigned readings.

Midterm 30%

The midterm will consist of 25 short-answer questions, testing students' knowledge of material presented in the first half of the class, as well as ability to make analytical judgments based on that knowledge

Final Presentation 10% (optional)

On the final class session, students will have the option of giving a brief (5-10 minute) presentation on a subject of their choosing, offering an original analysis of one aspect of one of the works studied in class. This presentation is intended to be preparatory to the final research paper, and to give students the opportunity to receive feedback on their ideas before turning in the final paper. Those students who give a presentation are guaranteed a grade of at least 80 on this portion of the grade. For those students who choose not to give a presentation, this 10% of their grade will be folded into the final paper grade

Final Paper 30% (or 40%)

All students will be required to turn in a major research paper (3000 words, min. 6 secondary sources) relating to materials studied in the course. Papers should argue an original and specific thesis, and support their argument with evidence from primary and secondary sources.

Reading Assignment Schedule

Ⓒ = out of copyright; many free or cheap editions available, online or in bookstores

📖 = free electronic edition accessible through library online catalog

📚 = physical book, available on library reserve

\$ = you might want to buy this, but there will still be a copy on reserve

Part One: Language and Being

Tue, Jan 8 Class introduction

Thurs, Jan 10 Plato, *Phaedrus* Ⓒ

<http://classics.mit.edu/Plato/phaedrus.html>

Tue, Jan 15 Lao Tzu, *Dao De Jing* (a.k.a. "Tao Te Ching") Ⓒ

<https://taoism.net/tao/tao-te-ching-online-translation/>

Thurs, Jan 17 John Locke, *An Essay Concerning Human Understanding*, Book III: On Words Ⓒ

<http://oll.libertyfund.org/titles/locke-the-works-vol-1-an-essay-concerning-human-understanding-part-1>

Tue, Jan 22 *Kukai: Major Works*, Part 3, sections 2, 6-8 📖

Thurs, Jan 24 Martin Heidegger, "A Dialogue on Language, between a Japanese and an Inquirer" *On the Way to Language* 📖
Tezuka Tomio, "An Hour with Heidegger," in *Heidegger's Hidden Sources* 📖

Tue, Jan 29 Jacques Derrida, "Plato's Pharmacy," in *Dissemination* ☺
http://xenopraxis.net/readings/derrida_dissemination.pdf
"Letter to a Japanese Friend," in *Literary Theories: A Reader and Guide* 📖

Part Two: Emotion/Expression/Transcendence

Thurs, Jan 31 *Readings in Chinese Literary Thought*, Chapters 1, 2 📖

Tue, Feb 5 William Wordsworth, "Preface to Lyrical Ballads,"
<https://www.bartleby.com/39/36.html>

Thurs, Feb 7 Immanuel Kant, *Critique of Judgment*, Part I, Division I, Book I ☺
<http://oll.libertyfund.org/titles/kant-the-critique-of-judgement>

Tue, Feb 12 *The Four-Seven Debate*, Introduction + pp. 1-47 📖

Thurs, Feb 14 **MIDTERM EXAM**

Tue, Feb 19 **READING WEEK; NO CLASS**

Thurs, Feb 21 **READING WEEK; NO CLASS**

Tue, Feb 26 Sigmund Freud, *Leonardo da Vinci: A Memory of His Childhood* ☺
<http://www.gutenberg.org/files/34300/34300-h/34300-h.htm>

Thurs, Feb 28 Haruki Murakami, *Hard-Boiled Wonderland and the End of the World*, Chapters 1-18 \$

Part Three: Culture and/or Revolution

Tues, Mar 5 Fukuzawa Yukichi, *Encouragement of Learning* pp. 3-42, 67-78, 109-117 📖

Thurs, Mar 7 Marx and Engels *The German Ideology*, Part I ☹
<https://www.marxists.org/archive/marx/works/1845/german-ideology/cho1.htm>

Tue, Mar 12 Theodor Adorno, “The Culture Industry: Enlightenment as Mass Deception” ☹
<https://www.marxists.org/reference/archive/adorno/1944/culture-industry.htm>

Thurs, Mar 14 Kim Jong Il, *The Cinema and Directing* ☹
https://archive.org/stream/TheCinemaAndDirecting_825/209_djvu.txt

Tue, Mar 19 Stuart Hall, “Encoding/Decoding,” in *Culture, Media, Language* ☹

Thurs, Mar 21 Meredith Suzanne Hahn Aquila, “‘Ranma ½’ Fan Fiction Writers: New Narrative Themes or Same Old Story?” *Mechademia*, Vol. 2 (2007) [JSTOR](#) ☹

Part Four: Standard and Non-Standard Postcolonialisms

Tue, Mar 26 Edward Said, *Orientalism*, Chapter 1 §

Thurs, Mar 28 Millie R. Creighton, “Imagining the Other in Japanese Advertising Campaigns,” *Occidentalism* ed. James G Carrier 📖

Tues, Apr 2 W.B. Yeats, “To Ireland in the Coming Times”, “Easter 1916” ☹
<http://www.poetryfoundation.org/poems-and-poets/poems/detail/57300>
<https://www.poets.org/poetsorg/poem/easter-1916>
Gaston. Miron, “Goddamn Canuck”, “Monologues on Raving Alienation”, “No” *Counterpanes, Embers and Earth, The Agonized Life* 📖

Thurs, Apr 4 Wu Zhuoliu, *Orphan of Asia*, Chapters 1-3 ☹

Tue, Apr 9 **FINAL PRESENTATIONS DUE (OPTIONAL)**

Mon, Apr 15 **FINAL PAPERS DUE BY NOON**

Required Notes:

Policy about course outlines can be found in the [Evaluation Procedures and Grading System](#) of the University Calendar.

Student Responsibilities:

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.

All students should consult [the Academic Integrity website](#). If you have any questions, ask your instructor.

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](#).

Language courses:

Students involved in language courses and translation courses should be aware that the use of on-line translation to complete assignments constitutes a form of cheating as the student's own understanding and work is therefore not reflected. Also, students in language 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 Behaviour.

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](#).

Territorial Statement:

“The University of Alberta acknowledges that we are located on Treaty 6 territory, and respects the histories, languages, and cultures of the First Nations, Métis, Inuit, and all First Peoples of Canada, whose presence continues to enrich our vibrant community.” (*from the beginning of the Calendar*).

University of Alberta Sexual Violence Policy:

The Sexual Violence Policy was approved by GFC in June 2017. It plays a vital role in ensuring a safe and respectful learning and working environment.

As defined in the policy, **sexual violence** is any sexual act or act of a sexual nature, or act targeting sexuality, whether physical or psychological, committed without consent. **Sexual violence** is a complex and serious problem in society and on university campuses. Sexual violence can affect individuals of all gender identities, gender expressions, and sexual orientations, as well as those from all ages, abilities, racial, cultural and economic backgrounds. Through this policy, the University of Alberta recognizes its responsibility to reduce sexual violence in the University community. The university aims to do so by fostering a culture of **consent** and support through education, training and policy. The University recognizes the possible effects of trauma on those who have experienced sexual violence and supports the efforts of individuals to seek support and recover.

To read the policy in more detail, please visit:

<https://policiesonline.ualberta.ca/PoliciesProcedures/Policies/Sexual-Violence-Policy.pdf>

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.

Deferral of term work is a privilege and not a right; there is no guarantee that a deferral will be granted. Misrepresentation of facts to gain a deferral is a serious breach of the Code of Student Behaviour.

In this course, attendance and participation will be graded as specified above in the notes on the class discussion portion of the grade. Absences for medical causes or domestic affliction will be granted if accompanied by an absence affidavit, available in Arts student services office (Humanities Centre, first floor). Other opportunities to earn excused absences in exchange for doing good deeds (such as attending scholarly lectures, or making quantifiable contributions to campus life) may be announced during the term.

Policy for Late Assignments:

Extensions may be granted if negotiated with the instructor in advance of the due date. (These are more likely to be given if requested far in advance, with a good explanation of an unavoidable schedule conflict. “Having other things due at the same time” will not be considered valid grounds for an extension.) If an assignment is turned in late without an extension, then a penalty of one grade-step per day will be assessed. For example, if a paper which would otherwise earn an A- is turned in two days late, the grade given will be a B.

Disclaimer:

Any typographical errors in this syllabus are subject to change and will be announced in class and posted on eClass. The date of the final examination is set by the Registrar and takes precedence over the final examination date reported in this syllabus.

Student Resources:

The best all-purpose website for student services is: <https://www.ualberta.ca/current-students>.

Accessibility Resources: (1 – 80 SUB)

The University of Alberta is committed to creating work and learning communities that inspire and enable all people to reach their full potential. Accessibility Resources promotes an accessible, inclusive, and universally designed environment. For general information to register for services visit the [Accessibility Resources](#) webpage.

The Academic Success Centre: (1-80 SUB)

[The Academic Success Centre](#) offers a variety of workshops on effective study and exam strategies. There are in-person and online sessions available for a modest fee.

The Centre for Writers: (1-42 Assiniboia Hall)

The [Centre for Writers](#) offers free one-on-one writing support to students, faculty, and staff. Students can request consultation for a writing project at any stage of development. Instructors can request class visits and presentations.

Health and Wellness Support: There are many health and community services available to current students. For more information visit the [Health and Wellness Support](#) webpage.

Office of the Student Ombuds:

The [Office of the Student Ombuds](#) offers confidential interviews, advice and support to students facing academic, discipline, interpersonal and financial difficulties.

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

NOTE: Because this is a twinned course, students in EASIA 425 will also be graded by the MLCS grading scale.