

**DEPARTMENT OF MODERN LANGUAGES  
AND CULTURAL STUDIES**

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

**2019-2020** FREN 445 B1: *Contemporary Cinema in French*  
(Winter Term)

Instructor: Dr. Sathya Rao  
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Time: *MWF 1.00-1:50 PM*  
Place: *HC 1-15*  
Office Hours: *MWF 3-4 PM*  
or by appointment  
Course Website: *Moodle*

Bachelor of Arts / Major in Modern Languages and Cultural Studies:

<https://www.ualberta.ca/modern-languages-and-cultural-studies/undergraduate-program-information/prospective-undergraduate-students>

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**Course Prerequisite:** FREN 301 or FRANCO 225 and one of FREN 311, 312, 313, 314, 315, 316, 333 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 and Objectives:**

The aim of this course is to present contemporary French Cinema as a cultural industry, an artistic practice, and a means of social representation through a corpus of films by well-known French 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*). A comparison will also be drawn with Quebecois cinema. 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) to be familiar with the differences between French European and Quebecois cinema; and (5) to improve their written and oral proficiency in French.

**Course Format:** The objectives of the course will be learned from a combination of formal lectures and in-class activities. Strategies will be proposed to deal with translation challenges arising from the project.

**Films Studied** (other films could be added depending on the students' interests):

- (1) *Le fabuleux Destin d'Amélie Poulain* (2001), Jean-Pierre Jeunet [Criterion-on-demand]
- (2) *L'Auberge espagnole* (2002), Cédric Klapisch [Criterion-on-demand]
- (3) *Les choristes* (2004), Christophe Barratier [Criterion-on-demand]
- (4) *Le scaphandre et le papillon* (2007), Julian Schnabel [Criterion-on-demand]
- (5) *Le Petit Nicolas* (2009), Laurent Tirard [Criterion-on-demand]
- (6) *Des hommes et des Dieux* (2010), Xavier Beauvois [Criterion-on-demand]
- (7) *Venus noire* (2011), Abdellatif Kechiche [Criterion-on-demand, Kanopy]
- (8) *Amour* (2012), Michael Haneke [Criterion-on-demand, Kanopy]
- (9) *Laurence anyways* (2012), Xavier Nolan [Criterion-on-demand]
- (10) *Le sens de la fête* (2017), Eric Toledano, Olivier Nakache [Criterion-on-demand]

**Additional Course Fees**

Yes       No

**Important Dates:** [See Academic Schedule in current Calendar](#)

First Day of Class: January 6, 2020

Add/Delete Date: January 17, 2020

50% Withdrawal Date: February 5, 2020

Winter Term Reading Week: February 18-21, 2020

Withdrawal Date: April 1, 2020

Last Day of Class: April 8, 2020

Final Exam Date: 9.00am, April 20

Date of Deferred Final Exam (if applicable): Please consult the following site:  
[https://calendar.ualberta.ca/content.php?catoid=6&navoid=806#Examinations\\_\(Exams\)](https://calendar.ualberta.ca/content.php?catoid=6&navoid=806#Examinations_(Exams))

Deferred Final Examination: For information on how to apply for a deferred exam see [“I Missed my Final Exam, Now What?”](#)

### **Grade Distribution (see “Explanatory Notes”):**

Exam 1:	15% (February 14, 2020)
1 Essay:	20% (no later than March 20, 2020)
Film review	10% (no later than April 1 <sup>st</sup> , 2020)
1 presentation	20% (date to be determined with the instructor)
Final examination	25% (April 20, 2020)
Participation:	10%

### **Explanatory Notes on Assignments:**

**Presentation:** Presentations will be done in group of 3 and should be least 30 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 10-minute presentation in French. Parts of the presentation includes choosing a sequence and analyzing it using concepts seen in class.

**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.

**Exam 1:** The mid-term exam will cover the first section of the course.

**Final exam:** is a three-hour cumulative exam that will cover the entire course.

**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, do their homework, and participate in Moodle forums).

### **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](http://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 and Translation 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](#).

***Sexual Violence Policy:***

It is the policy of the University of Alberta that sexual violence committed by any member of the University community is prohibited and constitutes misconduct. Resources and more information can be found at <https://www.ualberta.ca/campus-life/sexual-violence>

***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*).

***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).

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***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 are an essential component and will be assigned **10% of the overall grade**. **For each class missed without valid justification, students will lose 3% on their final participation grade**. Students who cannot attend class should let the instructor know ahead of time and make necessary arrangements. Students will have the opportunity to **increase their grade by attending a maximum of 2 community events** from the list posted on the “Activités dans la communauté 2019-2020” Moodle website. Students can also attend events listed on the [Francopass](#) web application. They will receive **a 3% bonus** on their participation final grade for each event upon showing evidence of attendance (e.g., selfie, receipt, and stamp on their “passeport”, Francopass).

***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.

***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	%
<b>Excellent.</b> 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.	<b>A+</b>	4.0	<b>97-100</b>
	<b>A</b>	4.0	<b>93-96</b>
	<b>A-</b>	3.7	<b>90-92</b>
<b>Good.</b> 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>B+</b>	3.3	<b>87-89</b>
	<b>B</b>	3.0	<b>83-86</b>
	<b>B-</b>	2.7	<b>80-82</b>
<b>Satisfactory.</b> 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.	<b>C+</b>	2.3	<b>77-79</b>
	<b>C</b>	2.0	<b>73-76</b>
	<b>C-</b>	1.7	<b>70-72</b>
<b>Poor/Minimal Pass.</b> 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.	<b>D+</b>	1.3	<b>65-69</b>
	<b>D</b>	1.0	<b>60-64</b>
<b>Failure.</b>	<b>F</b>	0.0	<b>0-59</b>

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