

**DEPARTMENT OF MODERN LANGUAGES  
AND CULTURAL STUDIES**

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

**2020-2021 C LIT 210 B1: Cyberliterature**  
(Winter Term)

*Note: Remote Delivery*

Instructor: Dr. Florian Mundhenke

Time: M W F 13:00 - 13:50 (by arrangement)

Office: REMOTE

Place: REMOTE

E-mail: mundhenk@ualberta.

Personal Website: <https://apps.ualberta.ca/directory/person/mundhenk>

Course Website: eClass

Office Hours: by appointment via Zoom or Google Meet

**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:** consent of department

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

**Technology requirements (minimum):**

Computer with online access and camera/microphone, Zoom access, PDF reader, free media player (e.g. VLC)

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

**Experiential Learning Component**

this course has a significant experiential learning component (15% or more of the course grade)

**Course-based Ethics Approval** in place regarding all research projects that involve human testing, questionnaires, etc.?

Yes       No, not needed

**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

**Course Description, Objectives and Expected Learning Outcomes:**

This course deals with the intermedial influence of cyberspace and its concepts on international media culture (film, television, digital media). The first part will deal with iconic examples (William Gibson, Bruce Sterling) and subsequent adaptations in media in the 1980s and 1990s (*Tron*, 1982, *Max Headroom*, 1988, *Total Recall*, 1989, *eXistenZ*, 1998, *Matrix*, 1999). The second part will have a look of recent examples of Virtual Reality in setting theoretical expectations and anticipations (Stanislaw Lem, Jaron Lanier) in context with actual examples. There will be a focus on non-fictional projects using VR as a method of alternative reality presentation (*Project Syria*, 2014, *Bosch VR*, 2016, *Titanic VR*, 2018, *The Antarctica Project*, 2019 etc.). Students will be able to evaluate and analyze works of cyberculture from the perspectives of content, means of production, type of electronic platform as well as publishing and circulation method.

**Course Format:** Students are asked to present texts and perspectives they like to examine, participate in discussions, and present an example of cyberculture for further discussion.

**Texts:**

**Required:**

Kennedy, Barbara M., David Bell: *The Cybercultures Reader*. Second Edition. London, New York: Routledge 2007 (eBook)

All other literature and media will be provided via eClass by the instructor.

**Additional Course Fees**

Yes             No

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

First Day of Class: January 11, 2021  
Add/Delete Date: January 22, 2021  
50% Withdrawal Date: February 10, 2021  
Winter Term Reading Week: February 16-19, 2021  
Withdrawal Date: April 9, 2021  
Last Day of Class: April 16, 2021

**Components of Course Grade (see “Explanatory Notes”):**

1. Attendance, participation, preparation —20%
2. In-class presentation of a primary text—20%
3. In-class presentation of a media adaptation in cyberculture (film, game, VR project) —20%
4. Blog entry on an eClass section on cybercultural adaptations—10%
5. Final Essay: 2,000-2,500 words— 30% (due on April 23, 2021)

## **Explanatory Notes on Assignments:**

Guidelines will feature on eClass and be further explained in class.

**Participation:** regular class attendance, evidence of having read/played set materials, and participation in group and class-wide discussions.

In-class **presentation of a primary text:** reporting about textual material featured in the class. Students can choose the text they will present and if they present individually or in group.

In-class **presentation of an adaptation in cyberculture:** reporting about a film, a game, or VR project in one of the two example-based parts of the seminar and relating it to the theoretical literature. Students can choose the project they will present and if they present individually or in group.

**Blog entry** on an eClass section on cybercultural adaptations: Short statement as part of the seminar's summary on a special eClass site (will be announced during the first session).

**Final essay:** a 2,000-2,500-word essay that will ask students to critically analyze an example of cyberculture using theories and concepts seen throughout the course.

## **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](#) 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](#).

***Learning and Working Environment:***

The Faculty of Arts is committed to ensuring all students, faculty and staff are able to work and study 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).

Those enrolled in a class will be fully informed:

- I. That the lecture or discussion is being recorded. Students will be asked to ensure that no other people are in the student’s camera/recording view and that there is nothing identifiable or sensitive in that view (personal belongings, records, medications, etc.) prior to the class recording starting. Students can turn off their computer’s camera or microphone if they are uncomfortable with being recorded.
- II. Why the recording is being made and any additional uses (beyond sharing with the students in the course) that will be made of the recording.
- III. Who will have access to the recording and how it will be disseminated (through eClass, google drive, zoom cloud drive, etc.). And
- IV. How long this access will be provided and when the recordings will be destroyed or otherwise deleted.

***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, preparation, and regular participation go hand in hand; students will not only be expected to attend each session, but they are expected to come prepared for the day’s lesson and participate in that day’s lesson. There will be regular online discussions, and the success of the course is dependent on informed and lively discussions driven by student engagement. It is therefore vital that each student completes the required readings, film screenings, or written exercises assigned for the scheduled class. Online attendance, preparation, and regular participation will count for 20% of the overall grade for the course.

***Policy for Late Assignments:***

Students who consult **in advance** with an 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. However, if a second excuse will be granted for late assignments, half of the mark assigned for this particular work will be deducted. Otherwise, all assignments should be handed in on the stated deadline. Any assignment not handed-in in time or unexcused late assignments will not be given any marks. Late excuses will **not** be accepted for any reason

***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.	A+	4.0	<b>97-100</b>
	A	4.0	<b>93-96</b>
	A-	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+	3.3	<b>87-89</b>
	B	3.0	<b>83-86</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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