

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

**2020-2021** FREN 317 B1: *Postcolonial Issues*  
(Winter Term)

Note: Remote Delivery

Instructor: Dr. Anne Malena  
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Personal Website: [www.ualberta.ca/~amalena](http://www.ualberta.ca/~amalena)  
Course Website: e-class

Time: T&R 9:30-10:50  
Place: REMOTE  
Office Hours: by appointment

**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 298 or 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 & access to internet

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, through the reading and discussion of texts in French from various genres (prose, poetry, essay, article), will present postcolonial issues in Francophone cultures, with a special focus on the Caribbean and childhood this term. This course adopts an

"integrated approach", combining the study of language, culture, literature and linguistics, in order to provide students with general applied skills in French. This means that, in addition to readings, lectures and in-class group discussions, students will be expected to complete exercises on a weekly or biweekly basis to hone their reading, writing, speaking and listening skills, with a special focus on grammar because, as it will be shown, grammar carries meaning. All the materials will be posted on e-class.

By the end of the course students will know how to write short reading reports and formal essays in French. They will have gained more confidence in reading, writing and speaking French, and they will have learned about key francophone authors as well as how to think about postcolonial issues in French-speaking regions and countries

**Course Format:** The course will be delivered through a combination of synchronous zoom sessions and asynchronous consultation.

**Texts:**

Condé, Maryse, *Le Coeur à rire et à pleurer* (pdf)

Laferrière, Dany, *L'odeur du café* (pdf)

Turcotte, Elise, *Guyana*, digital edition available from the bookstore

**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”):**

Writing Exercises:	30% (6 x 5%)
Three (3) Essays	45% (3 x 15%) (due January 28; February 25; March 25)
Final Project	25% (due April 22)

**Explanatory Notes on Assignments:**

The writing exercises will be between 200 and 300 words on a topic related to the issue discussed at the time.

Each essay will deal mainly with the book studied at the time but essays 2 and 3 will require some comparative analysis.

The topic and format for the final project will be individually decided in consultation with the professor.

**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).

*If you are planning to record live lectures or discussions, please include the recommended “best practices” wording (points I-IV) from the Office of the Chief Information Security Officer: <https://www.ualberta.ca/chief-information-security-officer/online-meetings-and-classes/best-practices-recording-lectures.html>*

***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**, no grade component is assigned to attendance. However, regular attendance and participation in discussion will enhance your writing and thinking skills.

***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, 5% per day 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 be penalized 5% per day.

***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	%
<p><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.</p>	<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>
<p><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.</p>	<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>
<p><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.</p>	<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>
<p><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.</p>	<b>D+</b>	1.3	<b>65-69</b>
	<b>D</b>	1.0	<b>60-64</b>
<p><b>Failure.</b></p>	<b>F</b>	0.0	<b>0-59</b>

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