

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

**2020-2021 SLAV 299-B1:
Culture, Art & Reactions
(Winter Term)**

Note: Remote Delivery

Instructor: Dr. Daria Polianska
Office: REMOTE
E-mail: poliansk@ualberta.ca

Time: MWF 10:00-10:50
Place: REMOTE
Office Hours: W 15:00-15:50,
or 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>

Course Prerequisite: None

Technology requirements (minimum): an electronic device of choice (e.g., computer, tablet, etc.).

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:

Throughout history, art and culture often reflected different political, social, economic, environmental, and other issues. In times of transition, artistic representations can help people make sense of their daily challenges. Contemporary art and (pop)culture can draw meaningful connections to sociopolitical issues and expose painful truths (e.g.,

Polish illustrators like Agnieszka Węglarska and Paweł Szlotawa use their art to protest Poland's abortion law). In this course, we will explore how art and (pop)culture reacts to and/or reflects on different sociopolitical issues (e.g., climate change, mass migration, economic inequalities, etc.) across Slavic countries. We will focus primarily on music, visual and literary arts as well as digital culture.

At the end of this course, successful students will be able to:

- expand their awareness of the sociopolitical context in Slavic communities through lectures and assigned readings;
- define and discuss how some of the important sociopolitical issues are represented in art and culture;
- talk about the relationship between artistic expression and contemporary societal issues in chosen Slavic countries in the form of an oral presentation;
- demonstrate critical thinking and oral production skills through in-class discussions;
- write a research paper or develop a creative project.

Course Format:

The objectives of this course will be learned from a combination of lectures, discussions, activities in class, and assigned readings and audiovisual materials. Substantial reading and writing outside of class.

SLAV 299 is cross-listed with UKR 499. Hence, the course is organized in the following way:

Mondays – joint lectures in English for both SLAV 299 and UKR 499.

Wednesdays – seminars for both SLAV 299 and UKR 499. *the activities for UKR 499 during these sessions will be in Ukrainian.

Fridays – discussion groups – every other week. The group that is not scheduled to attend the discussion group that week, will work on an assignment. A detailed schedule will be posted on eClass.

Texts: A selection of articles and audiovisual materials will be available on e-class.

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”):

Fall / Winter Exam Planner for the 2020-2021 academic year can be found at the following site: <https://www.ualberta.ca/registrar/examinations/exam-schedules/fall-2020-winter-2021-exam-planner.html?>

<i>Class attendance and participation</i> (Jan 11-Apr 16, 2021):	15%
<i>Art and culture reflective journal</i> (dates announced on eClass):	15%
<i>Reaction essay</i> (due Feb 12, 2021):	10%
<i>eClass quizzes</i> (various dates; 5 x 3% each):	15 %
<i>Presentation</i> (dates announced on eClass):	10 %
Final project:	
<i>Prospectus</i> (April 2, 2021):	10%
<i>Written copy</i> (April 28, 2021):	25%

Explanatory Notes on Assignments:

Class attendance and participation

It is mandatory for students to attend lectures, seminars and discussion groups as scheduled. Students are expected to attend class prepared and be ready to engage in active participation in class discussions and in individual and group activities. Simply showing up to class does not constitute “active” participation. Students will evaluate their performance on the last day of class.

Further instructions and details (discussion questions for class readings and audiovisual materials, journal dates and a participation rubric) will be posted on eClass.

Art and culture reflective journal

Throughout this course, students are asked to keep a journal. The journal is a reflection of what students are learning in this course. There is no right or wrong way for this assignment, except the minimum 200-word count for each entry. The rest is free style. This means that students can include a sketch, a mind map, a poem in the response to what they learned in class or during their individual readings. It is up to students of how creative they want to be. Date and details for journal submissions will be announced on eClass.

Reaction essay

During week 5, students will write a short, 1.5-2 pages (double spaced) reaction essay, 500-800-word count; no longer than 800-word-count. Guidelines will be available on eClass. Please note that your reaction essay may develop into your final project/case study, but this does not have to be the case.

eClass quizzes

Throughout the course, students will write a total of 5 quizzes based on key terms, concepts and definitions from lectures and readings.

Presentation

Each student will be required to give a five-minute presentation at the allocated date and time

(announced on eClass). After the presentation, each student should be able to answer questions about what they presented on.

Final project

The assignment consists of two parts: a prospectus and either a creative project or a traditional essay.

Prospectus

This assignment includes:

- a brief statement on the question to be explored (one paragraph) and whether you will work on a creative project or a traditional essay;
- why you chose the topic and/or why this is interesting and/or important;
- your plan on how to approach this topic (methodology and research plan);
- annotated bibliography of at least five sources (3-4 sentences per source).

Written copy of the final project

You have two options:

1) *A traditional essay*

Word count: at least 1300 words, not to exceed 2000 (approximately 5-6 double spaced pages, excluding the bibliography). The project should provide a brief introduction to the topic and a short background of the situation. The main section should elaborate the central facts and details related to the situation. The final section should present a summary of your study and, if relevant, suggestions for future studies.

At the end, please include a list of references with full bibliographical information, alphabetical by author, for all sources used (and consistently formatted). Include URLs for any materials that you accessed from the internet and include the date of access. The essay should include a minimum of 3 secondary scholarly sources and be formatted in MLA style (8th edition). The essay must have a strong thesis and a clear argument that develops the proposed topic in logical, coherent, and insightful ways.

- 2) *A creative project* (5%) accompanied with a 4-5 page (double spaced; about 1000-word count) critical reflection (20%) that explains the significance of the final product in relation to the topic you chose, what the work in question is trying to accomplish. The creative work can include but not limited to a short story, a painting, drawings, a short video, original song lyrics, a recorded performance (e.g., of a dance), etc. Group collaborations are possible, which will be discussed in class.

For your writing projects (a reaction essay, a proposal, and a final written copy), please use MLA writing guide. Refer to owl.purdue.edu for more details.

More detailed assignment guidelines and rubrics will be available on eClass.

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).

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 will be taken at every class meeting. The participation grade is based on attendance and contribution to in-class group discussions.

Unexcused absences will adversely affect the student’s grade. *Tardiness is counted as an unexcused absence.*

Every week each student will be assigned a grade (0%-100%) for class participation and preparation for classes. Written homework will be graded according to the same scale.

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.

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

Consultations

Students are encouraged to consult with the instructor about any questions or problems with the course. Do not hesitate to ask your instructor for help as soon as there is a problem.

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