

**DEPARTMENT OF MODERN LANGUAGES  
AND CULTURAL STUDIES**

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

**2020-2021** MLCS 798 A1: Comprehensive Colloquium  
(Fall Term)

**Note: Remote Delivery**

Instructor: Dr Lynn Penrod  
Office: Remote  
Time: To be confirmed  
Email: [lpenrod@ualberta.ca](mailto:lpenrod@ualberta.ca)  
Course Website: All material available on eClass  
Office Hours: Remote, by appointment

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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):**

All class meetings and appointments with the instructor will be done via Zoom. Students need to ensure that they have appropriate computer equipment (including a webcam and a microphone) and sufficient bandwidth to be able to communicate with the group and/or the instructor.

It is your responsibility as a student to ensure that you have the appropriate technology for the course. Please refer to the University recommendations on the minimum technology requirements: <https://www.ualberta.ca/information-services-and-technology/services/software-hardware-vendors/technology-requirements.html>

**Experiential Learning Component**

**NA** 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)

X NA

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

A preparation course for the comprehensive exams that will be structured to help students work with their own individualized reading lists. Through peer work, guided discussion, reflective exercises, and targeted assignments the students will be able to organize their readings, structure the information, and reflect on their work comprehensively, and manage the time leading to the exams. The course offers students a supportive environment during the stresses and challenges of the comprehensive exams.

Learning Outcomes: By the end of the course students will successfully complete the Comprehensive Exams and be ready to work on the dissertation proposal in MLCS 799.

**Course Format:**

This colloquium will be asynchronous with weekly Zoom meetings of the group with a time to be decided during the first week of class. Individual Zoom sessions will be arranged in order to respect different work (TA/RA) or required synchronous course attendance.

**Texts:**

Pre-approved by supervisory committee comprehensive reading lists.

**Additional Course Fees**

Yes       No

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

First Day of Class: September 1, 2020

Add/Delete Date: September 15, 2020

50% Withdrawal Date: October 2, 2020

Fall Term Reading Week: November 9-13, 2020

Withdrawal Date: November 30, 2020

Last Day of Class: December 7, 2020

**Comprehensive Examination Schedule for Fall, 2020**

**October 28:** Seven questions plus confirmation of markers to Graduate Advisor by Supervisor

**October 30:** Questions distributed to students via email by 9am

**November 6:** Student answers due to Graduate Advisor via email by NOON

**November 6:** Students answers and marksheets distributed to markers via email; all markers evaluate all questions

**Novembers 16:** Marksheets due to Graduate Advisor via email by NOON

### **Components of Course Grade and Explanatory Notes on Assignments**

Note: each component of this colloquium will be marked as Pass/Fail. To achieve a Pass, students need to thoughtfully complete readings and assignments and show attention to deadlines.

### **Participation** (via Zoom group and/or one-to-one with instructor) **50%**

This class is meant to be a place to work through issues and challenges of the comprehensive exams. For this to be successful, students need to be present and to engage with their cohort to solve common problems together.

### **5 Assignments: 50% (10% each)**

These short assignments are meant to help students make critical connections between readings on their lists, define their focus, and develop coherence across their readings and lists. Due dates to be decided during first week of class.

### **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**, given that it is a graduate colloquium and judged on a Pass/Fail basis, students simply need to be mindful to provide advance notice to the instructor regarding a necessary absence or need for an extension on an assignment.

**Policy for Late Assignments:** See preceding paragraph. Note: Students who have not provided advance notice in relation to a group meeting or advance notice relating to the need for an extension will not receive credit for that missed meeting or assignment.

**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 Graduate Grading Scale”**

A+	97-100	Excellent
A	93-96	Excellent
A-	90-92	Excellent
B+	87-89	Good
B	79-86	Good
B-	74-78	Satisfactory
C+	68-73	Satisfactory
C	63-67	Failure
C-	58-62	Failure
D+	54-57	Failure
D-	50-53	Failure
F	00-49	Failure

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