



Faculty of Arts  
School of Languages, Linguistics, Literatures and Cultures

FREN 691.02

*Theories in Balzac Studies*

Winter 2017

COURSE OUTLINE

**INSTRUCTOR 'S NAME and E-MAIL:** Dr Jean-François Richer / jfricher@ucalgary.ca

**OFFICE LOCATION and HOURS:** CHD 315 / by appointment.

**TELEPHONE NUMBER :** (403) 220-6381

**DESCRIPTION**

From Marcel Proust to Roland Barthes, from Émile Zola to Georges Poulet, the work of Honoré de Balzac has generated innumerable readings: countless playwrights, novelists, critics, poets, philosophers, journalists and scholars from both the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> centuries have published *their Balzac*, their interpretation of the *Human Comedy*, defending, each time, a given set of critical and intellectual criteria (and lexicon), historical (and often historicized) point of views, not to mention moral values, in short: a reading methodology for the father of the French realist novel. This course will invite students to analyze some of the key moments in the reception and understanding of the Balzacian novel: studies of founding texts written by, namely, Alain, Auerbach, Barbéris, Barthes, Bordas, Butor, Castex, Condé, Dallenbach, Danger, Falconer, Genette, Mitterand, Richard, Proust and Zola, will allow students to examine both different methodological approaches of the literary text and competing views of Balzac's world. In addition to a course-pack containing the critical texts, students will also read five of Balzac best known novels and short stories (please see below the list of mandatory readings).

**Objectives**

- From examples taken in Balzac studies, further develop the student's understanding of different theoretical approaches of the literary text.
- Read and discuss both orally and in writing five novels by Honoré de Balzac, the "father" of the modern realist novel and one of 19<sup>th</sup> Century's greatest writers.
- Increase the student's skill level for textual analysis, close reading and for literary analysis.
- Professionalize the graduate student's research skills by offering a conference-like setting and modus operandi

**Expectations**

- Very strong command of written and spoken French.
- Solid knowledge of literary analysis learned at the undergraduate level.
- Solid knowledge of literary history learned at the undergraduate level.
- Advanced understanding of research methodology in humanities.

**Prerequisites:** authorization from the Department.



Faculty of Arts

School of Languages, Linguistics, Literatures and Cultures

**DISTRIBUTION OF GRADES**

- One (1) Mid-term exam : \_\_\_\_\_ 40 %
- One (1) Oral presentation : \_\_\_\_\_ 25 %
- One (1) Final research paper : \_\_\_\_\_ 35 %

\* Veuillez noter qu'il n'y aura PAS d'examen final pour ce cours.

**GRADING SCALE**

A+ = 100-96    A = 95-91    A- = 90-86    B+ = 85-81    B = 80-76    B- = 75-71  
C+ = 70-67    C = 66- 62    C- = 61-58    D+ = 57-54    D = 53-50    F = 49%

The official grading system (A=4, B=3, C=2, D=1) will be applied for the calculation of the final mark.

**REQUIRED TEXTS**

- 1) Theoretical texts will be distributed to students on a weekly basis.
- 2) Balzac, Honoré de: *Traité de la vie élégante*.
- 3) Balzac, Honoré de: *La Fille aux yeux d'or*.
- 4) Balzac, Honoré de: *Eugénie Grandet*.
- 5) Balzac, Honoré de: *Le Chef-d'œuvre inconnu*.
- 6) Balzac, Honoré de: *L'Auberge rouge*.
- 7) + one more text from Balzac, to be chosen by the student in collaboration with the professor.

\* The listed five novels will be available for purchase at the UofC bookstore in Mac Hall.

**RECOMMENDED TEXTS AND MATERIALS**

- Dictionnaire *Le Petit Robert 1*
- Rochat, Denise, *Contrastes : Grammaire du français courant*, Prentice Hall, 2009, ou
- Schaum's Outlines, *French Grammar*, 4e édition, McGraw Hill,
- OU une grammaire de votre choix.

**COURSE NOTES**

- Late assignments and missed tests policy: les travaux remis en retard seront sanctionnés par une pénalité de 10% par jour de retard (exemple : trois jours de retard = ponction de 30%).

- Les étudiants devront consulter de façon régulière les annonces et les autres fichiers dans D2L

- The Department's drop-box, located in the foyer area of the third floor in Craigie Hall between blocks D and C, is available for depositing assignments and course work. The material placed in the drop-box will be collected and date-stamped at the beginning and at the end of the working day.



## Faculty of Arts

### School of Languages, Linguistics, Literatures and Cultures

#### **ACADEMIC MISCONDUCT**

1. **Plagiarism** is a serious offence, the penalty for which is an F on the assignment and possibly also an F in the course, academic probation, or requirement to withdraw. Plagiarism exists when:

a) the work submitted or presented was done, in whole or in part, by an individual other than the one submitting or presenting the work (this includes having another impersonate the student or otherwise substituting the work of another for one's own in an examination or test);

b) parts of the work are taken from another source without reference to the original author;

c) the whole work (e.g., an essay) is copied from another source, and/or

d) a student submits or presents work in one course which has also been submitted in another course (although it may be completely original with that student) without the knowledge of or prior agreement of the instructor involved.

While it is recognized that scholarly work often involves reference to the ideas, data and conclusions of other scholars, intellectual honesty requires that such references be explicitly and clearly noted." Plagiarism occurs not only when direct quotations are taken from a source without specific acknowledgement but also when original ideas or data from the source are not acknowledged. A bibliography is insufficient to establish which portions of the student's work are taken from external sources; footnotes or other recognized forms of citation must be used for this purpose.

2. **Cheating** at tests or examinations includes but is not limited to dishonest or attempted dishonest conduct such as speaking to other candidates or communicating with them under any circumstances whatsoever; bringing into the examination room any textbook, notebook, memorandum, other written material or mechanical or electronic device not authorized by the examiner; writing an examination or part of it, or consulting any person or materials outside the confines of the examination room without permission to do so, or leaving answer papers exposed to view, or persistent attempts to read other students' examination papers.

3. **Other academic misconduct** includes, but is not limited to, tampering or attempts to tamper with examination scripts, class work, grades and/or class records; failure to abide by directions by an instructor regarding the individuality of work handed in; the acquisition, attempted acquisition, possession, and/or distribution of examination materials or information not authorized by the instructor; the impersonation of another student in an examination or other class assignment; the falsification or fabrication of clinical or laboratory reports; the non-authorized tape recording of lectures.

4. Any student who voluntarily and consciously aids another student in the commission of one of these offences is also guilty of academic misconduct.

#### **DISABILITIES AND ACADEMIC ACCOMMODATION**

It is the student's responsibility to request academic accommodations. Students with a documented disability who may require academic accommodation and have not registered with the Disability Resource Centre should contact their office at 220-8237. Students who have not registered with the Disability Resource Centre are not eligible for formal academic accommodation. Students also required to discuss their needs with the instructor no later than fourteen (14) days after the start of this course.



**Faculty of Arts**  
**School of Languages, Linguistics, Literatures and Cultures**

**EMERGENCY EVACUATION ASSEMBLY POINTS**

Craigie Hall: Professional Faculties food court (alternate: Education Block food court)

Education Block and Tower: Scurfield Hall atrium (alternate: Professional Faculties food court)

Kinesiology: north courtyard, MacEwan Student Centre (alternate: University Theatres lobby)

For the complete list of assembly points please consult <http://www.ucalgary.ca/emergencyplan/assemblypoints>

**FREEDOM OF INFORMATION AND PRIVACY (FOIP) ACT**

Graded assignments will be retained by the Department for three months and subsequently sent for confidential shredding. Final examinations will be kept for one calendar year and subsequently sent for confidential shredding. Said material is exclusively available to the student and to the department staff requiring to examine it.

Please see <http://www.ucalgary.ca/secretariat/privacy> for complete information on the disclosure of personal records.

**INTERNET AND ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATION DEVICES**

Devices such as laptops, palmtops and smartbooks are allowed provided that they are used exclusively for instructional purposes and do not cause disruption to the instructor and to fellow students. Cellular telephones, blackberries and other mobile communication tools are not permitted and must be switched off.

**SAFEWALK**

To request a Safewalk escort anywhere on campus, 24 hours a day and seven days a week, please call 403-220-5333 or use one of the Help Phones.

Web: <http://www.ucalgary.ca/security/safewalk>

**STUDENT UNION INFORMATION**

Representatives and contact details: <http://www.su.ucalgary.ca/home/contact.html>

Student Ombudsman: <http://www.su.ucalgary.ca/services/student-services/student-rights.html>

**WRITING ACROSS THE CURRICULUM**

Writing skills should cross all disciplines. Students are expected to do a substantial amount of writing in their courses and, where appropriate, instructors can and should use writing and the grading thereof as a factor in the evaluation of student work. The services provided by the Writing Centre in the Effective Writing Office (<http://www.efwr.ucalgary.ca/>) can be utilized by all undergraduate and graduate students who feel they require further assistance.