



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

## **FREN 691.04**

### ***Theories in Balzac Studies***

Winter 2023

TuTh 14:00 - 15:15

*In person course, room CHC 309*

## **COURSE OUTLINE**

**INSTRUCTOR'S NAME:** Dr Jean-François Richer  
**OFFICE HOURS:** sur rendez-vous.  
**E-MAIL:** jfricher@ucalgary.ca  
**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 19th and 20th 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 four of Balzac best known novels and short stories (please see below the list of mandatory readings).

### **OBJECTIVES**

- From the examples taken in Balzac studies, discover, learn and discuss 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 19th Century's greatest writers.
- Increase the student's skill level for textual analysis, close reading and for literary analysis.
- Solidify the student's overall research skills.

### **OUTCOMES**

- Strong command of written and spoken French.
- Solid knowledge of the fundamentals of literary analysis learned in 300 and 400 level courses
- Solid knowledge of the fundamentals of literary history learned in 300 and 400 level courses
- Intermediate to advance understanding of research methodology in humanities.



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#### REQUIRED COURSE MATERIALS

- 1) Theoretical texts will be distributed to students on a weekly basis.
- 2) Balzac, Honoré de: *Le Père Goriot*.
- 3) Balzac, Honoré de: *Adieu*.
- 4) Balzac, Honoré de: *La Vieille fille*.

\* These will be available for purchase at the UofC bookstore in Mac Hall.

#### RECOMMENDED COURSE MATERIALS

- Dictionnaire *Le Petit Robert 1*
- Rochat, Denise, *Contrastes : Grammaire du français courant*, Prentice Hall, 2009.
- 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
- Attendance and participation are expected for this course.
- Class etiquette: Please: arrive on time for classes, inform the Prof ahead of time if you need to leave before the end of the class (to go to a medical appointment for instance). Sit close to the door. Be discreet when you leave. Don't have private conversations during class. Remember: your classmates, like you, paid a substantial amount of money to sit in this course. They have the right not to be disturbed during class time. Follow proper etiquette when you write an email: always open with a greeting and address the person by the proper term or title ("Dear Professor...", "Hello Professor XYZ...", In French : simply write "Bonjour Monsieur XYZ" etc), state your question clearly and concisely; always close politely ("Thank you...", "Best regards", in French: "Cordialement", or "Merci", etc.). Always sign your full name (no nick name or unsigned email).

#### ASSESSMENT

- One (1) Mid-term exams: \_\_\_\_\_ 40 %
- One (1) Oral presentation: \_\_\_\_\_ 25 %



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- One (1) Final research paper: \_\_\_\_\_ 35 %

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

**One (1) Mid-term exam (40 %)**

Un seul long examen sur table couvrant l'ensemble de la matière vue au cours des semaines précédentes. Les détails sur le matériel autorisé seront donnés par le professeur quelques jours avant le test.

**One (1) Oral presentation (25 %)**

Présentation orale de 20 à 25 minutes sur un sujet de recherche ayant trait aux questions traitées dans le cours et devant avoir la forme complète et achevée d'un exposé donné dans une conférence scientifique de haut niveau.

**One (1) Final research paper (35 %)**

Travail de recherche mené indépendamment par l'étudiant/e qui se voudra une version approfondie et améliorée du texte lu pendant l'exposé oral.

**\* Voir plus loin dans la section « Course Schedule » les dates exactes de chaque évaluation.**

**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.

**COURSE SCHEDULE**

Semaine	Date	Matière	Évaluations
1.	Mardi 10 janvier	Comment lire Balzac ? Balzac par Balzac.	
	Jeudi 12 janvier		
2.	Mardi 17 janvier	Balzac par Balzac (suite). Œuvre étudiée : <i>Le Père Goriot</i>	
	Jeudi 19 janvier		
3.	Mardi 24 janvier	Balzac vu par ses pairs : Hugo, Zola, Flaubert, Proust, Gracq. Œuvre étudiée : <i>Le Père Goriot</i>	
	Jeudi 26 janvier		
4.	Mardi 31 janvier	Balzac vu par la critique de 1850. Œuvre étudiée : <i>Le Père Goriot</i>	



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	Jeudi 2 février		
5.	Mardi 7 février	Balzac vu par Rossum-Guyon. Œuvre étudiée : <i>Adieu</i>	
	Jeudi 9 février		
6.	Mardi 14 février	Balzac vu par Lucien Dallenbach. Œuvre étudiée : <i>Adieu</i>	
	Jeudi 16 février		
7.	Mardi 21 février	<i>Pas de cours</i>	
	Jeudi 23 février	<i>Pas de cours</i>	
8.	Mardi 28 février	Honoré vu par Jean-Pierre Richard. Œuvre étudiée : <i>La Vieille fille</i>	
	Jeudi 2 mars		
9.	Mardi 7 mars	Honoré vu par Paule Petitier. Œuvre étudiée : <i>La Vieille fille</i>	
	Jeudi 9 mars		
10.	Mardi 14 mars	Balzac vu par Gyorgy Lukacs. Œuvre étudiée : <i>La Vieille fille</i>	
	Jeudi 16 mars		
11.	Mardi 21 mars	Balzac vu par Eric Aurbach. Œuvre étudiée : <i>La Vieille fille</i>	
	Jeudi 23 mars		
12.	Mardi 28 mars	Préparation au travail final et révision	<b>Examen (40%)</b>
	Jeudi 30 mars		
13.	Mardi 4 avril	Conclusion du cours	
	Jeudi 7 avril		
14.	Mardi 11 avril	Synthèse et conclusion du cours	<b>Exposés oraux (25%)</b>
<b>* Les travaux finaux (35%) seront à remettre le <u>mercredi 19 avril 2023.</u></b>			

**INTEGRITY AND CONDUCT**

All members of the University community have a responsibility to familiarize themselves with the Statement on Principles of Conduct, and to comply with the University of Calgary Code of Conduct and Non-Academic Misconduct policy and procedures (available at: <http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/k.html>).



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#### **Academic misconduct**

Academic Misconduct refers to student behavior which compromises proper assessment of a student's academic activities and includes: cheating; fabrication; falsification; plagiarism; unauthorized assistance; failure to comply with an instructor's expectations regarding conduct required of students completing academic assessments in their courses; and failure to comply with exam regulations applied by the Registrar.

For information on the Student Academic Misconduct Policy and Procedure please visit: <https://ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/student-academic-misconduct-policy.pdf>, and <https://ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/student-academic-misconduct-procedure.pdf>

Additional information is available on the Academic Integrity Website at <https://ucalgary.ca/student-services/student-success/learning/academic-integrity>

#### **INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY AND COPYRIGHT LEGISLATION**

Course materials created by instructors (including presentations and posted notes, labs, case studies, assignments and exams) remain the intellectual property of the instructor. These materials may not be reproduced, redistributed or copied without the explicit consent of the instructor. All students are required to read the University of Calgary policy on Acceptable Use of Material Protected by Copyright (<https://www.ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/acceptable-use-of-material-protected-by-copyright.pdf>) and requirements of the Copyright Act (<https://laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/eng/acts/C-42/index.html>) to ensure they are aware of the consequences of unauthorised sharing of course materials (including instructor notes, electronic versions of textbooks etc.). Students who use material protected by copyright in violation of this policy may be disciplined under the Non-Academic Misconduct Policy.

#### **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 <https://www.ucalgary.ca/legalservices/foip> for complete information on the disclosure of personal records.

#### **ACADEMIC ACCOMMODATIONS**

It is the student's responsibility to request academic accommodations according to the University policies and procedures listed below. The student accommodation policy can be found at: <https://ucalgary.ca/student-services/access/prospective-students/academic-accommodations>.

Students needing an Accommodation because of a Disability or medical condition should communicate this need to Student Accessibility Services in accordance with the Procedure for Accommodations for Students with Disabilities (<https://www.ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/procedure-for-accommodations-for-students-with-disabilities.pdf>.)



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Students needing an Accommodation in relation to their coursework or to fulfil requirements for a graduate degree, based on a Protected Ground other than Disability, should communicate this need, preferably in writing, to their Instructor or the Department Head/Dean or to the designated contact person in their Faculty.

#### **FACULTY OF ARTS PROGRAM ADVISING AND STUDENT INFORMATION RESOURCES**

Have a question, but not sure where to start?

The Arts Students' Centre is the overall headquarters for undergraduate programs in the Faculty of Arts. The key objective of this office is to connect students with whatever academic assistance they may require.

In addition to housing the Associate Dean (Undergraduate Programs and Student Affairs) and the Associate Dean (Teaching, Learning & Student Engagement), the Arts Students' Centre is the specific home to:

- Program advising
- Co-op Education Program
- Arts and Science Honours Academy
- Student Help Desk

Location: Social Sciences Room 102

Phone: 403-220-3580

Email: [ascarts@ucalgary.ca](mailto:ascarts@ucalgary.ca)

Website: [arts.ucalgary.ca/undergraduate](http://arts.ucalgary.ca/undergraduate).

For registration (add/drop/swap), paying fees and assistance with your Student Centre, contact Enrolment Services at 403-210-ROCK [7625] or visit them at the MacKimmie Block.

Contacts for the Students' Union Representative for the Faculty of Arts: [arts1@su.ucalgary.ca](mailto:arts1@su.ucalgary.ca), [arts2@su.ucalgary.ca](mailto:arts2@su.ucalgary.ca), [arts3@su.ucalgary.ca](mailto:arts3@su.ucalgary.ca), [arts4@su.ucalgary.ca](mailto:arts4@su.ucalgary.ca).

#### **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.

#### **SUPPORT AND RESOURCES**

Links to information that is not course-specific related to student wellness and safety resources can be found on the Office of the Registrar's website: <https://www.ucalgary.ca/registrar/registration/course-outlines>.