

**Instructor:** Antje Ziethen

**Office hours:** MW 1-2 pm and by appointment

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## COURSE DESCRIPTION

Departing in 16<sup>th</sup> century France, and then moving progressively through space and time, this course will introduce students to the French-speaking world with particular emphasis on the Americas, the Caribbean, Africa, and the Indian Ocean. We will study a variety of materials (fictional and non-fictional texts, art, comics, film, music, documentaries) to get insights into the historical, linguistic, and societal specificities of each region. This course will also explore the inherent ambivalence of *La Francophonie* – a political institution that connotes not only diversity but also colonial history – in order to encourage critical reflection on the role of French and France in a global context. Moreover, students will study some of the main key concepts related to French imperialism; analyze colonial and postcolonial discourses and have the occasion to exchange with visiting speakers from Francophone regions. The course also includes out-of-class activities. Class will be conducted in French.

**This course satisfies the requirement for Core Goal 4.2 (humanities):** *Upon reaching this goal, students will be able to examine a variety of perspectives in the global community, distinguish their own cultural patterns, and respond flexibly to multiple worldviews.*

## LEARNING GOALS

- Familiarize yourself with the history of French expansion overseas as well as with the history and culture of the Francophone regions studied in class;
- Understand and analyze literary writings, political essays, art, and cinema;
- Interpret and compare discourses produced in colonial and postcolonial contexts;
- Expand your knowledge of geographical, historical and philosophical terms and fundamental critical vocabulary for synthesis and analysis;
- Enhance your critical thinking, reading and reasoning;
- Participate actively and creatively in the learning process through class discussions, group work, reading journals, and by designing a Digital Humanities project

## READINGS

A selection of audio-visual material and documents will be available on Blackboard or online.

## SCHEDULE

<b>Aug</b>	M	20	Introduction
	W	22	Les grandes découvertes et les origines du capitalisme
	F	24	Michel de Montaigne, « Des Cannibales » (96-106)
	M	27	Michel de Montaigne, « Des Cannibales » (107-119)
	W	29	Acadie
	F	31	Acadie

Sep	<b>M</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>Labour Day Holiday</b>	
	W	5	Québec	
	F	7	Québec	
	M	10	Québec	
	W	12	Québec	
	<b>F</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>Examen 1</b>	
	M	17	Haïti	
	W	19	Haïti	
	<b>F</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>Pas de cours</b>	
	M	24	Haïti	
	W	26	Haïti	
	F	28	Martinique	
	Oct	M	1	Martinique
		<b>W</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>Examen 2</b>
		F	5	Maurice
M		8	Maurice	
W		10	Algérie	
F		12	Algérie	
<b>M</b>		<b>15</b>	<b>Fall Break</b>	
W		17	Algérie	
<b>F</b>		<b>19</b>	<b>Examen 3</b>	
M		22	Congo	
W		24	Congo	
F		26	Congo	
M		29	Sénégal	
W		31	Sénégal	
Nov		F	2	Sénégal
<b>M</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>Examen 4</b>		
<b>W</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>Le tunnel de l'oppression</b>		
F	9	Storymap training		
M	12	In-class group work		
<b>W</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>Visite Musée Spencer</b>		
F	16	Francophone country of your choice		
M	19	Francophone country of your choice		
<b>W</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>Action de Grâce</b>		
<b>F</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>Action de Grâce</b>		

	M	26	In-class group work
	W	28	Présentations
	F	30	Présentations
<b>Dec</b>	M	3	Présentations
	W	5	TBA
	F	7	<b>Stop Day</b>

## **BLACKBOARD**

I use Blackboard to provide you with various handouts, guides, links, etc. It is your responsibility to check Blackboard regularly and check e-mail once a day for messages I may send to the class.

## **GRADING SUMMARY**

Attendance and Participation	15%
Unannounced Quizzes	10%
Journal Entries	15%
DH Project	20% *
4 Unit Exams	40%

\*The Digital Humanities Project will be assessed for student outcomes using the rubric for CORE Goal 4.2 found on our Blackboard site. Assessment will include (1) the acquisition of a broad base of knowledge in cultural studies and histories of the French-speaking world, (2) the ability to discuss, analyze, and compare non-US cultures in relation to students' own value assumptions, (3) students' cultural competency regarding various cultural beliefs, behaviors, and practice, and (4) students' grasp of global cultures and value systems.

## **GRADING SCALE**

94-100%	=A
90-93.9%	=A-
88-89.9%	=B+
84-87.9%	=B
80-83.9%	=B-
78-79.9%	=C+
74-79.9%	=C
70-73.9%	=C-

Please note that I do not round up grade percentages (e.g. 89.7% is a B+, not an A-).

## **COURSE WORK**

Specific details and additional instructions will be announced in class and posted on Blackboard in advance of the due date.

**Reading Journals** based on your homework to be submitted with the Journal Entry function on Blackboard or via voice-thread. Should contain 2 key arguments, 1 problem or critique, 1 question. To be submitted before class.

**Unannounced Quizzes** based on your homework for the day. French dictionaries allowed.

**Unit Exams** will consist of three parts each: (1) ID's (dates, names, quotes, definitions); (2) several short answer questions; (3) one essay question. They will be completed without the aid of textbooks, class notes, or other forms of assistance.

**Digital Humanities Project** on a topic of your choice using the tool *Storymaps*. Will be done in groups of 2 or 3. The assignment will be scaffolded. Results will be shared with class at the end of the semester in a presentation. Detailed guidelines will be available on Blackboard later in the semester.

**Homework:** You are expected to carefully complete all homework assignments. Failure to complete homework will result in a lowered participation grade. You are expected to answer the questions of the reading guide. It is recommended to use them at home to prepare for the discussion by (a) formulating your opinion of the topic, and (b) preparing the vocabulary to express your thoughts.

## STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES

**Attendance:** It is important that you come to every class so that you will be able to participate in classroom discussions and understand new material. If you are absent, it is your responsibility to find out what you missed and to be prepared for the next class period. More than **three** unexcused absences will strongly affect your grade for the class. Beyond three absences, you will receive a **2% reduction** for your final grade with each additional absence. Tardiness will also adversely affect your grade for the class. Arriving more than a few minutes late will count as half an absence. If you know in advance that you will be absent or arrive late, please let me know. If you miss an in-class assignment, you will not be allowed to make it up. The only exception to this is if you are participating in a university-approved activity or you have medical documentation, etc. that makes it clear that you could not have physically made it to class that day.

**Participation:** It is important that you participate in meaningful and respectful ways. Careful reading before class is imperative. You will be graded both on the **quality** and **quantity** of your participation. Please note that dominating classroom discussion or only speaking when called upon will both negatively affect your daily participation grade. Moreover, problems with attendance, tardiness, sleeping in class, or use of cell phones and texting will significantly lower your participation grade.

**Late Work:** Late work will **NOT** be accepted. If you are having difficulty with an assignment, it is your responsibility to speak with me *before* the day on which the assignment is due. There will be **no make-ups** for assignments or presentations unless you have a documented, excused absence.

## POLICIES

**This is an Inclusive Classroom:** At KU, administrators, faculty, and staff are committed to the creation and maintenance of “inclusive learning” spaces. These are classrooms, labs, and other places of learning where you will be treated with respect and dignity and where all individuals are provided equitable opportunity to participate, contribute, and succeed. In this classroom, all students are welcome regardless of race/ethnicity, gender identities, gender expressions, sexual orientation, socio-economic status, age, disabilities, religion, regional background, Veteran status, citizenship, status, nationality and other diverse identities that we each bring to class. Your success at KU and beyond is enhanced by the innovation and creativity of thought that inclusive classrooms facilitate. The success of an inclusive classroom relies on the participation, support, and understanding of you and your peers.

We encourage you to speak up and share your views, but also understand that you are doing so in a learning environment in which we all are expected to engage respectfully and with regard to the dignity of all others. If you have any questions or concerns do not hesitate to raise them in class or with me directly.

**Class Conduct:** Please note the University’s policy in this respect: “The scope and content of the material included in this course are defined by the instructor in consultation with the responsible academic unit. While the orderly exchange of ideas, including questions and discussions prompted by lectures, discussion sessions and laboratories, is viewed as a normal part of the educational environment, the instructor has the right to limit the scope and duration of these interactions. Students who engage in disruptive behavior, including persistent refusal to observe boundaries defined by the instructor regarding inappropriate talking, discussions, and questions in the classroom or laboratory may be subject to discipline for non-academic misconduct for disruption of teaching or academic misconduct, as defined in the Code of Student Rights and Responsibilities (CSRR), Article 22, Section C, and the University Senate Rules and Regulations, Section 2.4.6. Article 22 of CSRR also defines potential sanctions for these types of infractions.”

**Classroom Etiquette:** No personal computers or other electronic devices are allowed in class without special permission. As a courtesy to others, please silence your cell phone (not on vibrate), and refrain from eating during class.

**Acceptable online/electronic resources:** If you wish to use an online dictionary or app, **you may only use the dictionary function; you may not use** any Discussion Forum function, and **you may not use** any other online resources linked to the site, unless approved for a specific assignment. If you wish to use an app in class, it must be approved in advance by your instructor. During activities in which use of a dictionary is permitted, your instructor may ask you to sit so that use of the app may be observed by him/her.

**Course Materials:** Materials provided to you by your instructor, and/or posted for you on Blackboard, are for your use only, and may not be reposted or resold to websites for any reason. Pursuant to the University of Kansas’ Policy on Commercial Note-Taking Ventures (<https://documents.ku.edu/policies/provost/CommercialNotetaking.htm>), commercial note taking is not permitted in courses in the Department of French and Italian. Lecture notes and course materials may be taken for personal use, for the purpose of mastering the course material, and may not be sold to any person or entity in any form. Any student engaged in or contributing to the commercial exchange of notes or course materials will be subject to discipline, including academic misconduct charges, in accordance with University Policy. Additionally, you may not record class sessions without the instructor’s permission.

**Plagiarism:** “Plagiarism and cheating are serious academic offenses that should be brought to the attention of the Chairperson or Language Coordinator. Whenever a student is caught cheating (whether copying from another student’s paper or plagiarizing printed or electronic sources or other sources), the instructor will inform the Chairperson of the Department, who—upon concurring with the instructor—will forward a “CHARGE OF ACADEMIC MISCONDUCT FORM” to College of Liberal Arts with a recommendation for the appropriate sanction.”

Instances of students “Googling” their research and then either copying and pasting or slightly modifying content without citing their source(s) in the paper are on the rise. Below is a link to one

section on plagiarism and how to avoid it from the KU Writing Center home page. I strongly encourage you to review this and other material in the section on plagiarism. Whether intentional or not, improper citation or not crediting your sources constitutes plagiarism, and in any instance where I find this, I will follow departmental and College procedures.

<http://www.writing.ku.edu/students/docs/integrity.shtml>

**Religious Observances:** Where examinations and tests other than final examinations conflict with religious observations of a generally recognized nature, a student under obligation to participate in such religious observances shall, upon request to the instructor involved (which shall be made at least a week in advance of the scheduled examination or test), be accorded the opportunity to take the examination or test at some other time not in conflict with his or her religious obligations.

**Disabilities and Special Needs:** If you have a disability that may affect your work in this class, please let me know as soon as possible so that we can make arrangements through the AAAC. The Academic Achievement and Access Center (AAAC) coordinates academic accommodations and services for all eligible KU students with disabilities. If you have a disability for which you wish to request accommodations and have not contacted the AAAC, please do so as soon as possible. They are located in 22 Strong Hall and can be reached at 785-864-4064 (V/TTY). Information about their services can be found at <http://access.ku.edu>.

**Assistance with Assignments:** Students may use their dictionaries, and grammar books in preparing any assignments. However, with the exception of help from the student's instructor and/or in-class activities such as peer editing, **any outside assistance is NOT allowed** on homework, assignments, presentations, etc. All of these things are considered **cheating** and will result in a grade of **zero on the assignment**, as well as a **charge of academic misconduct**, which may entail further sanctions. The student should be certain that all of the work submitted in this course is his/her own. **Examples** of this include, but are not limited to:

- **Submitting plagiarized work for an academic requirement.** Plagiarism is the representation of another's work or ideas as one's own. It includes unacknowledged word- for-word and / or paraphrasing of another's work / ideas.
- **Copying / turning in written work that is not original to you.**
- **Resubmitting work from another French course.**
- **Having someone else do the work for you.**
- **Using a translation program in any way to complete assignments.**
- **Using a tutor to help you with your assignments.** Tutors may only be consulted for extra practice beyond the course requirements, for help on non-graded assignments, or for explanations of assignments which have already been evaluated and will not be turned in again. Assignments which have been influenced by the help of a tutor prior to being graded will be treated as plagiarized work.
- **Receiving or passing exam information to other students before, during or after the exam.** Cheating in this case applies both to the receiver of the exam information and the person who provides the information.

**Translation Programs:** The use of computer or on-line translation programs or apps is **NOT permitted** in this course and is considered **cheating**. As opposed to dictionaries and grammar references, these programs are not a learning tool because they simply provide a translation, rather

than allowing you to choose among various words/tenses, etc. to come up with the best translation on your own. Moreover, translation programs produce bizarre and incorrect translations that are **notoriously easy to identify**. Students will learn far more by doing their own work than by risking serious academic consequences.

**Tutoring:** Your instructor is always available during his/her office hours to answer questions and clarify concepts; however, if you would like more intensive help, we encourage you to consider tutoring options:

- 1) **Private tutors** are available for hire, and the Department of French & Italian maintains a list of possible tutors. For that information, please contact the main office at 864-4056 or [frenital@ku.edu](mailto:frenital@ku.edu).
- 2) **Small group tutoring** is also available through KU's Academic Achievement and Access Center for \$75/course per semester: <http://www.tutoring.ku.edu/>. The AAAC can also consult with you and suggest other options/resources to maximize your learning: <http://achievement.ku.edu>

**Title IX:** Allegations of sexual harassment and assault are handled primarily by the Title IX Coordinator in the Office of Institutional Opportunity and Access (IOA) and, as circumstances dictate, possibly KU Public Safety. Moreover, KU offers confidential resources like [Counseling and Psychological Services \(CAPS\)](#), and the [CARE Coordinator at Watkins Health Services](#).

**Concealed Carry Policy:** Individuals who choose to carry concealed handguns **are solely responsible to do so in a safe and secure manner in strict conformity with [state and federal laws](#) and [KU weapons policy](#)**. Safety measures outlined in the KU weapons policy specify that a concealed handgun:

- Must be under the constant control of the carrier.
- Must be out of view, concealed either on the body of the carrier, or backpack, purse, or bag that remains under the carrier's custody and control.
- Must be in a holster that covers the trigger area and secures any external hammer in an uncocked position.
- Must have the safety on and have no round in the chamber.

Keep in mind that in this class, students will be asked to do activities like leaving their desk to write on the white board or present to the class and change places to do group work. Students who choose to carry a concealed handgun in a purse, backpack, or bag must review and plan each day accordingly, and are responsible for making alternate arrangements as necessary. Individuals who violate the KU weapons policy may be asked to leave campus with the weapon and may face disciplinary action under the appropriate university code of conduct.

### **Validity of Syllabus**

It may be necessary to modify the syllabus in accordance with *forces majeures* or any needs or requirements that should arise. If this is the case, then students will be notified of the amended syllabus and it will become effective from the time of this notification and being replaced on Blackboard.

### **Final Remark**

Many of the texts and visual material that we will be studying contain material which deals with sensitive issues and it may be necessary to use explicit terms in discussing this material. I expect

everyone to be tolerant of, and receptive to, each student's viewpoint while retaining a critical scholarly perspective.

**Administrative Dates**

August 24	Last day to add/change a class online without permission
September 10	Last day to drop without a "W"
November 14	Last day to withdraw from a class