



French 3611G
Aesthetic Forms and Practices
Penser la modernité
Winter 2023-24

Location: **P&AB 36**

Day/Time: **Wednesday, 6:30-9:30PM**

Prerequisites: Both French 2605F/G and 2606F/G (or French 2600E).

Unless you have either the requisites for this course or written special permission from your Dean to enroll in it, you may be removed from this course and it will be deleted from your record. This decision may not be appealed. You will receive no adjustment to your fees in the event that you are dropped from a course for failing to have the necessary prerequisites.

Instructor Information

Instructor	Email	Office	Phone	Office Hours
Prof. Keling Wei	kwei24@uwo.ca	UC 4117	519-661-2111 x81186	Friday 2-4pm

Students must use their Western (@uwo.ca) email addresses when contacting their instructor.

Description du cours

Il y a plus de cent ans, Rimbaud a écrit: « Il faut être absolument moderne ». Mais comment (re)penser la modernité aujourd’hui, au XXI^e siècle, après tant de catastrophes, crises, courants, idéologies, euphories, désenchantements? Et que dire des étiquettes telles que post-(moderne/colonial/structural) ou anti-(moderne), etc.? Kant et Foucault, aux deux bouts de notre ère moderne, se sont penchés sur la notion des Lumières; Baudelaire et Benjamin ont réfléchi à la modernité artistique et à l’époque capitaliste; Michel Chaillou a inventé la formule de « l’extrême contemporain »; Jean-François Lyotard s’est employé à définir le « post-moderne »; Antoine Compagnon, quant à lui, a rappelé les paradoxes de la modernité en disant que « les vrais modernes sont aussi des antimodernes, c’est-à-dire des modernes lucides, non dupes du modernisme.»

Ce cours propose de réfléchir sur la complexité et l’ambiguïté de la modernité, autour de ces textes au croisement de la littérature, de l’esthétique et de l’éthique, qui ont fortement façonné notre manière de penser le monde où nous vivons ensemble.

Objectifs

Les étudiants seront amenés à :

- approfondir leur compréhension de la notion de modernité et réfléchir de manière critique sur notre monde;

- interpréter et analyser les ouvrages littéraires à la lumière de lectures critiques;
- formuler leurs propres idées oralement (discussions, débats, exposés...) et par l'écrit (questions-réponses, rapports, explications de textes, dissertations...).

Texts and Materials

- Les textes au programme seront affichés sur OWL
- Ressources en ligne:
 - Bon Patron* : <https://bonpatron.com/fr/>
 - TLFi* : Trésor de la langue Française informatisé : <http://www.atilf.fr/tlfi>
 - Le dictionnaire *Petit Robert* : <https://dictionnaire.lerobert.com/>
 - Le Conjugueur Larousse* : <https://www.larousse.fr/conjugaison>
 - Le Conjugueur Bescherelle* : <https://bescherelle.com/le-conjugeur-bescherelle>

Course Schedule

Semaine 1 (10 janvier)

Présentation du cours;
La notion de « (post)moderne »

Semaine 2 (17 janvier)

Rimbaud : « il faut être absolument moderne »

Semaine 3 (24 janvier)

Baudelaire : « Le Peintre de la vie moderne »

Semaine 4 (31 janvier février)

Walter Benjamin : *Charles Baudelaire : un poète lyrique à l'apogée du capitalisme*

Semaine 5 (7 février)

Kant : « Qu'est-ce que les Lumières? »

Semaine 6 (14 février)

Foucault : « Qu'est-ce que les Lumières? »

Reading week (19 - 23 février)

Semaine 7 (28 février)

Chaillou : « l'extrême-contemporain »

Semaine 8 (6 mars)

Sarraute : *L'ère du soupçon*

Semaine 9 (13 mars)

Foucault : *Ceci n'est pas une pipe*

Semaine 10 (20 mars)

Liotard : le concept du postmoderne

Semaine 11 (27 mars)

Antoine Compagnon : *Les Cinq paradoxes de la modernité*

Semaine 12 (3 avril)

Bilan, discussion, exposés.

(Le travail final à soumettre avant le 8 avril)

Methods of Evaluation

Travaux écrits (4 x 10%)	40%
Discussions en classe	10%
Exposé oral en classe	20%
Travail final	30%

Note:

- 4 devoirs écrits à remettre à travers OWL, aux dates et heures indiquées.
- Un exposé oral de 10-15 minutes portera sur les textes au programme.
- Le travail final (dissertation d'environ 1000-1500 mots/4-5 pages à double interligne) à remettre à travers OWL **avant le 8 avril**.
- Pour les travaux : aucun retard ne sera accepté sans documentation officielle.

OWL

All course material will be posted to OWL: <http://owl.uwo.ca>. Students are responsible for checking the course OWL site on a regular basis for news and updates. This is the primary method by which information will be disseminated to all students in the class.

If students need assistance with the course OWL site, they can seek support on the OWL Help page. Alternatively, they can contact the Western Technology Services Helpdesk.

<https://wts.uwo.ca/helpdesk/>

Technical Requirements and Electronic Devices

This course requires you to have a reliable internet connection and a computer to connect to OWL and write assignments. However, no electronic device will be permitted on tests in class.

In this course, students are permitted to use AI tools exclusively for information gathering and preliminary research purposes. Students must however critically evaluate the obtained information, exercise independent thinking, and engage in original research to synthesize and develop their own ideas, arguments, and perspectives. The use of AI tools can serve as a starting point for exploration, however students are expected to uphold academic integrity by appropriately attributing all sources and avoiding plagiarism. Assignments should reflect the students own thoughts and independent written work. See also: ***Scholastic Offences***.

Professionalism and Privacy

Western students are expected to follow the [Student Code of Conduct](#). Additionally, the following expectations and professional conduct apply to this course:

Grammar checkers such as *Bon Patron* are permitted in this course, however online translation tools such as *Google Translate* are not permitted.

All course materials created for OWL by the instructor are copyrighted and cannot be sold/shared. The recording of classes is prohibited.

Course-specific policies / Student Absences

Late assignments (« travaux écrits ») will not be accepted.

Absences from in-class assessments (quiz 1 and 2) require formal academic considerations.

In the case of a missed in-class quiz with academic consideration: a make-up will be scheduled.

If you are unable to meet a course requirement due to illness or other serious circumstances, please follow the procedures below.

For work totaling 10% or more of the final course grade, you must provide valid medical or supporting documentation to the Academic Counselling Office of your Faculty of Registration as soon as possible. For further information, please consult the University's medical illness policy at

https://uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/academic_consideration.pdf

The Student Medical Certificate is available at

https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/medicalform.pdf.

Note: missed work can *only* be excused through one of the mechanisms above.

Religious Accommodation

When a course requirement conflicts with a religious holiday that requires an absence from the University or prohibits certain activities, students should request accommodation for their absence in writing at least two weeks prior to the holiday to the course instructor and/or the Academic Counselling office of their Faculty of Registration. Please consult University's list of recognized religious holidays (updated annually) at

<https://multiculturalcalendar.com/ecal/index.php?s=c-univwo>.

Accommodation Policies

Students with disabilities are encouraged to contact Accessible Education, which provides recommendations for accommodation based on medical documentation or psychological and cognitive testing. The policy on Academic Accommodation for Students with Disabilities can be found at:

[https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/Academic Accommodation disabilities.pdf](https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/Academic_Accommodation_disabilities.pdf).

Academic Policies

The website for Registrarial Services is <http://www.registrar.uwo.ca>.

In accordance with policy,

https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/policies_procedures/section1/mapp113.pdf,

the centrally administered e-mail account provided to students will be considered the individual's official university e-mail address. It is the responsibility of the account holder to ensure that e-mail received from the University at their official university address is attended to in a timely manner.

Scholastic offences

All assignments must be students' original work: plagiarism is strictly prohibited. Plagiarism includes, but is not limited to, the unauthorized use of AI tools such as ChatGPT to create content that is submitted as one's own. Students are permitted to use AI tools exclusively for information gathering and preliminary research purposes. These tools are intended to enhance the learning experience by

providing access to diverse information sources. However, it is essential that students critically evaluate the obtained information, exercise independent thinking, and engage in original research to synthesize and develop their own ideas, arguments, and perspectives. The use of AI tools can serve as a starting point for exploration, however students are expected to uphold academic integrity by appropriately attributing all sources and avoiding plagiarism. Assignments should reflect the students own thoughts and independent written work. By adhering to these guidelines, students contribute to a responsible and ethical learning environment that promotes critical thinking, independent inquiry and allows them to produce original written contributions.

Scholastic offences are taken seriously, and students are directed to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitutes a Scholastic Offence, at the following Web site:

http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/scholastic_discipline_undergrad.pdf.

Statement on the use of plagiarism-checking software

All required papers may be subject to submission for textual similarity review to the commercial plagiarism detection software under license to the University for the detection of plagiarism. All papers submitted for such checking will be included as source documents in the reference database for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of papers subsequently submitted to the system. Use of the service is subject to the licensing agreement, currently between The University of Western Ontario and Turnitin.com (<http://www.turnitin.com>).

Support Services

Academic Counselling

Your Home Faculty's Academic Counselling or Academic Advising Office will support or refer whenever you have an issue that is affecting your studies, including information on adding/dropping courses, academic considerations for absences, appeals, exam conflicts, and many other academic related matters. Do not hesitate to reach out to them if you are struggling and unsure where to go for help. Contact info for all Faculties is here:

https://registrar.uwo.ca/faculty_academic_counselling.html

Mental Health Support

Students who are in emotional/mental distress should refer to Mental Health@Western (<https://uwo.ca/health/>) for a complete list of options about how to obtain help.

Gender-based and sexual violence

Western University [is committed to reducing incidents of gender-based and sexual violence](#) and providing compassionate support to anyone who has gone through these traumatic events. If you have experienced gender-based or sexual violence (either recently or in the past), you will find information about support services for survivors, including emergency contacts, [here](#). To connect with a case manager or set up an appointment, please contact support@uwo.ca.

Accessible Education

Please contact the course instructor if you require lecture or printed material in an alternate format or if any other arrangements can make this course more accessible to you. You may also wish to contact Accessible Education at

http://academicsupport.uwo.ca/accessible_education/index.html

if you have any questions regarding accommodations.

Learning Development and Success

Counsellors at the Learning Development and Success Centre (<https://learning.uwo.ca>) are ready to help you improve your learning skills. They offer presentations on strategies for improving time management, multiple-choice exam preparation/writing, textbook reading, and more. Individual support is offered throughout the Fall/Winter terms in the drop-in Learning Help Centre, and year-round through individual counselling.

Digital Student Experience

Western University is committed to a thriving campus as we deliver our courses in the mixed model of both virtual and face-to-face formats. We encourage you to check out the Digital Student Experience website to manage your academics and well-being: <https://www.uwo.ca/se/digital/>.

USC

Additional student-run support services are offered by the USC, <https://westernusc.ca/services/>.