

CLC 1040 - Ideas and Apps that Changed the World

Fall - Winter 2016-2017 (1 credit course).

Instructor: Dr Cristina Caracchini

Classes: Mon. 12:30-2:30 (NCB 296)

Wed. 12:30-1:30 (NCB 296)

Office hours:TBA

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Course Content

How do ideas shape our world?

In this seminar course, you will boost your critical thinking skills by engaging with ground breaking ideas that have made our culture. You will discover their origins and interrogate their everyday applications to your world – from watching a movie, reading a book, or consulting Wikipedia, to casting a vote in an election.

Through literary and visual material, you will refine your comprehension of fundamental concepts that punctuate the cultural discourse inside and outside Academia. The analysis of the mutation and distribution in space and time of terms such as *paradox*, *platonian love*, *ideology*, *the unconscious*, *canon*, *gender*, *myth*, *avant-garde*, *social media*, *simulacra*, *postmodernity*, *ensorship*, and *utopia* will lead you to reconfigure your understanding of the modern world and of the mechanisms that affect its transformation.

This is an intercultural and interdisciplinary journey through literature, philosophy, sociology, and the visual arts in which you will be encouraged to challenge the common assumptions that silently steer our lives.

A detailed calendar will be available the first day of class.

'Ideas and Apps' is an **interactive seminar with limited enrolment**,

Mark breakdown

- three written assignments 15%
- two oral presentations 20%
- mid-year test 20%
- final exam 30%
- attendance and participation 15%

Required Texts

A **custom reader** for the course will be available at the Campus Bookstore.

Sutherland, John. *How literature works: 50 key concepts*. Oxford, 2011.

Dupré, Ben. *50 Big Ideas You Really Need to Know*. NY: Quercus, 2013. Kindle edition.

Schnitzler, Arthur. *Dream Story*.

Voltaire, *Candide*.



You will also be required to watch the following **films**:

- The Name of the Rose
- Cyrano de Bergerac
- The Matrix
- Right You Are (If You Think You Are)

Learning Outcomes:

On successful completion of this course, students are expected to:

- be able to identify and describe some of the great ideas that are at the basis of our contemporary world and thought.
- recognize the applications of innovative ideas in the artistic, political, religious and social spheres, through time;
- demonstrate improvement of their critical skills in discussing topics and analyzing literary texts;
- express themselves on these and other related topics, both orally and in writing;
- have acquired an intellectually solid foundation for further study of cultures across the world through the fulfilment of a first-year requirement.

Active Participation

In a seminar course your attendance and active participation are paramount.

You are expected to complete the assigned readings before coming to class in order to contribute your ideas to the common discussion and profitably take part in group work.

Should you not be able to attend class for a legitimate reason, please get in touch with your TA ahead of time.

Group Presentations (2):

You will take part in one oral presentation per term, either in class or through the Voice Thread tool on OWL. You will be graded according to your own performance (for example your ability to research and explain clearly a specific topic to the class) as well as for your contribution to the effectiveness of the group performance

Written Assignments (3)

You will be asked to write 1 or 2 pages regarding a topic that relates to and /or complements the ones discussed in class. The topic will be assigned ahead of time. These assignments aim to develop your writing skills.

Mid-year test and Final exam

Both the mid-year test and the final exam include questions that are posted on Owl on a weekly basis throughout the entire academic year by your TA. These questions are intended to help you evaluate your understanding of each lecture as the course progresses and your knowledge of the topics increases. You are warmly invited to check them systematically and ask for any clarification you may need. They vary in length and require both short and long answers.

The **Department of Modern Languages and Literatures Policies** which govern the conduct, standards, and expectations for student participation in Modern Languages and Literatures courses is available in the Undergraduate section of the Department of Modern Languages and Literatures website at

<http://www.uwo.ca/modlang/undergraduate/policies.html>

It is your responsibility to understand the policies set out by the Senate and the Department of Modern Languages and Literatures, and thus ignorance of these policies cannot be used as grounds of appeal.