
TOPICS: SERIALISATION in Spring 2021 (CL2091A)

Course Code	CL2091A	Professor(s)	Russell Williams
Prerequisites	None	Office Number	G108
Class Schedule	M: 13:45-15:05 in PL-4 R: 09:00-10:20 in PL-4	Office Hours	Monday-Thursday, 10h30-11h30, or by appointment Tuesdays & Thursdays (12h00-13h00), or by appointment
Credits	4	Email	rwilliams@aup.edu
Semester	Spring 2021	Office Tel. Ext.	666

Course Description

This course explores serialization, a dominant phenomenon in contemporary literary production. From Harry Potter to Elena Ferrante, from Fifty Shades to Karl Ove Knausgaard, writers and publishers are increasingly thinking in terms of multi-volume projects where readers follow characters and intrigues from one book to the next. A similar trend can be observed in contemporary television where viewers devour their favorite series in a manner dismissively described as 'binge watching'. This state of affairs is not, however, unprecedented and has its roots in the nineteenth century as writers such as Dickens, Balzac and Eugène Sue created the *roman-feuilleton*, or serial novel, initially published in newspapers. Both the literary and the streaming/television series are concerned with the commodification and structuring of time through contemporary technology in revealing ways. In this course, we will examine the logic of serialization and what happens to readers, reading, writing and storytelling when that logic is at work. We will consider concepts such as immersion, tension, realism, narrative time & space, social consciousness, adaptation and fandom as well as their associated theories. We will read examples from the nineteenth century and the present day, and watch and think critically about examples drawn from contemporary TV series.

This semester, these series will include David Simon's *The Wire*, David Lynch's *Twin Peaks* and Bruce Miller's adaptation of Margaret Atwood's novel *The Handmaid's Tale*. Will also explore think about place and how contemporary Paris is portrayed in the French language police series *Engrenages*. Uppermost in our minds throughout the semester will be the question of how the shape of a narrative changes the way we experience it.

NOTE: LO1 and LO5 are explicitly and deliberately aligned with the Comparative Literature

Major LOs 1 and 2.

Course Learning Outcomes

General Education

GENERAL EDUCATION: This course does not form part of the AUP GLACC requirements.

Course Outline

DRAFT COURSE OUTLINE [to be revised after class discussion. It will be revised and reviewed on an ongoing basis throughout the semester]:

Week Commencing	Monday Class	Thursday Class
18/1	Introductions How to watch TV	The logic(s) of serialization
25/1	Sue	Sue
1/2	Lupin	<i>Madame Bovary</i>
8/2	No class	<i>The Wire</i> Term paper proposal due
15/2	<i>The Wire</i>	<i>The Wire</i>

22/2	<i>The Sopranos</i>	No class
1/3	Knausgaard First at-home essay due	Knausgaard
8/3	Ferrante	Ferrante
15/3	<i>The Handmaid's Tale</i> (TV) Adaptation	<i>The Handmaid's Tale</i> (TV) Adaptation
22/3	<i>The Handmaid's Tale</i> (TV) Adaptation	<i>The Handmaid's Tale</i> (TV) Adaptation
29/3	<i>The Handmaid's Tale</i> (TV) Adaptation	<i>Twin Peaks</i> (and writing)
5/4	No class	<i>Twin Peaks</i>
12/4	The politics of Netflix Second at-home essay due	Attention and distraction
19/4	Smith	Smith
26/4	Final project due (Class presentations will take place in the exam period) Semester recap	No class

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Textbooks

This course doesn't have any textbook.

Attendance Policy

Students studying at The American University of Paris are expected to attend ALL scheduled classes, and in case of absence, should contact their professors to explain the situation. It is the student's responsibility to be aware of any specific attendance policy that a faculty member might have set in the course syllabus. The French Department, for example, has its own attendance policy, and students are responsible for compliance. Academic Affairs will excuse an absence for students' participation in study trips related to their courses.

Attendance at all exams is mandatory.

IN ALL CASES OF MISSED COURSE MEETINGS, THE RESPONSIBILITY FOR COMMUNICATION WITH THE PROFESSOR, AND FOR ARRANGING TO MAKE UP MISSED WORK, RESTS SOLELY WITH THE STUDENT.

Whether an absence is excused or not is ALWAYS up to the discretion of the professor or the department. Unexcused absences can result in a low or failing participation grade. In the case of excessive absences, it is up to the professor or the department to decide if the student will receive an "F" for the course. An instructor may recommend that a student withdraw, if absences have made it impossible to continue in the course at a satisfactory level.

Students must be mindful of this policy when making their travel arrangements, and especially during the Drop/Add and Exam Periods.

Grading Policy

GRADING/ASSESSMENT:

In addition to short, low stakes (total 10% of final grade) written response activities throughout the semester, students will write two medium-length (around 1,500 word) essays in the course of the semester (total 40%). Students will be allowed one rewrite of these assignments, following feedback from their professor). These activities will be designed to evaluate course LOs 1, 2, 3 and 5.

For the longer (2,500 – 3,000 word) end of term paper, and in close consultation with their Professor, students will be invited to watch/read a complete season of a (short) book or television series and think critically about that season/series in its entirety with reference to ideas/concepts introduced in class, backed up by independent research. This assignment will be started early in the semester (there will be at least two moments for feedback from peers and professor) will likely take the form of a structured essay, although a digital project – which makes use of text and video extracts, hosted on a blog or website or a podcast – would be possible after consultation with Prof. Williams. This individual project will be presented orally in the exam period (10%), and submitted in final, written form, at the end of semester (40%). The project is intended to evaluate LOs 1, 2, 4, 5.

In-class laptops and mobile phone use policy

The use of mobile phones is not permitted in class, except when special permission is granted. I don't want to see them on your desks or on your laps or be distracted by buzzing or beeping. If students repeatedly use mobile phones, or class is disrupted because of them, their final grade will be reduced by one letter. All phones should be switched off and in bags or pockets. I'm not a fan of using laptops in class, particularly for reading, and I'd prefer you to refrain. Please discuss with your professor if you need to use a laptop. That said, there are likely to be moments this semester when laptop use will be encouraged.

Other

ATTENDANCE POLICY:

Attendance is mandatory. If you know you must miss a class, please send me a note at rwilliams@aup.edu

Lateness to class constitutes absence. Entry will be refused to a student who is persistently late. minutes after the start of class. For online and offline classes presence involves participation and

AUP Attendance Policy

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Given the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic, we will be starting the semester online and courses will be delivered on a digital platform. We plan to return onsite to in-class teaching from February 11th. While we recognize that you will be attending classes remotely (see below), your professor feels that the discussion-based nature of this course is best suited fully to physical presence in class and I would wholeheartedly encourage you to be on campus.

The professors will be pleased to discuss any questions about these rules during the first weeks of the semester. We will be keen to discuss any accommodations that might be made for learning differences – again, these discussions will happen during the first two weeks of the semester. Any private agreement modifying any of the above rules must be obtained in writing.

Covid-19 temporary amendments:

Students studying at The American University of Paris are **STILL EXPECTED TO ATTEND ALL** scheduled classes. Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, students will have the option of attending classes remotely when special circumstances arise, such as when students are placed under quarantine by the French authorities or by their doctor, or when students are diagnosed with Covid-19 and are directed, by their doctor or the AUP Health Office, to remain home. It is still the student's responsibility to be aware of any specific attendance policy that their professor might have set in the course syllabus. In particular, students attending remotely from distant Time Zones should check with their professors about the specific attendance expectations for all learners.

Attendance at all exams is mandatory.

IN ALL CASES OF MISSED COURSE MEETINGS, THE RESPONSIBILITY FOR COMMUNICATION WITH THE PROFESSOR, AND FOR ARRANGING TO MAKE UP MISSED WORK, RESTS SOLELY WITH THE STUDENT.

Whether an absence is excused or not is **ALWAYS** up to the discretion of the professor or the department. Excessive absences can result in a low or failing participation grade. In the case of excessive absences, it is up to the department to decide if the student will receive an "F" for the course. An instructor may recommend that a student's absences have made it impossible to continue in the course at a satisfactory level.

Students must be mindful of this policy when making their travel arrangements, and *especially during the exam periods*.

ENGLISH LANGUAGE PROFICIENCY STATEMENT: As an Anglophone university, The American University of Paris is strongly committed to effective English language mastery at the undergraduate level. Most courses require reading and formal written and oral presentations in English, and AUP students are expected to strive to achieve proficiency in these domains as part of their course work. To that end, professors include English proficiency among the criteria for course evaluation, often referring students to the university Writing Lab where they may obtain help on specific assignments.

assignments. Proficiency in English is monitored at various points throughout the student's academic career during the admissions and advising processes, while the student is completing general education requirements, accomplishment of degree program courses and senior theses.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES:

Remember that AUP's Academic Resource Centre (ARC) and Writing Lab can assist you in your writing. The Writing Lab's online site is the place to go for information on writing research papers, using and citing sources, creating bibliographies in MLA format, etc. You can also make an appointment to get help with your writing from a Writing Lab tutor. The AUP librarians will also be happy to help you in your research.

Visit the Library online at: <http://library.aup.fr/>. It is located in the Quai building.