University of Guelph

Études françaises, School of Languages and Literatures

Winter 2022

**FREN\*3160: Songs, Lyrics and Poetry in French (0.5 cr)**

**Instructor:** Dr. Stéphanie Nutting

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Please note that I check email once daily usually around midday. As a rule, I do not respond to email correspondence on weekends.

**Course schedule:**

Tuesdays 10:00 -11:20 (virtual, synchronous, via Zoom)

Thursdays 10:00 - 11:20 (in class, MacKinnon Building room 315)

**Description**:

This course will provide students with the opportunity to explore the cultural richness of song lyrics and slam poetry in the Francophone world. By engaging with a variety of musical genres including, but not limited to ballads (*chansons à auteur*), political songs (*chansons engagées*), reggae, hip-hop, and World music, students will explore the linguistic and lyrical richness of this diverse topic. In this course, students will:

* Examine and describe how the biographical stories and personas of musicians influence the ways in which their songs are interpreted and received
* Take apart songs (or slam poetry) in order to appreciate and identify main features of their poetic form.
* Create a spoken word piece. Students will be guided through the writing process by a professional poet from Québec, Marc Sauvageau, who will give one public performance. Following the performance, he will facilitate series of three, scaffolded workshops culminating in a slam competition with video/audio performances.
* Share their creations. All students will share their spoken word poetry with the rest of the class. The top four competitors will be invited to send their submissions to CRFU, the University of Guelph campus radio station, and will be asked to share their videos via the School's social media platforms.

**Format:**

As a “flipped” course, the format is comprised of three parts: a) virtual, synchronous class meetings via Zoom on Tuesdays to prepare you for the week; b) in-class meetings every Thursday c) regular submission dates on Fridays. New course material is covered on both Tuesdays and Thursdays.

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| **Tuesdays:**  10:00-11:00 Tune in via Zoom for virtual class meetings followed by optional virtual office hours (20 minutes). These meetings will not be recorded, with the exception of guest appearances. Please refer to the detailed syllabus (*échéancier*) for dates. | **Thursdays:**  10:00-11:20 Class meetings on campus. (Postponed until further notice) In the interim, 30-minute Zoom sessions will replace these meetings. These meetings will not be recorded. | **Fridays:**  Regular due date for all short, interactive assignments as well as for all major term assignments |

**Learning outcomes:**

By the end of this course, successful students will be able to:

* Explain and give examples of the interplay between biography and how songs are received.
* Analyze and compare poetic forms (songs or slam) using critical vocabulary in French.
* Draw connections between songs (or slam poetry) and their historical or socio-political contexts.
* Create slam poetry and offer a well-crafted reflection statement on the process.
* Write and speak in French with very few errors in verbal forms whilst avoiding English sentence structures or expressions.
* Use the We Video software independently for the purposes of recording voice, video and music

**Prerequisites:** FREN\*2020, FREN\*2060, FREN\*2520 or permission

**Course Materials:**

**Top Hat**

We will be using **Top Hat Pro** ([www.tophat.com](http://www.tophat.com/)) for class participation. You will be able to submit answers to in-class questions using Apple or Android smartphones and tablets, laptops, or through text message. For instructions on how to create a Top Hat account and enrol in our Top Hat Pro course, please refer to the invitation sent to your school email address or consult Top Hat's Getting Started Guide (<https://bit.ly/31TGMlw>). Course access will begin in January.  
  
If you already have a Top Hat account, go to <https://app.tophat.com/e/409424> to be taken directly to our course. If you are new to Top Hat, follow the link in the email invitation you received or...

* • Go to <https://app.tophat.com/register/student>
* • Click "Search by school" and input the name of our school
* • Search for our course with the following join code: **409424**

If a paid subscription is required, it will be listed at checkout when you enrol in our Top Hat Pro course.Should you require assistance with Top Hat at any time please contact their Support Team directly by way of email ([support@tophat.com](mailto:support@tophat.com)), the in-app support button, or by calling 1-888-663-5491. Specific user information may be required by their technical support team when troubleshooting issues.

**Coursebook of songs:** This is your reference book for the course, prepared by the instructor and available free for download on Top Hat. Please make a bound course book and bring it to bring to every virtual and in-person class.

**Digital sound files:** Students are encouraged to create their own course playlist from the Coursebook of songs. For those who do not have a music subscription service (ie. Apple music), most of the songs are also accessible via You Tube.

**Courselink website:** [www.courselink.uoguelph.ca](http://www.courselink.uoguelph.ca)

Top Hat is the official outlet for announcements and peer communication. The readings, listening exercises, weekly assignments and participation will be managed through Top Hat. However, the three major semester assignments (essay, podcast, and slam reflection statement must be submitted to the dropbox folder in Courselink).

**Method of evaluation:**

Please note that the **podcast and the slam project will be shared publicly with the class**. Kindly reach out to the Professor should you wish to discuss this. Software may be used to scan work to detect intellectual property issues.

Written Essay: choice of

1) a comparison of song/slam texts or

2) a biographical film topic 20%

Weekly assignments and participation 20%

Podcast (audio only, in pairs) 30%

1. script and abstract 10%
2. design and production 20%

Spoken word (slam) project (video only, independently) 30%

1. Mind-map and final submission of poem in video form 10%
2. Summary and reflection statement

20%

There is no final examination.

**Late policy**

For all major assignments ‒ written essay, video/podcast essat or slam submission and reflection statement‒, students are urged to make every effort to submit on the day of the deadline. If you are ill or need accommodation for compassionate reasons, a grace period of up to seven days will be granted. **Students need only send an email to the professor \*before\* the deadline.** **After the seven-day grace period, a penalty of 2% a day will be applied.**

**For minor weekly assignments and participation,** **it is not possible to submit late**, for reasons of flow and class management; however, **the two lowest grades will be dropped** at the end of semester. This is to allow for minor illness and other minor, unforeseen problems. Please do not request accommodation for these unless you have a major life event that requires a more in-depth discussion with the professor. (see “When you Cannot meet a course requirement” below)

**Online code of conduct**

The code of conduct for this class can be summed up in three words: respect, integrity, and kindness. Please remember that everyone is under a great deal of stress, much more than usual. Try to be kind, always.

Here are some examples of breaches of integrity and respect which will not be tolerated:

• Posting inflammatory messages about your instructor or fellow students

• Using offensive language online

• Copying or presenting someone else's work as your own

• Adapting information from the Internet without using proper citations or references

• Buying or selling term papers or assignments

• Posting or selling course materials to course notes websites

• Stating false claims about lost assignment submissions

• Threatening or harassing a student or instructor online

• Discriminating against fellow students, instructors and/or TAs

• Using the course website to promote profit-driven products or services

• Sharing your username and password

• Recording lectures without the permission of the instructor

**University Statements**

**Email Communication**

As per university regulations, all students are required to check their <uoguelph.ca> e-mail account regularly: e-mail is the official route of communication between the University and its students.

**When You Cannot Meet a Course Requirement**

When you find yourself unable to meet an in-course requirement because of illness or compassionate reasons, please advise the course instructor (or designated person, such as a teaching assistant) in writing, with your name, id#, and e-mail contact. See the Undergraduate Calendar for information on regulations and procedures for [Academic Consideration](https://calendar.uoguelph.ca/undergraduate-calendar/undergraduate-degree-regulations-procedures/academic-consideration-appeals-petitions/).

**Drop Date**

Courses that are one semester long must be dropped by the end of the last day of classes; two-semester courses must be dropped by the last day of classes in the second semester. The regulations and procedures for [Dropping Courses](https://calendar.uoguelph.ca/undergraduate-calendar/undergraduate-degree-regulations-procedures/dropping-courses/) are available in the Undergraduate Calendar.

**Copies of Out-Of-Class Assignments**

Keep paper and/or other reliable back-up copies of all out-of-class assignments: you may be asked to resubmit work at any time.

**Accessibility**

The University promotes the full participation of students who experience disabilities in their academic programs.  To that end, the provision of academic accommodation is a shared responsibility between the University and the student.

When accommodations are needed, the student is required to first register with Student Accessibility Services (SAS).  Documentation to substantiate the existence of a disability is required, however, interim accommodations may be possible while that process is underway.

Accommodations are available for both permanent and temporary disabilities. It should be noted that common illnesses such as a cold or the flu do not constitute a disability.

Use of the SAS Exam Centre requires students to make a booking at least 14 days in advance, and no later than November 1 (fall), March 1 (winter) or July 1 (summer). Similarly, new or changed accommodations for online quizzes, tests and exams must be approved at least a week ahead of time. More information: [www.uoguelph.ca/sas](http://www.uoguelph.ca/sas)

**Academic Misconduct**

The University of Guelph is committed to upholding the highest standards of academic integrity and it is the responsibility of all members of the University community – faculty, staff, and students – to be aware of what constitutes academic misconduct and to do as much as possible to prevent academic offences from occurring.  University of Guelph students have the responsibility of abiding by the University's policy on academic misconduct regardless of their location of study; faculty, staff and students have the responsibility of supporting an environment that discourages misconduct.  Students need to remain aware that instructors have access to and the right to use electronic and other means of detection.

Please note: Whether or not a student intended to commit academic misconduct is not relevant for a finding of guilt. Hurried or careless submission of assignments does not excuse students from responsibility for verifying the academic integrity of their work before submitting it. Students who are in any doubt as to whether an action on their part could be construed as an academic offence should consult with a faculty member or faculty advisor.

The [Academic Misconduct Policy](https://calendar.uoguelph.ca/undergraduate-calendar/undergraduate-degree-regulations-procedures/academic-misconduct/) is outlined in the Undergraduate Calendar.

**Recording of Materials**

Presentations which are made in relation to course work—including lectures—cannot be recorded or copied without the permission of the presenter, whether the instructor, a classmate or guest lecturer. Material recorded with permission is restricted to use for that course unless further permission is granted.

**Resources**

The [Academic Calendars](http://www.uoguelph.ca/registrar/calendars/index.cfm?index) are the source of information about the University of Guelph’s procedures, policies and regulations which apply to undergraduate, graduate and diploma programs.

**Disclaimer**

Please note that the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic may necessitate a revision of the format of course offerings, changes in classroom protocols, and academic schedules. Any such changes will be announced via Courselink and/or class email.

This includes on-campus scheduling during the semester, mid-terms and final examination schedules. All University-wide decisions will be posted on the COVID-19 website (<https://news.uoguelph.ca/2019-novel-coronavirus-information/>) and circulated by email.

**Illness**

Medical notes will not normally be required for singular instances of academic consideration, although students may be required to provide supporting documentation for multiple missed assessments or when involving a large part of a course (e.g., final exam or major assignment).

**COVID-19 Safety Protocols**

For information on current safety protocols, follow these links:

* <https://news.uoguelph.ca/return-to-campuses/how-u-of-g-is-preparing-for-your-safe-return/>
* <https://news.uoguelph.ca/return-to-campuses/spaces/#ClassroomSpaces>

Please note, that these guidelines may be updated as required in response to evolving University, Public Health or government directives.

Version, January 6, 2022