UNIVERSITY OF GUELPH

ÉTUDES FRANÇAISES/SCHOOL OF LANGUAGES AND LITERATURES

Winter 2022

**FREN\*6021 Topics in Québec and French-Canadian Literature (0.5cr)**

**“Gossip and Rumour in Contemporary Québécois and Franco-Canadian Drama”**

**Instructor**: Prof. Stéphanie Nutting

**Email**: snutting@uoguelph.ca

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

**Office hours**: by appointment

**In-Person Class meetings** : Mondays 2:30-5:20pm with a 20-minute break. Crop Science Building (CRSC) Room 101

Update: Courses will be held over Zoom until in-class teaching resumes.

**Description:**

This course explores the uses of gossip and rumour in contemporary Québécois and Franco-Canadian drama. By tackling this topic from different theoretical vantage points, students will explore the ways in which these seemingly trivial dramatic devices open up much deeper conceptual questions tied to ethics, identity, affect (including “frisson” and shame), and technology. Subtopics include : storytelling and clan-building; chorus and affect; medias and celebrity gossip; crisis and contagion.

Moreover, these conceptual questions will be accompanied by observations and comparisons of on-going transformations occurring in Québec and Franco-Ontarian cultures. How does rumour serve as a barometer of social mores and change? How does gossip serve as a subversive element both in families and in societies at large?

Students will give oral presentations and lead discussions on assigned topics. More details to follow.

**Learning Outcomes:**

Students will:

* Recognize and describe aspects of Québécois and Franco-Canadian social history through the study of theatre texts and secondary literature
* Understand the basic concepts of pragmatic linguistic theory by comparing everyday language in the real world and conversational language in dramatic texts
* Apply gossip and rumour theory to dramatic texts
* Develop original, complex, arguments pertaining to one or more of the subtopics laid out in the description
* Reflect on a topic or experience from the semester (topics TBA)

**Primary Texts (required):**

Beauchemin, Esther. *Quand la mer...* Sudbury: Prise de parole, 2013.

Corbeil, Guillaume. *Nous voir nous (Cinq visages pour Camille Brunelle).* Montréal: Leméac, 2013.\*

Dalpé, Jean Marc. *Il n'y a que l'amour.* Sudbury: Prise de parole, 1999.

Fréchette, Carole. *Small talk*. Montréal et Arles: Leméac et Actes Sud, 2014.

Ouellette, Michel. *Le testament du couturier.* Sudbury : Prise de parole, 2008.

Tremblay, Michel. *Les belles-soeurs.* Montréal: Leméac, 1972.

**(Theory) (required):**

Pruner, Michel. *L’analyse du texte de théâtre*. Second edition. Paris: Armand Colin, 2008.

There will also be assigned readings from various, other, critical texts.

**Evaluation:**

Oral presentation 25%

Mid-term paper (10-12 pages, double-spaced) 25%

Reflection piece (5 pages) 10%

Final paper (15-18 pages, double-spaced) 40%

Please refer to the detailed course syllabus for deadlines and lecture topics.

The oral presentations will pertain to assigned readings. Each presenter will be assigned a respondent from the class who will discuss the ideas outlined by the presenter and ask questions. Student participation is requested and expected.

The mid-term paper and the final paper may not be on the same topic or on the same plays.

\*Trigger warning: this play contains offensive language, sexual violence and references to suicide. Please do not hesitate to contact the professor ahead of the start date if you have concerns about this subject matter.

**Late policy**

For all major assignments, 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.**

**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 finale, le 6 janvier 2022