

HUMS 2090B: Studies in French Culture
American Remakes of French Films: A Cultural Analysis

Instructor: Brenda Dyer
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Course time: Monday-Thursday 3:00-5:00pm except for excursion days (see calendar below)
Office hours: By appointment

Course Description: Since the 1930's Hollywood has remade more than 60 French films, adapting their stories to appeal to an American audience. Some of these films have remained quite faithful to the originals, whereas others have made significant changes, usually of a cultural nature. In this class we will watch and analyze several pairs of these films, using them as "cultural texts" to help us better understand the similarities and differences between French and American culture. Students will also read articles and texts to aid in their cross-cultural analyses. Class discussions will include our notions of history, family, friendship, religion, government and other cultural values.

Student Learning Outcomes: Students who come to class prepared every day and who actively participate can expect to:

- learn how to do cross-cultural analysis;
- acquire knowledge of French culture in a variety of areas such as history, family, friendship, etc;
- sharpen their critical thinking skills;
- develop their skills in oral discussions.

Required Text: Please purchase this book before you leave the US. You may choose either the paperback or electronic version.

Carroll, Raymonde. *Cultural Misunderstandings: The French-American Experience*. (Translated by Carol Volk.) Chicago: The University of Chicago Press, 1990.
ISBN-13: 978-0226094984
ISBN-10: 0226094987

Other Texts: We will also be reading excerpts from the books below. You will be able to access these texts in electronic format. For class discussions, you will need to bring copies of the texts we will be discussing to class. You may choose to print them or download them to an eReader, tablet or laptop.

Asselin, Gilles and Ruth Mastron. *Au Contraire: Figuring Out the French, 2nd edition*. Boston: Intercultural Press, 2010.

Barlow, Julie and Jean-Benoit Nadeau. *Sixty Million Frenchmen Can't Be Wrong: Why We Love France but Not the French*. Naperville, Illinois: Sourcebooks, Inc., 2003.

Barlow, Julie and Jean-Benoit Nadeau. *The Bonjour Effect: The Secret Codes of French Conversation Revealed*. New York: St Martin's Press, 2016.

Platt, Polly. *French or Foe?: Getting the Most Out of Visiting, Living and Working in France*. Skokie, Illinois: Distribooks, Inc, 2003.

Films: We will be analyzing three pairs of films, which we will watch together in class.

Coline Serreau, *Trois hommes et un couffin* (1985)

Leonard Nimoy, *Three Men and a Baby* (1987)

Jean-Loup Hubert, *Le Grand Chemin* (1987)

Mary Agnes Donoghue, *Paradise* (1991)

Daniel Vigne, *Le Retour de Martin Guerre* (1982)

Jon Amiel, *Sommersby* (1993)

Class participation: In order to participate fully in class and to fulfill your obligation to others during group activities, attendance is mandatory and you will receive a participation grade for each class day. This grade will reflect both the quantity and quality of your participation. As we will be reading many texts this term, I will expect you to all come to class prepared and ready to discuss what you have read. I also expect you to be paying attention to the films, and taking notes, as we watch them in class.

Attendance policy: Attendance is mandatory at all class meetings. Students are allowed to miss **no more than ONE class** during the term, with a legitimate excuse. For each unexcused absence, the student's final grade will be lowered by one letter grade.

Written homework: Homework will be assigned for each class period and will take a variety of forms. I will give you weekly homework sheets detailing the assignments. To provide you with appropriate background knowledge you will be reading texts and responding to them in writing. You may be asked to answer specific questions or to write a short **reaction paper** (1-2 pages). You will write a reaction to each film we view together in class, so be sure to pay attention and take notes. You will also be asked to keep a journal reflecting on your own cultural experiences in Montpellier that relate to the subjects we discuss in class.

Final exam: On the last day of class, you will be given a final exam based on the films, readings and class discussions. The exam format will include short answer identification questions and longer essay questions in which you discuss how cultural notions are treated differently in the French films and their American remakes.

Grade Breakdown:

Class participation:	30%
Written homework:	45%
Final exam:	25%

Grading Scale:

A: 90-100 B: 80-89 C: 70-79 D: 60-69 F: 59 or below

Academic Integrity: Academic integrity is fundamental to the process of learning and evaluating academic performance. Academic dishonesty will not be tolerated. Academic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to, the following: cheating, plagiarism, tampering with academic records and

examinations, falsifying identity, and being an accessory to acts of academic dishonesty. Refer to the UNO Judicial Code for further information.

The Code is available in your student handbook or online at <http://www.uno.edu/student-affairs/documents/Student-Code-of-Conduct-rev-2018.pdf> /. Academic dishonesty may be penalized, through due process, by failure of an assignment and possibly the course.

Accommodations for Students with Disabilities: Students who qualify for services will receive the academic modifications for which they are legally entitled. It is the responsibility of the student to register with the Office of Disability Services each semester and follow their procedure for obtaining assistance.

Statement of Classroom Conduct: This course maintains an honest and courteous atmosphere of learning, production and communication. No form of harassment (verbal, sexual, or physical) will be allowed.

1. Be in class on time. Please do not come five, ten or twenty minutes late. Distracting interruptions are inconsiderate, disrespectful, and time-wasting. There is no excuse for repeatedly arriving late.
2. Cell phones should be turned off and stored before class begins.
3. Feel free to ask questions of the instructor during class. But please do not ask other students, as talking disturbs my concentration and the concentration of other class members.
4. Students are expected to treat faculty and fellow students with respect. Any actions that purposefully and maliciously distract the class from the work at hand will not be tolerated.
5. Civility in the classroom and respect for the opinions of others is very important in an academic environment. It is likely you may not agree with everything that is said or discussed in the classroom. Courteous behavior and responses are expected.

Course Calendar: This course calendar will serve as a general outline of the material we will cover during this term. Topics are *subject to change* depending on the interest and abilities of the class, and readings beside our primary text will also be assigned. It is your responsibility to make sure you read the weekly homework sheet and turn in all assignments on time.

Week 1: Culture and Remakes: analyzing cultural differences, remakes, and getting information.

Week 2: Three Men and a Cradle/Three Men and a Baby: friendship, family, and male and female roles in society.

Week 3: The Grand Highway/Paradise: family, parent-child relationships, conversations and couples.

Week 4: The Return of Martin Guerre/Sommersby: history, identity, religion legality and authority.

Week 5: Course Conclusion: final oral presentations.

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY
	<u>July 2:</u> 2:30-3:00 pm Course and syllabus overview	<u>July 3:</u> 3-5pm Analyzing Cultural Differences & Remakes Carroll: Preface & Introduction	<u>July 4:</u> 3-5pm Film: <i>3 hommes et un couffin</i> Carroll: Obtaining Information
<u>July 8:</u> 3-5pm Carroll: Friendship	<u>July 9:</u> 3-5pm Film: <i>3 Men and a Baby</i>		<u>July 11:</u> 10:05-12:05 Carroll: Parents & Children
<u>July 15:</u> 3-5pm Film: Le Grand chemin		<u>July 17:</u> 8-10am Carroll: The Couple	
<u>July 22:</u> 3-5pm Film: Paradise		<u>July 24:</u> 8-10am Carroll: Conversation	<u>July 25:</u> 10:05-12:05 Film: Le Retour de Martin Guerre
<u>July 29:</u> 3-5pm Film: Sommersby	<u>July 30:</u> 3-5pm Carroll: Conclusion	<u>July 31:</u> 3-5pm Final Exam	