

Dangerous Liasons beamed to you for credit

BY MATTHEW KAYAHARA

OTTAWA (CUP) — A modern literature course to be offered at the University of Ottawa may forever change how students look at classrooms.

The new course will be taught for the first time during the Winter

1999 semester. Through a teleconferencing format, students will be lectured by a U of O professor as well as one from Pennsylvania State University and one from Florida State University.

Franco Ricci, the U of O professor who will be co-teaching the course, says students will hardly

notice they're in a classroom with peers from three different universities.

"It's just like being there," he said. "The only problem is the students in Florida will be wearing shorts and have tans, and we'll be in parkas."

The three professors came up with the idea for the course while at a conference at Penn State after discovering their shared interest in the influence of art on writing and in the experimental class format.

Ricci says the multimedia format is particularly appropriate for the course since it will analyze the influence of painting on three modern writers: Italo Calvino, Cervantes and Laclos, who penned the book *Dangerous Liaisons* which was adapted to film.

Each of these writers is a specialty of one of the professors, which Ricci says is the point of the course.

"We want to give students access to specialties off campus," he said.

Ricci's specialty in Calvino will be complemented by Penn

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State's Frederick de Armas, who will teach the segment on Cervantes and William Cloonan, who will teach the Laclos component from Florida State.

The courses at Penn State and Florida State are already at their 15-student capacity.

Students at each university will be evaluated by their own professor through a series of papers and presentations, although contact between all involved will be

encouraged through e-mail and a Web page devoted to the course.

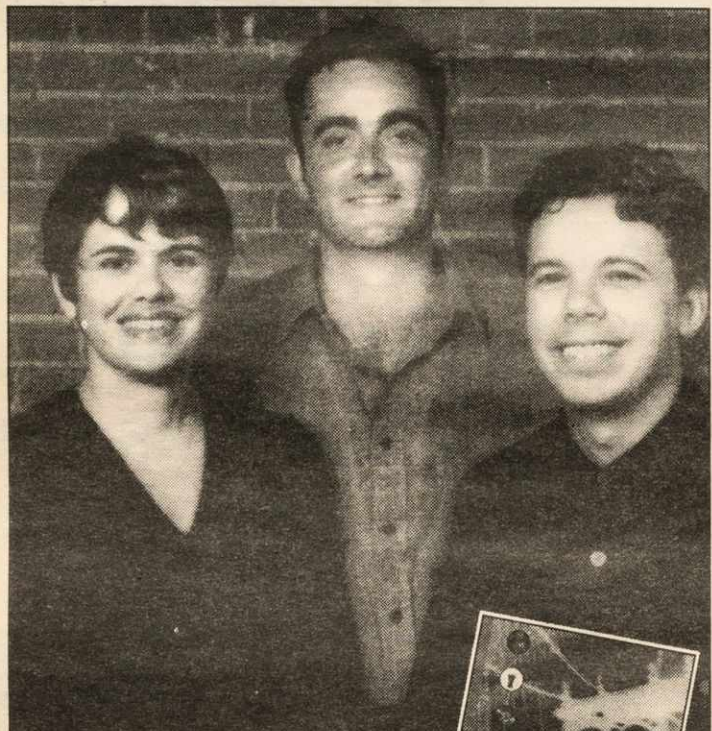
While some critics of teleconference courses worry they're a death knoll to universities, Ricci says the ability to teach courses via satellite is unlikely eliminate the need for classrooms.

"There's a lot to be said for [teaching everything via this medium], but then there's a lot to be said for the quality of those courses," he said.

"You need to have a few bells and whistles. Who would want to see nothing but us lecturing?"

He adds, though, that he hopes to see the course become a mainstay of university content and even hopes to expand it to universities in Europe.

"We are looking forward to having a course like this every year," he said. "It's exciting. We're creating a virtual classroom on three campuses. We just want to see where it will go."



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Nexus: decoding a generation

WE ARE SURROUNDED by more than 7 million Nexus Generation Canadians (those born between the early 1960's and late 1970's). Often characterized as Generation X — lost, confused, apathetic — the Nexus Generation is, in fact, realistic, confident, and optimistic.

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- What are the key triggers that will inspire Nexus to exercise its rights and duties as citizens?

Robert Barnard, Dave Cosgrave, and Jennifer Welsh work for d-Code, a firm that helps organizations connect with the Nexus Generation as employees, citizens and consumers. Through their presentations, they offer research, insights and business solutions in areas such as employee attraction and retention, consumer loyalty, and citizen engagement.

Women's stress triggers eating

BY NYRANNE MARTIN

VANCOUVER (CUP) — No student is a stranger to stress. But for female students in particular, stress can manifest itself in unhealthy behaviour such as disordered eating.

According to Kathryn Pedersen, a counsellor at the University of British Columbia's Women Students' Office, disordered eating can be a coping mechanism to deal with stress.

"Food is a natural place for women to look if they feel their world is out of control," she says. "It can be a way to gain control over one aspect of their lives."

"You'll see far more bingeing and purging around periods of high anxiety and stress," such as midterm time, Pedersen adds.

And the student lifestyle doesn't make matters any better, she adds.

"A student life compounds the problem, especially for students living in residences."

Those living on campus are often dealing with being away from home for the first time, the pressure to form new relationships, and cafeteria eating.

In this situation, existing body image problems and issues of low

self-esteem can intensify and lead to disordered eating.

Pedersen explains disordered eating is a blanket term for all forms of unhealthy or destructive eating habits and doesn't necessarily refer to an eating disorder.

Most counsellors and psychologists see disordered eating as occurring on a continuum: from feeling fat once in a while on the

dissatisfaction with their bodies, placing them in the continuum's early stages.

That dissatisfaction plays itself out in a very concrete way, as 12 per cent of the women surveyed also reported restricting their food intake on a daily basis.

To try to tackle the problem, UBC's Women Students' Office is taking on some new initiatives.

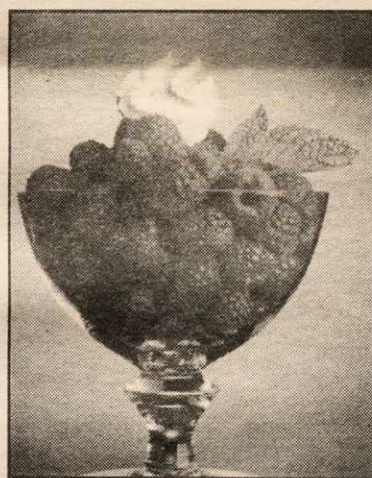
An e-mail listserve called Eating-and-U has been set up to encourage dialogue on the subject of body image.

And come January, a counselling and therapy group will begin meeting where female students can discuss issues around eating and self-image.

The office is also applying for increased funds so it can increase similar services on campus.

"At UBC, there's not a lot of choice for students," says Vikki Baker, a second-year social work student. "One of the most important things if you're struggling with disordered eating is to be monitored by someone, preferably who has experience with disordered eating."

Baker says dealing with disordered eating requires a "multi-disciplinary approach," including individual therapy, nutritional therapy and medical management.



one end, to severe anorexia and bulimia on the other.

Early results from a study being conducted by Georgina Maltby, a Master's student in counselling psychology at UBC, show that 90 per cent of the women surveyed report some degree of

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