



LT250 INTRODUCTION A LA LITTÉRATURE FRANÇAISE

IES Abroad Paris

DESCRIPTION:

This course is an introduction to French literature. Our approach will be historical, poetic, and cultural. Through the literary theme of the art of loving, the history of French literature will be considered from its birth up until the present day. We will study three mediums that reveal three distinct literary styles (theater, the short story, and the novel); we will also study three distinctive periods in conjunction with these themes (the 17th century, the 19th century, and the 20th century). A course booklet will also be included, including a comprehensive study of love poems in the 16th century as well as other examples of poetics. Cultural visits that bring to light the French literary tradition, the art of loving, and the history of Paris, as well as a creative writing workshop, will help students better understand and experience the important role that literature plays in French society.

CREDITS: 3

CONTENT HOURS: 45

LANGUAGE OF INSTRUCTION: French

PREREQUISITES: None, this is an introduction course

SUPPLEMENTARY COSTS: Additional costs will be invoiced to the student's IES ABROAD account. These charges will cover printing costs and other expenses. Prices will vary depending on the course. Students must also purchase the following texts :

- Molière, *L'Ecole des femmes* (éd. de poche au choix. Existe en ligne) [SPRING]
- Honoré de Balzac, *La Maison du Chat-qui-pelote* (éd. de poche au choix. Existe en ligne) [SPRING]
- Annie Ernaux, *Passion simple* (éd. Folio) [SPRING]
- Marivaux, *Le Jeu de l'amour et du hasard*, Folio Théâtre, [FALL]
- Diderot, *Supplément au voyage de Bougainville*, Folio classiques [FALL]
- Maupassant, *La Parure & autres nouvelles*, Le livre de poche [FALL]
- Books may change from semesters to semesters (Fall/Spring)

METHOD OF PRESENTATION:

This course will include lectures, in-class readings, group discussions, and individual student presentations. The assigned texts will serve two functions: first, as readings for the student to complete at his or her rhythm; and next, as a point of departure for in-class readings and group discussions. Exercises and French university-style methodology will be used to analyze these texts. Methodological documents will be posted on Moodle.

REQUIRED WORK AND FORM OF ASSESSMENT:

- Class participation: 10%
- Mid-term exam: 25%
- Final exam: 25 %
- Written assignment: 20%
- Presentation: 20%

Participation

Students must participate in group discussions, respond to the professor's questions, and ask questions in class.

Mid-term exam

The mid-term exam will include questions about coursework, readings, visits, and a commentary on a text.



Final exam

The final exam will be a detailed essay that includes an introduction and a conclusion.

Written assignment

Students will choose an excerpt from the course booklet. The student will then contextualize this excerpt in the historical and literary moment. The student must identify the text's literary genera, and discuss how it is related to the art of loving. The student will also bring to light the literary style and describe why the chosen text is unique.

Presentation

This will be an oral presentation of the professor's choosing. It must include an introduction, a textual analysis, a question for the entire class, and a PowerPoint presentation.

COURSE OUTCOMES:

At the end of the semester, students will be able to speak on:

- The evolution of French literature from both a historical and poetic perspective, from its inception up until the present day
- The analysis of literary texts: study of literary genres, style, and language
- Written and oral expression: university-level excises in writing, textual analysis, and writing a literary essay
- General French literature through the theme of the art of loving, in conjunction with historical visits throughout Paris

ATTENDANCE POLICY:

Attendance is mandatory for all sessions, including visits. Absences and lateness will affect your ability to master class content. In addition, your final grade will be lowered for each absence.

Example:

- Final grade: A-
- 1 absence = A-, 2 absences = B+, 3 absences = B, 4 absences = B-

Being more than 15 minutes late to a course counts as an absence. 3 late arrivals (less than 15 minutes) count as an absence.

If a student misses more than 25% of class time, s/he will receive an F in the course.

Assignments and presentations missed because of absences will be given the grade of F.

When absences occur, students must inform their teacher and the French Studies Academic Coordinator as soon as possible (mfedon@iesabroad.org). In some instances (sickness with doctor's note for example), absences may be excused. If a student believes that an absence should be excused, they must contact Meghann or Seth.

Students should always inform their professor of their absence, as well as Meghann (mfedon@iesabroad.org).

CONTENT:

Session	Content	Assignments
Session 1	Introduction 1. Semester overview 2. Introduction to the "art of loving" 3. Presentation methodology	Syllabus overview Explanation of Presentation sign-up

Session 2	The birth of French literature 1. Literary history: the novel 2. The art of loving: courteous love	Read Coucy's <i>La Chanson de Châtelain</i> and summarize the romantic prose and poetry
Session 3	The birth of French literature 1. Literary history: the novel 2. The art of loving: courteous love	Read the novel extract from Tristan and Iseut (Bérout's version). Who are the main characters? Research this work to be able to provide a general summary of the work.
Session 4	The birth of French literature 1. Literary history: the novel 2. The art of loving: courteous	Read the novel extract from Tristan and Iseut (the Thomas version) Presentation: Discuss the <i>Lai du Chèvrefeuille</i> from the <i>Marie de France</i>
Session 5	Methodology: essay Subject: the notion of literary myths	In-class work about the essay
Session 6	Romantic poetry during the Renaissance Literary history: Humanism 1. The art of loving: the sonnet 2. Methodology: poetry	Read the poems of Du Bellay and de Ronsard. Presentation: Discuss the text of Du Bellay, <i>La Défense et Illustration de la Langue française</i> , extract
Session 7	Romantic poetry during the Renaissance 1. Literary history: Humanism 2. The art of loving: the sonnet 3. Methodology: lyricism	Read the sonnets of Louise Labé. Presentation: Discuss sonnet XI
Session 8	Methodology: textual commentary Subject: a sonnet from Louise Labé	In-class work to discuss the methodology of textual commentaries
Session 9	The century of theater 1. Literary history: the century of theater 2. The art of loving: the Corneille dilemma 3. Methodology: the theater	Read the extract from Boileau's <i>l'Art poétique</i> and Racine's <i>d'Andromaque</i> Presentation: Discuss <i>Le Cid</i> by Corneille
Session 10	The century of theater 1. Literary history: Molière 2. Methodology: tragedy and comedy	Extract from the Molière film (in class) Read <i>L'Ecole des femmes</i> , act I. Be prepared to discuss the plot

Session 11	The century of theater 1. Literary history: Molière 2. The art of loving: marriage	Read <i>L'Ecole des femmes</i> , acts II and III Presentation: Discuss scene IV, act I
Session 12	The century of theater	Review coursework and readings since the beginning of the semester (including Molière)
Session 13	The century of theater 1. Literary history: Molière 2. Methodology: <i>dénouement</i>	Read <i>L'Ecole des femmes</i> , acts IV and V Presentation: Discuss act V
Session 14	Libertinism 1. Literary history: preciosity and libertinism 2. The art of loving: <i>La carte de Tendre</i>	An extract from the film <i>Les amours d'Astrée et Céladon</i> will be shown in class. Presentation: Discuss the Molière text, <i>Dom Juan</i> ou <i>Le Festin de Pierre</i>
Session 15	Realist romanticism 1. Literary history: Balzac's literary realism 2. The art of loving: the Family Code of 1804 3. Methodology: the short story	Read Balzac's short story "La Maison de Chat-qui-pelote" Presentation: Discuss the extract of the prologue to the <i>Comédie humaine</i>
Session 16	Realist romanticism 4. Literary history: Balzac's literary realism 5. The art of loving: the theme of pictorial portraiture	Read Balzac's short story "La Maison de Chat-qui-pelote" Presentation: Discuss Stendhal's text, chap. 2 from <i>De l'amour</i>
Session 17	Realist romanticism 1. Literary history: Balzac's literary realism 2. The art of loving: the Family Code of 1804 3. Methodology: description	Presentation: Discuss the extract from Balzac's short story: " <i>Guillaume avait deux filles... souffrait donc en silence</i> "
Session 18	Walk in the footsteps of Balzac	RDV in front of IES at 14h15
Session 19	Realist romanticism 1. Literary history: Balzac's literary realism 2. Methodology: narration	Presentation: Compare Augustine's character with Henriette's <i>Partie de campagne</i> (Renoir's film, based on Maupassant, DVD at IES)
Session 20	The Essay	In-class work based on the essay

	The subject of the art of loving in 18 th -19 th century literature	
Session 21	Literary walk at Saint-Germain-des-Prés	RDV at Metro Saint-Germain-des-Prés at 14h30
Session 22	Modern Passion 1. Literary history: the post-modern novel 2. The art of loving: pornography 3. Methodology: the notion of the incipit	Read <i>Passion simple</i> by Annie Ernaux Presentation: Discuss Roland Barthes' text, <i>Fragments d'un discours amoureux</i>
Session 23	Modern Passion 1. Literary history: women writers 2. The art of loving: the female perspective 3. Methodology: art of fiction	Presentation: Discuss Marguerite Duras' text, <i>L'Amant</i>
Session 24	Modern Passion 1. Literary history: auto-socio-biography 2. The art of loving: the female perspective	Presentation: Discuss Annie Ernaux's book: p.71-end.
Session 25	Creative writing workshop	<u>Hand in written assignment</u>
	Final exam	Revise everything since the mid-term (including Molière)

VISITS:

- A music concert and medieval poetry reading at the *Musée Cluny* ("musical hour")
- A walk through Paris in the footsteps of Balzac
- A literary walk through the latin Quarter and Saint-Germain-des-Prés.
- A creative writing workshop at IES.

REQUIRED READINGS:

- Course booklet
- Molière, *L'Ecole des femmes* (éd. de poche au choix)
- Honoré de Balzac, *La Maison du Chat-qui-pelote* (éd. de poche au choix)
- Annie Ernaux, *Passion simple* (éd. Folio)

Films to be screened in class:

- Ariane Mnouchkine, *Molière ou la vie d'un honnête homme*, 1978 (des extraits)
- Eric Rohmer, *Les Amours d'Astrée et Céladon*, 2007.

RECOMMENDED READINGS :

On the theme of the art of loving:

- Roland Barthes, *Fragments d'un discours amoureux*, in *Œuvres complètes*, tome V, 1977-1980, nouvelle édition revue, corrigée et présentée par Eric Marty, Seuil, 2002
- Jean-Louis Flandrin, *Le Sexe et l'Occident. Évolution des attitudes et des comportements*, éd. du Seuil, 1981
- Jean-Louis Leclercle, *L'Amour*, Bordas, 1985
- Pascal Quignard, *Le sexe et l'effroi*, Folio Gallimard, 1993
- Michelle Perrot, Georges Duby, *Histoire des Femmes en Occident*, en V volumes, Plon, 1992
- Denis de Rougemont, *L'Amour et l'Occident*, 1977
- Paul Veyne, *L'Élégie érotique romaine, l'amour la poésie en Occident*, Seuil, 1983