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# I. Catalog Description

ER365

French Literature from Medieval through 17th Century

FR375

3 credits 3 lecture hours (3c-01-3sh)

Prerequisite: FR361

This course introduces students to the major developments in French literature and thought from the Medieval through the 17th century. It includes an overview of major French literary genres: novel, poetry, and theater. Readings and discussion are in French.

### II. Course Objectives

- 1. Students will be able to read and demonstrate comprehension of works of French literature from the Medieval and Renaissance periods and the 17th Century and explain the influence of these periods on contemporary culture.
- 2. Students will be able to describe the major literary developments of these periods through study of great works, both in excerpts (professor anthology) as well as in their entirety (shorter masterpieces).
- 3. Students will demonstrate an understanding of literary analysis using the techniques of explication de texte or "close reading" of the texts.
- 4. Students will be able to discuss in French works of literature from a variety of literary genres (i.e, novel, poetry, and theater).
- 5. Students will be able to conduct independent research on literary topics.

### III. Course Outline

Weeks 1-4: Medieval period

Historical background (476-1453): evolution of the French language; the epic age and spirit; feudal society.

Readings from the following authors: Chrétien de Troyes, Marie de France, Charles d'Orléans, François Villon, Froissart et les chroniqueurs

Selections from the following texts: <u>La Chanson de Roland</u>, <u>Aucassin et Nicolette</u>, <u>Tristan et Yseut</u>, <u>Le Roman de la rose</u>, <u>La Farce du Maistre Pathelin</u>, Selected lyric poetry

Weeks 5-9: Renaissance:

Historical background: transition from the Medieval period to the Renaissance; causes and consequences.

Readings from the following authors: Marguerite de Navarre (<u>Heptaméron</u>), Rabelais (<u>Gargantua</u>, <u>Pantagruel</u>), Montaigne (<u>Les essais</u>)

Selected poetry by: Ronsard, du Bellay, Louise Labé, and other Pléiade poets

Weeks 10-14: 17th Century

Historical background: centralization of power in the monarchy; influence of Richelieu and L'Académie française.

Introduction to philosophy of the 17th century

Study of versification

Background on theater with viewing of plays on video

Readings from the following authors: Descartes, Voiture, Madame de la Fayette, (<u>La princess de Clèves</u>), Corneille (<u>Le Cid</u>), Molière (<u>Bourgeois gentilhomme</u>, <u>Tartuffe</u>), Racine (<u>Phèdre</u>)

### IV. Evaluation Methods

Student grades will be calculated according to the following scale:

60% exams: The exam grade will be based on three tests (two major exams and a final), each

emphasizing one of the three historical periods: Medieval, Renaissance, and 17th Century. Students will be tested on factual as well as thematic information from each of the authors studied in detail. Exams will include identification of authors,

characters, and quotations, as well as in-depth essay questions.

20% participation: On certain topics, students will present oral reports in French on various

historical or cultural aspects of the century. A written version of the presentation will be given to the instructor. The material presented in class

will be included as part of the exams.

20% homework: On certain topics, students will complete pre-reading questionnaires, of

which a minimum of five will be collected.

The individual instructor will determine the interpretation of accumulated grades according to the syllabus s/he distributes at the course's beginning. Normal French Department practice is as follows: A = 90-100%; B = 80-89%; C = 70-79%; D = 60-69%; below 59% = failure.

## V. Required Textbook(s), Supplemental Books and Readings

A packet of selected readings will be prepared by the instructor. Medieval texts will be presented in modern French translation with reference to the original version. Full works to be studied will be purchased by the students.

# VI. Special Resource Requirements

None.

# VII. Bibliography

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Bénichou, Paul. Morales du grand siècle. Paris: Gallimard: 1948.

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- Bray, René. Molière. Homme de Théatre. Paris: Mercure de France, 1992.
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- Dragonetti, Roger. Le Mirage des Sources: L'Art du faux dans le roman médiéval. Paris: Seuil, 1987.
- Forster, Elborg. A Woman's Life in the Court of the Sun King. Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press, 1984.
- Friedrich, Hugo. Montaigne. trans. Dawn Eng. Berkeley: California University Press, 1991.
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- Harth, Erica. Ideology and Culture in <u>Seventeenth Century France</u>. Ithaca: Cornell University Press, 1983.
- Harwood-Gordon, Sharon. The Poetic Style of Corneille's Tragedies. Lewiston, NY: Edward Mellen Press, 1989.
- Henry, Albert. Chrestomathie de la Littérature en Ancien Français, Bern: Français Verlag, 1965.
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- Jomarron, Jacqueline de. Le Théâtre en France, vol. I: du Moyen Age à 1789. Paris: Colin, 1989.
- Kelly, Amy. Eleanor of Aquitaine. Cambridge, Mass.: Harvard University Press, 1969.
- Kritzman, Lawrence, ed. <u>Le Signe et le Texte: Etudes sur l'écriture au XVIe siècle en France.</u> Lexington: Kentucky University Press, 1990.
- Lacy, Norris et al. The Legacy of Chrétien de Troves vols. I & II. Amsterdam: Podopi B.V., 1987.
- Lagarde, André et Michard, Laurent. Moven Age. Paris: Bordas, n. d.
- LeGoff, Jacques. The Medieval Imagination, trans. Arthur Goldhammer. Chicago: Chicago University Press, 1985.
- Leiner, Wolfgang, ed. Onze études sur l'image de la femme dans la littérature du XVIIe siècle. Paris: Gunther Narr/Jean-Michel Place, 1984.

Loomis, Roger and Loomis, Laura. Medieval Romances. New York: Random House, 1957.

Mâle, Emile. The Gothic Image. New York: Harper Brothers, 1958.

Master, Mallery. Rabelaisian Dialectic. Albany: SUNY Press, 1969.

Moreau, Pierre. Racine. Paris: Hatier, 1968.

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Mossiker, Frances. Madame de Sévigné: A Life and Letters. New York: Knopf, 1983.

Mourgues, Odette de. Autonomie de Racine. Paris: Corti, 1967.

Muratore, Mary Jo. <u>Cornelian Theater: the Metadramatic Dimension</u>. Birmingham: Summa Publications, 1990.

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Sivery, Gerard. Blanche de Castille. Paris: Fayard, 1990.

Stephane, Roger. Autour de Montaigne. Paris: Stodk, 1986.

Stone, Harriet. <u>Royal Disclosure: Problematics of Representation in French Classical Tragedy.</u>
Birmingham: Summa Publications, 1987.

Tetel, Marcel. Marguerite de Navarre's "Heptaméron." Durham: Duke University Press, 1973.

Thweatt, Vivian. La Rouchefoucauld and the 17th Century Concept of the Self. Geneva: Droz, 1980.

Uitti, Karl. Old French Narrative Poetry. Princeton University Press, 1973.

Van Der Starre, E. Racine et le théâtre de l'ambiguïté. Leyde: Presses Universitaires Pers Leiden, 1966.

Wadworth, Philip. Molière and the Italian Theatrical Tradition. Birmingham: Summa Publications, 1989.

Walker, Hallam. Molière. Boston: Twayne Publishers, 1990.

### Course Analysis Questionnaire

### Details of the Course

- A1. This is a course requirement for the B. A. in French degree. It is an elective for the other degrees. It is open to students who have completed FR361 Introduction to French Literature or who have been placed at this level by the French faculty upon assessment of past language experience and placement test results.
- A2. Yes. See accompanying description of French major curriculum revision and relevant course deletions.
- A3. No
- A4. No
- A5. No variable credit. N/A
- A6. Yes. This configuration of courses was developed from a study of five institutions known for their active, progressive French programs and comparable to IUP in size. Thus these courses or others like them are offered by:

Millersville University of Pennsylvania, University of Delaware, Ohio University, Miami of Ohio, SUNY at Albany

A7. Yes. These revised courses reflect content and skills commonly recommended or required by professional and accrediting institutions like The American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Language, The Modern Language Association, Middle States, and NCATE. This new curriculum will allow incorporation of this material into a program typically completed in six or seven semesters, so as to encourage study and internship programs in Nancy, France.

#### **Interdisciplinary Implications**

- B1. One instructor.
- B2. These are courses in the French language, culture and literature. There is not a conflict.
- B3. Yes.

#### <u>Implementation</u>

- C1. Faculty is adequate. These revisions were made with current faculty in mind.
- C2. None.
- C3. No grant funding is needed.
- C4. Every other year.
- C5. One.
- C6. 20 25
- C7. Yes. The Modern Language Association recommends class maximums of 25 students.

#### Miscellaneous