



BROWN

DEPARTMENT OF FRENCH STUDIES

GRADUATE STUDIES COURSES

2015-2016

Fall 2015

**FREN 2110A La Naissance du roman français**/*Virginia Krause*

From the origins of medieval romance in the 12th century, this course traces the history of the genre through the end of the sixteenth century. What was the fate of the knight errant in the modern era and how did the invention of printing transform medieval romance cycles? Did the humanist novel offer a corrective to the vagaries of chivalric romance? Literary works will be read in light of theories of the novel. Readings in Chrétien de Troyes, the prose Lancelot, Rabelais, Bakhtin, Lukács, and others. Taught in French.

**FREN 2150C Le Roman libertin: approches critiques**/*Pierre Saint Amand*

We will attempt to study the evolution of the different genres of the libertine novel in the 18th century: roman de séduction, the conte, roman de la prostituée. We will also examine how current approaches around issues of gender, sexuality, and pornography allow for new contextualization of that novel. Authors to be read are Crébillon fils, Duclos, Godard d'Aucour, La Morlière, Boyer d'Argens, Denon and Laclos. Taught in French.

**FREN 2170K High Culture: Intoxicants in the 19th-Century Literature and Society**/*Gretchen Schultz*

This seminar explores the cultural significance of intoxicants in 19th-century France. Between the wine of transcendence and creation and the opiates of degeneration and disease, alcohol and narcotics played a role in antithetical discourses of fulfillment and depletion. Their idealization commonly found witnesses among poets, while the social sciences roundly condemned their deleterious effects on the material and social body. Advances in medicine contributed new intoxicants available for abuse (ether, morphine), even while feeding discourses condemning alcoholism and drug use as social scourges. Primary readings include literature (Gautier, Baudelaire, Rimbaud, Zola, Lorrain), medical treatises, and social policy. Taught in English.

Spring 2016

**FREN 2190F L'Honneur des poètes**/*Thangam Ravindranathan*

This course will focus on 20th century narrative attempts to give form to war, as historical and traumatic event and scene of a protagonism/narrativity in crisis. Starting with the paradigmatic battlefields of Stendhal's *La Chartreuse de Parme* and Céline's *Voyage au bout de la nuit*, we will then consider major post-1945 novels (and films) dealing notably with the second world war and the Vichy years (Perec, Simon, Duras, Resnais, Modiano, Littell, Jenni, Echenoz), along with theoretical writings on war, representation and the military-industrialized present (Baudrillard, Virilio, Chamayou, Scarry, Butler). Taught in French.

**FREN 2600I Théories du texte**/*David Wills*

Seminar on the developments (and relevance) of literary theories from semiotics to deconstruction. Emphasis will be placed on the movement from Saussurean to linguistics semiotics and narratology (prioritizing Roland Barthes), and on the development of the "post-structuralist" deconstruction of Jacques Derrida. Taught in French.