



BROWN

DEPARTMENT OF FRENCH STUDIES

GRADUATE STUDIES COURSES

2017-2018

FALL 2017

**FREN-2130H Au-delà de l'Europe:
La France et le monde au XVIIe siècle**

Professor Lewis Seifert

In the 17th century, contact with the Middle East, India, the Far East, North and South America, and the Caribbean profoundly changed the ways the French understood themselves and their place in the world. In this seminar we will study 17th-century depictions of the non-Western world in travel narratives, early ethnographic writing, drama, and fiction. Topics include representations of religious difference, race, slavery, gender, and Orientalism. Readings: Bernier, Champlain, Choisy, *Le Code noir*, Galland, Marie de l'Incarnation, *Les Mille et une nuits*, Molière, Montaigne, Racine, the *Relations des Jésuites de la Nouvelle-France*, Scudéry, Tavernier. Theoretical readings by Anderson, Chakrabarty, Glissant, Said, Sala-Molins, among others. Taught in French.

FREN-2170M L'Art de l'excès

Professor Gretchen Schultz

This seminar considers the late 19th-century idea of decadence, understood as extravagant reaction to perceived social dissipation and political decline. We will focus on the esthetics, politics, and practices of excess in fin-de-siècle fiction. Topics include: decadent estheticism, proto-fascism, altered states, and non-normative sexualities. Authors include Eekhoud, Lorrain, Huysmans, Péladan, Rachilde, Lemonnier, Vivien. Fictional texts will be accompanied by contemporary non-fictional sources (Nordau, Bourget, Kraft-Ebbing, Lombroso). Taught in French.

FREN-2600K Politique et fiction en Afrique

Professor Justin Izzo

This seminar investigates the political aesthetics of fiction in Francophone Africa with a special focus on our post-millennial period. We will examine new and established writers, filmmakers, and theorists as they rework conventions of postcolonial satirical and protest fiction and address contemporary problems of globalization, corruption, and social violence. How does current Francophone African fiction speak to contemporary political theory, and in what ways does this fiction address and constitute a politics of genre? And how does African fiction use politics to mediate its complicated relationship to theories of world literature? Taught in French.

SPRING 2018

FREN-2150E Théories et fictions des Lumières

Professor Ourida Mostefai

This course seeks to examine the idea of “Lumières” in Eighteenth-century France through the reading of some of the major authors of the period. Focusing on the relationship between theory and fiction we will analyze the concepts central to the French Enlightenment: happiness, progress and freedom as they are formulated both in fiction (novels and plays) and in theoretical texts. Readings will include major texts by Montesquieu, Voltaire, Diderot, Rousseau, as well as other writers and *philosophes*. Taught in French.

FREN-2600L

Au croisement des événements (de mai 68)

Professor David Wills

Nearly 50 years ago France was living through the “events” of May '68, a “revolution” that was not only cultural and political but at the same time artistic and intellectual. We will try—by analyzing a series of texts—first to understand the stakes of movements such as Situationism, Structuralism and Tel Quel, and second, to examine the relevance of those groups and their ideas in the very different context of the present time. Texts by Debord, Barthes, Sollers, Derrida, Deleuze, Foucault and others. Taught in French.