

French & Francophone Studies

2019-2020 Graduate Courses

Fall 2019

FREN 2150F Théâtres des Lumières

Ourida Mostefai

W 3-5:30p

This course will study the diversity and modernity of the theater of the Enlightenment. During this Golden Age of French theater the stage became a major instrument for social and political critique. We will study the dissemination of French theatrical culture in the major cities of Europe and the Caribbean (with a particular focus on French and Creole theater in Saint-Domingue) and examine the major experimentations, innovations and reforms (class and gender roles; new genres and new forms of popular entertainments). Readings will include plays performed on the three official stages (Comédie française, Comédie italienne and Opéra) as well as those operating on the margins of legality in street and market fairs. Conducted in French.

FREN 2190K Roman et réel au XXIème siècle

Thangam Ravindranathan

F 3-5:30p

Study of major authors, texts and trends in contemporary novel. Authors include Darrieussecq, NDiaye, Rolin, Carrère, Toussaint, Kristof, de Kerangal, Chevillard, Redonnet, Volodine. Critical perspectives from Rabaté (on spectrality and voice), Ruffel (post-Communism), Posthumus (ecocriticism), Rancière (the political), Westphal (geocriticism). Focus on formal and conceptual commitments by which post-millennial novels “think” our present, and what existing or newly imagined categories of analysis might be mobilized in reading them as experiments in the genre’s history. Taught in French.

FREN 2620J Traduire dit-il

David Wills

Th 4-6:30p

Translation is rarely, if ever, conceived of outside practice. And the practice of it, unlike the practice of literature except in specific instances, involves submitting to a complicated and implacable machinery of constraint. By means of readings about translation, and experience of it and in it, we will attempt to examine the broad sense of what gets “carried across” the spaces between one language and another. Taught in French.

Spring 2020

FREN2110H Savoirs et non-savoirs de la Renaissance

Virginia A Krause

W 3-5:30p

How were the lines between the known, the unknown, and the unknowable drawn for the Renaissance? This course examines the period's "will to know" underlying humanism, Natural Philosophy, and demonology (the "science of demons"). It also tracks challenges to positive knowledge through madness and the rediscovery of Greek scepticism. Readings in Erasmus, Marguerite de Navarre, Rabelais, Montaigne, and Foucault, among others. Taught in French.

FREN2170G Decadence

Gretchen Schultz

Th 4-6:30p

Study of the notion of decadence in fin-de-siècle French culture. From scientific theories of degeneration to literary representations of sexual perversion, writers of the period were consumed by the specter of moral decay and social disease. This course will analyze fictional and non-fictional texts of the period by authors such as Péladan, Lorrain, Rachilde, Mendès, and Nordau.