



BROWN  
DEPARTMENT OF FRENCH STUDIES  
GRADUATE STUDIES COURSES

FALL 2020-SPRING 2021

FALL 2020

**FREN2110A *Le roman renaissant*/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.

**FREN2190D *Literary Theory of Roland Barthes and Jacques Derrida*/David Wills**

These two thinkers, one from a literary and rhetorical perspective, the other speaking out of philosophy, posed in a persistent and explicit manner during the period 1965-1980 the question of literature. We will study a series of their texts that continue to provide important models for a critical approach to literary writing. Taught in English.

**FREN2620K *Metaphor/Matter/Time*/Thangam Ravindranathan**

In this collaborative seminar we will consider the flickering edge between metaphor and materiality in the shadow of the Anthropocene. Weekly discussions will be built around a series of "threshold sites"—including Sea, Sun, Silk, Plastic, Forest, Photograph, Shell, Horse, Whale—in which "matter" and "figure" may be seen to be simultaneously in relation and at odds. We will endeavor to think metaphoricity as the imbrication of materiality and semiosis, and in its relationship to ecological time, through readings from Lucretius, Melville, Coleridge, Ponge, Moore, Bervin, Barad, Haraway, Derrida, Ricoeur, among others. Taught in English.

SPRING 2021

**FREN2130A Penser et écrire le non-humain au XVIIème siècle/*Lewis Seifert***

Under the influence of “New Science,” the 17th century witnessed dramatic shifts in ways of perceiving and relating to the natural world. Guided by theoretical and historical work in environmental humanities and with a focus on literature, we will consider how French thinkers and writers framed the relationship between humans and their non-human others (animals, plants, natural landscapes). Theoretical readings in Braidotti, Descola, Foucault, Latour; primary texts by Descartes, Cyrano de Bergerac, Cureau de la Chambre, Scudéry, Pascal, La Fontaine, Sévigné, Perrault (Claude and Charles), d’Aulnoy, among others. Taught in French.

**FREN2170N La Poésie et ses révolutions/*Gretchen Schultz***

Study of major poets of the second half of the long nineteenth century. Topics include: symbolism and decadence, vers libéré and vers libre, French prosody, prose poetry, gender and the lyric, the poetic subject. Authors read will include: Baudelaire, Mallarmé, Rimbaud, Verlaine, Krysinska, Vivien, Valéry, Apollinaire. Taught in French.