

NYU Paris

Approaches to French Literature

FREN-UA9140

Fall 19

Instructor Information

- Valérie Berty
- course T-R: 2:15- 3:45
- office-hour:
- vb45@nyu.edu

Course Information

FREN-UA 9121

This course aims to introduce students to central works in modern French literature
Tue and Thu 2:15pm-3:45pm

Course Overview and Goals

By analyzing poems, novels, short stories and plays, students explore the role and status of literature within the era's larger intellectual, political, and social framework. Critical study of key themes, genres, and styles; focuses on analytical writing and literary analysis.

Course Requirements

Students will be asked to read the books assigned. They will be evaluated on their written work, oral participation in class and at least one oral presentation.

The course is organized as a seminar. Before each seminar students are expected to have seen the book assigned and written a two pages paper on it. Each class is a discussion by students, thus building a specific comparative and collective knowledge for the class. Participation in this critical discussion will be graded. Assigned reading texts will be available on reserve or photocopies.

Students are expected to be active and responsive members of the class.

Non-excused absences can affect the student's participation grade, starting at the first absence.

Assignments

Each short paper (2 pages each) will consist of an essay and propose a personal reading on the precise topic. It should be clearly organized, with an introduction, a development consisting of distinct parts, and a conclusion.

Grading of Assignments

The grade for this course will be determined according to the following formula:

Assignments/Activities	% of Final Grade
Class participation and 1 oral presentation	15%
short paper each week (2 to 4 pages)	50%
midterm exam	15%
final paper and oral presentation	20%

Letter Grades

Letter grades for the entire course will be assigned as follows:

Letter Grade	Points	Description
A	16-20	Outstanding
A-	15	Excellent
B+	14	Very Good
B	13	Good
B-	12	Satisfactory

Letter Grade	Points	Description
C+	11	Above Average
C	10	Average
C-	9	Below Average
D+	8	Unsatisfactory
D	7	Low Pass
D-	6	Low Pass
F	5	Fail

Course Schedule

Topics and Assignments

Week/Date	Topic	Reading	Assignment Due
Week 1, 3-5 Sept	French poetry in the XIXth century	Chateaubriand, <i>René</i>	
Week 2, 10-12 Sept	The Romantic Movement	Victor Hugo, Musset Lamartine, <i>Poems</i>	A 2 pages written paper
Week 3, 17-19 September	The Realistic Movement	Balzac, <i>Le Colonel Chabert</i>	A 2 pages written paper
Week 4, 24-26 Sept	The fantastic short stories	Maupassant, <i>Le Horla</i>	A 2 pages written paper
Week 5, 1-3 Oct	French Paintings in the XIXth century	Baudelaire, <i>Les Fleurs du mal</i>	A 2 pages written paper
Week 6, 8-10 oct	Poésie moderne	Apollinaire, Eluard <i>poems</i>	A 2 pages written paper

Week/Date	Topic	Reading	Assignment Due
Week 7, 15-17 Oct	The absurd in literature	Camus, <i>l'Etranger</i>	A 2 pages written paper
Week 8, 22-24 Oct	The absurd in literature	Camus, <i>l'Etranger</i>	A 2 pages written paper
Week 9, 5-7 Nov	Absurd theater	Ionesco, <i>La Cantatrice chauve</i>	A 2 pages written paper
Week 10, 12-14 Nov	Existentialism	Sartre, <i>l'existentialisme et un humanisme</i>	A 2 pages written paper
Week 11, 19-21 Nov	theater and existentialism	Sartre, <i>Huis clos</i>	A 2 pages written paper
Week 12, 26-28 Nov	Le nouveau roman and	Robbe-grillet, <i>La jalousie</i>	A 2 pages written paper
Week 13, 3-5 Dec	La nouvelle vague	Duras, <i>Hiroshima mon amour</i>	A 2 pages written paper
Week 14, 10-12 Dec	French novel in the XXIst century	A. Ernaux, <i>La Place</i>	A 2 pages written paper
Week 15, 17-19 Dec	Exam week		

Course Materials Assigned Readings

By the books in the edition written below:

Poésies XIXe et XXe siècles (polycopiés)

Chateaubriand, « Atala, René », ed. Libro

Balzac, « Le colonel Chabert », ed. Libro

Maupassant, « la Parure », « Le Horla » ed. Libro

Baudelaire, « Les Fleurs du mal » ed. Libro

Camus, « L'Etranger », ed. Poche Folio

Sartre, « Huis clos », ed. Poche Folio

Ionesco, « Cantatrice chauve », ed. Poche

Alain Robbe-grillet, « *La jalousie* » ed. Minuit

Duras, *Hiroshima mon amour* » ed. Minuit

Ernaux, « La place » ed. Poche Folio

Course Policies

Attendance and Tardiness

- Study abroad at Global Academic Centers is an academically intensive and immersive experience in which students from a wide range of backgrounds exchange ideas in discussion-based seminars. Learning in such an environment depends on the active participation of all students. And since classes typically meet once or twice a week, even a single absence can cause a student to miss a significant portion of a course. To ensure the integrity of this academic experience, class attendance at the centers is mandatory, and unexcused absences will be penalized with a two percent deduction from the student's final course grade for every week's worth of classes missed. Students are responsible for making up any work missed due to absence. Repeated absences in a course may result in harsher penalties including failure.
- Unexcused absences affect students' grades: unexcused absences will be penalized with a 2% deduction from the students' final course grade.
- Absences are excused only for illness, religious observance, and emergencies.

Illness: For a single absence, students may be required to provide a doctor's note, at the discretion of the Associate Director of Academics. In the case of two consecutive absences, students must provide a doctor's note. Exams, quizzes, and presentations will not be made up without a doctor's note.

Religious Observance: Students observing a religious holiday during regularly scheduled class time are entitled to miss class without any penalty to their grade. This is for the holiday only and does not include the days of travel that may come before and/or after the holiday. Students must notify their instructor and the Academic Office in writing via email one week in advance before being absent for this purpose. If exams, quizzes, and presentations are scheduled on a holiday a student will observe, the Associate Director, in coordination with the instructor, will reschedule them.

Please note: if you are unable to attend class, you are required to email your professors directly to notify them.

Late Assignment

Late submission or work will be accepted only with justifiable reasons of health or family emergency.

Academic Honesty/Plagiarism

At NYU, a commitment to excellence, fairness, honesty, and respect within and outside the classroom is essential to maintaining the integrity of our community.

Plagiarism: *presenting others' work without adequate acknowledgement of its source, as though it were one's own. Plagiarism is a form of fraud. We all stand on the shoulders of others, and we must give credit to the creators of the works that we incorporate into products*

that we call our own. Some examples of plagiarism:

- *a sequence of words incorporated without quotation marks*
- *an unacknowledged passage paraphrased from another's work*
- *the use of ideas, sound recordings, computer data or images created by others as though it were one's own*
- *submitting evaluations of group members' work for an assigned group project which misrepresent the work that was performed by another group member*
- *altering or forging academic documents, including but not limited to admissions materials, academic records, grade reports, add/drop forms, course registration forms, etc.*

For further information, students are encouraged to check www.nyu.edu/about/policies-guidelines-compliance/policies-and-guidelines/academic-integrity-for-students-at-nyu.html

Disability Disclosure Statement

Academic accommodations are available for students with disabilities. Please contact the Moses Center for Students with Disabilities (212-998-4980 or mosescsd@nyu.edu) for further information. Students who are requesting academic accommodations are advised to reach out to the Moses Center as early as possible in the semester for assistance.