

U400-271: Introduction to French Literary Analysis

Course Format: Online

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Course credits: 4

Pre/Corequisites: Completion of U400-204 Fourth Semester French with a C or better or the equivalent; Appropriate for second-year or higher college students.

Course Description: Today's literature courses sometimes expect students to be able to conduct insightful literary analysis without earlier instruction in literary analysis. Not so with this course! Develop your writing skills in French and literary analysis in this course. Learn the tips and tricks of solid close readings with a special emphasis on improving your French language writing skills. During this course, you will be introduced to the major literary movements of the 17th and 18th centuries through in-depth study of works by La Fontaine, Racine, Molière, Voltaire, Montesquieu, Diderot, Rousseau, and others.

Required Course Materials

Principal textbook: The following anthology, which we will refer to as *votre livre* in the online course, includes introductions to authors, literary movements, and readings.

- Laurin, Michel. *Anthologie Littéraire : Du Moyen Âge Au XIX siècle*, 3rd ed., Beauchemin, 2012. ISBN13: 9782761657426.

Plays and novels: The following plays and novels are also required for this course. The *Classiques Larousse* edition is recommended for each of these, but any edition that reproduces the complete text is acceptable.

- Corneille, Pierre. *Le Cid*. Birdas (Pierre) et Fils, 2006. ISBN: 2047303575
- Marivaux, Pierre de. *Le Jeu de l'amour et du hasard*. Larousse, 1981. ISBN: 9782035832115
- Molière, *Le Médecin malgré lui*. Larousse, 2007. ISBN: 203583421X
- Racine, Jean. *Andromaque*. Bordas, 2003. ISBN: 2047303737
- Racine, Jean. *Phèdre*. Nick Hern Books, 1999. ISBN: 1854590944
- Voltaire, *Zadig ou la Destinée*. Larousse, 2006. ISBN: 9782035832078

Optional/Recommended Course Materials

- We recommend that you make use of both a French-English, English-French dictionary and an all-French dictionary to complete the work of the course. Among the French-English, English-French dictionaries, we recommend the *Collins Robert French College Dictionary*, 9th ed., HarperCollins Publishers, 2013. ISBN: 9780061962998 or any desk-size dictionary.
- In choosing an all-French dictionary, look for one that provides definitions, explanations, synonyms, and antonyms in French. It should also demonstrate the use of words and expressions in sample sentences that differentiate clearly the nuances of meanings. This method of vocabulary acquisition is quite similar to that used in learning new words in one's native language. Among the French dictionaries available in bookstores, we recommend *Le Petit Robert micro: Dictionnaires le Robert*. French edition. French and European Publications Inc, 2013. ISBN: 9782321002130.
- Here are some recommended online dictionaries:
 - <http://www.wordreference.com>
 - <http://dictionnaire.tv5.org/dictionnaire>

Hardware Requirements:

You will need a webcam, speakers, and a microphone. You will complete your exams through an online proctor, requiring all three components.

Course Learning Objectives

- Recognize how French literature of the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries is linked with French history, culture, society, and civilization, especially with regard to key events, time periods, and intellectual movements.
- Identify several authors of seventeenth- and eighteenth-century French literature, as well as their goals and objectives, through study of their works and lives.
- Analyze French literature of the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries by considering the sociohistorical context of the works and by examining the stylistic/literary methods used by authors to convey meaning.
- Describe the distinctions between literary genres (including theater, novels, poems, and essays) using examples from French literature of the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries.
- Clearly express personal ideas about and interpretations of French society and literature (especially from the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries), whether informally or in written assignments.
- Use French grammatical conventions and accurately incorporate French vocabulary when articulating opinions about the authors, texts, and concepts studied in this course.
- Compare what you have learned about the historical, cultural, and social aspects of France with your own culture and experiences.

Course Overview

MODULE #	MODULE TOPIC	EVALUATED ACTIVITIES
1	Le Triomphe de l'ordre et de la raison; Descartes, Corneille	Written Assignment 1
2	L'Esprit de finesse prépare le classicisme: Pascal, Mme de Sevigné, Mme de La Fayette	Written Assignment 2
3	Le Classicisme et l'art de plaire (1) : Molière	Written Assignment 3
4	Le Classicisme et l'art de plaire (2) : Molière, La Fontaine	Written Assignment 4
5	La Principale Règle est de plaire et de toucher : Racine	Written Assignment 5
6	Vue d'ensemble du XVIIe siècle ; Fin du Grand Siècle : La Bruyère	Written Assignment 6
		Midcourse Exam
7	Introduction au XVIIIe siècle; Marivaux	Written Assignment 7
8	L'Esprit critique et le roman; Lesage	Written Assignment 8
9	L'Esprit d'examen; Montesquieu	Written Assignment 9
10	Le Défenseur de la liberté, du droit, et du progrès; Voltaire	Written Assignment 10
11	L'Apogée de l'esprit philosophique et la sensibilité; Diderot	Written Assignment 11
12	Le Philosophe romantique; Rousseau	Written Assignment 12
13	Le Nouveau Théâtre et vue d'ensemble du XVIIIe siècle; Beaumarchais	Written Assignment 13
		Final Exam

Evaluation Methods

Your final grade will be based on your performance on the following:

- 1) Written Assignments (60%)
- 2) Examinations (40%)

Written Assignments (60%)

There are 13 unit writing assignments, requiring translations, identifications, shorter essays, and longer, analytical essays.

Examinations (40%)

You are required to take two proctored online examinations: a two-hour midcourse examination (20%) after Unit 6 and a two-hour final examination (20%) after Unit 13. The questions on the midcourse and final examinations will generally be of the same type and level of difficulty as those in the written assignments. When preparing for the examinations, review the units thoroughly, paying particular attention to the written assignments corrected and graded by your Course Facilitator. No textbooks or vocabulary notes are allowed during the supervised examinations, but you may use a French-English/English-French dictionary—specifically these two online dictionaries:

- <http://www.wordreference.com>
- <http://dictionnaire.tv5.org/dictionnaire>

Exam Method: Online with Proctoring

This course requires all students to complete exams online with a proctoring service. Students receive two attempts on each exam. If you elect to take a second attempt, the average score of both exams will be recorded.

Grading Scale

The following grading scale is used to evaluate all course requirements and determine your final grade:

A = 93–100	B = 83–87.9	C = 70–77.9	D = 60–69.9
AB = 88–92.9	BC = 78–82.9		F = Below 60

Pass/Fail Option

Students who enroll in an Independent Learning (IL) course under the pass/fail option will receive a final grade of S in place of a final grade equivalent to an A, AB, B, BC, or C and a final grade of U in place of a final grade equivalent to a D or F.