Purchase of books will not be available through the University bookstore. Because it save as much as half off book prices and allows use of books unavailable to US distributors, students must order their books directly on the web.


616 STUDIES IN MEDIEVAL FRENCH LITERATURE

Medieval Courtly Genres

Professor Ana Pairet

Monday, 3:55 – 6:55 pm  RAB 105 DC

What is a lai, a romans, or a chantefable in the Middle Ages? How are literary modes, genres, and forms constructed and how do they unfold historically? What cultural, social, and material parameters shape the creation of formal, narrative, and textual conventions?

This seminar will examine the evolution of lyric and narrative genres from the 12th to the 15th centuries, underscoring the dynamic character of literary forms as well as certain elements of continuity with the pre-modern period. Conceived as an introduction to courtly fiction in langue d'oïl, the seminar does not require prior knowledge of Old French or Middle French.

Course requirements: weekly preparation and participation; oral presentation; 2 research papers (16-20 page total).

Required texts to be purchased:

This course will explore the ways in which XXth and XXIst century writers have challenged the self-evidence of autobiography and contributed to critical controversies about selfhood and subjectivity, authorship, representation, and the distinction of fact and fiction. A strong focus will be placed on the latter and on the debate surrounding the question of referentiality spurred by Philippe Lejeune’s “autobiographical pact” (1973).

Our readings will include works by Roland Barthes, Serge Doubrovsky, Louis-René des Forêts, Annie Ernaux, Anne-Marie Garat, Romain Gary, Brigitte Giraud, Georges Perec, Alain Robbe-Grillet, Olivia Rosenthal, Jean Rouaud, Nathalie Sarraute, Jean-Paul Sartre, Marguerite Yourcenar.

Although the seminar will be conducted in French, students from other departments who are comfortable with the language are welcome to attend it. They will be allowed to write in English and may elect for their assignments to focus on works written in languages other than French.

**Required texts to be purchased:**
673 CARIBBEAN LITERATURE

Caribbean Narratives and the Poetics of [Post] National Identity

Professor Renée Larrier

Tuesday, 3:55 – 6:55 pm RAB 105 DC

Edouard Glissant’s assertion “Qu’est-ce que les Antilles en effet? Une multi-relation” will be the center of this graduate seminar. In an era when Dany Laferrière becomes an immortel and Caribbean Studies a discipline, Caribbean poetics, literature, and identity merit serious attention and discussion. Through a close reading and analysis of a broad range of texts—principally, romans des Amériques and one film from the twentieth and twenty-first centuries (1948-2011) by Haitian, Martinican, Guadeloupean, and French Guianese writers, we will examine the formation, representation, and articulations of identity—cultural, racial, gender, class, linguistic, sexual, national, diasporic, postnational, etc. within a framework provided by theoreticians such as Edouard Glissant, the créolistes, Aimé Césaire, Suzanne Césaire, René Depestre, Joël Des Rosiers, Yanick Lahens, Antonio Benitez-Rojo, Frantz Fanon, and Stuart Hall, among others. Students will be required to present one exposé and compose short reaction pieces to some of the readings, and a final research paper.

Required texts to be purchased: