

INTRODUCTION TO FRENCH LITERATURE AND CULTURE Info

Course title	INTRODUCTION TO FRENCH LITERATURE AND CULTURE
Language	French
Teaching methods	Lectures containing seminars devoted to special topics
Type	July 18 to 29
Course intro	This course has a twofold purpose. First, to present students a general overview of French literature, from Middle Age to our days. Second, to familiarize them with the elements of different literary genres (poetry, fiction and drama), movements and tendencies. Focusing on major texts of French literature from all periods, it investigates the writer's purpose and techniques and the way a reader can discern them. Designed to introduce students to the French culture, the course provides opportunities to develop reading, writing and speaking proficiency in French. It offers an elementary introduction to understanding of French literature and culture. Finally, the course plays special attention to influence and connections between French and Chinese cultures focusing on literary texts of French travelers in China.
Syllabus	<p>First week Seminar 1 Introductory Lecture: all about this course What is literature? Beginnings of French poetry/fiction/drama Troubadours and cavaliers poets Reading: La Chanson de Roland (extract) Humanism and Renaissance La Pléiade and the "Defense and Illustration of the French Language" Reading: Joachim du Bellay, Heureux qui comme Ulysse... Seminar 2 Baroque and classicism The ideal of "the upright man" (l'honnête homme) The notions of order, clarity, moral purpose and good taste Reading: Racine, Andromaque (extract) French comedy in the 17th century Comedy of manners (comédie de mœurs), comedy of character (comédie de caractère) Molière and the others... Reading: Molière, Le Misanthrope (extract) Seminar 3 The Age of Enlightenment and the Philosophes The notions of liberty, toleration and progress French Revolution and Declaration of the Rights of Man and of the Citizen Reading: Voltaire, Zadig (extract) French theater in the 18th century Theater and politics The influence of the Italian commedia dell'arte Reading: Beaumarchais, Le Mariage de Figaro (extract) Seminar 4 French novel in the 18th century Autobiography, novel of feelings and pre-romantics Reading: Jean-Jacques Rousseau, Julie ou la Nouvelle Héloïse (extract) French romanticism Notion of passion. Bien-Mal, Ciel-Enfer Battles of romanticism in theatre Reading: Alexandre Dumas, Antony (extract) Second week Seminar 5 Sentimental poetry in the 19th century Sense of loss, disillusion, mal du siècle Art and Melancholy Reading: Alphonse de Lamartine, Le Lac Hugo, Balzac, Stendhal Romanticism and History Sublime-grotesque Reading: Victor Hugo, Les Misérables (extract), Notre-Dame de Paris (extract) Seminar 6 Realism and Naturalism Role of industrialism and social sciences The working class in literary texts Reading: Gustave Flaubert, Madame Bovary (extract) Symbolism and Modernism New forms of poetry Reading: Charles Baudelaire, L'ennemi (Les Fleurs d'</p>

	<p>u mal), Paul Verlaine, Mon r ̃ve familial (Po ̃mes saturniens) Seminar 7 French literature in the 1900 From the Belle ̃poque to the surrealism Reading : Paul luard, La Terre est bleue comme une orange... (L' Amour, la po ̃si e) Existentialism and absurdism Jean-Paul Sartre and Simone de Beauvoir The case of Albert Camus Literature after World War II Reading: Ionesco, La Cantatrice chauve (extract) Seminar 8 French contemporary culture and literature China in French literature Final exam</p>
Assessment	Final assessment: essay questions, definitions, multiple choice.
Recommended	<p>Michel Brix, Histoire de la litt ̃rature fran aise. Voyage guid ̃ dans les let tres du XIe au XXe si ̃cle, Louvain-la-Neuve, De Boeck Sup ̃rieur, 2014 Xavier Darcos, Histoire de la litt ̃rature fran aise, Paris, Hachette, 2013 Di mitri Roboly, Panorama de la litt ̃rature fran aise. Du Moyen ge au XXe si ̃ cle, Ath ̃nes, 2009 (An electronic version of main chapters will be sent to t he students.)</p>