

Syllabus for
FRE 410—Contemporary French Literature
3 Credit hours
Fall 2000

I. COURSE DESCRIPTION

Contemporary French Literature
3 credit hours

A study of the modern French novel, poetry, and contemporary theater of the 20th century, particularly since 1930. (Taught in French.)

Prerequisite: FRE 303 or 304 or by special permission.

Contemporary French literature will be considered from approximately after World War I to the present time. As any other, French literature depends on both the development of the literature and the language preceding this period. It also reflects social conditions and prevailing winds of thought during this time. The student will also become sensitive to the part literature plays in **shaping** these various elements; that is to say, it is not just a report or a mirror of what was during the time in question, but as well has become a "light-bearer" and a fire.

II. COURSE GOAL

The goal of this course is for students to become better acquainted with the works in this period (considerably narrower than studied in a survey course) and to put special emphasis on a few authors. While biographical aspects will be examined in the spirit and tradition of Sainte-Beuve, much more emphasis will be placed on specific works. This is to say, the text ("what he/she said") will be paramount. In so doing, students will become more adept at analyzing and criticizing works. Students who are successful in this course will be able to relate to issues on the contemporary scene in an informed and intelligent manner.

III. COURSE OBJECTIVES

A. Terminal Objectives

As a result of class participation, teacher lectures, assigned oral and written reports, and examinations, the student will be able to do the following:

1. demonstrate by interaction in class a continued development of control of basic language skills.
2. express orally and in writing a critique of significant works and authors.
3. demonstrate a factual knowledge of the political and social history as associated with the literary trends and/or with specific works.
4. present two written reports in French on research completed and criticisms of assigned topics of literary value.
5. give three in-class presentations on assigned topics.
6. exhibit a factual knowledge of authors and selected works as to content, style, theme, structure, and literary merit.
7. identify all major characters, as well as contextualize their role, in the works covered in the course.
8. read without direct translation the assigned readings in French.

B. Unit Objectives

The student will be able to do the following:

1. read all assigned readings in advance.
2. demonstrate a knowledge of the French novel of the between-wars era as to themes and style through discussion and testing.
3. give evidence of a comprehension of factual information concerning the "Roman-fleuve" including the writers and their works.
4. do research in-depth concerning the French philosophical thought of the period, particularly with respect to existentialism as presented in the works of Sartre and Camus.
5. identify the writers of the "Nouveau Roman" and the elements of this school of literary thought.
6. compare the works of Butor and Robbe-Grillet as to their content and literary merit.
7. become familiar with the history of the theater of the period, including the theater of the absurd, and demonstrate through discussion and testing a knowledge of selected plays representative of philosophical and thematic expression, such as found in the works of Giraudoux, Anouilh, Montherlant, Sartre and Cocteau.
8. present written reports on research completed and criticisms of assigned topics of literary value.
9. present orally the reports on assigned topics.
10. write two papers in French on a subject approved by the professor.

IV. TEXTBOOK

Gendrot et Eustache. Auteurs Français: Vingtième Siècle. Paris: Classiques Hachette, 1954.

V. COURSE POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

A. University Policies and Procedures

1. Attendance at each class or laboratory is mandatory at Oral Roberts University.
2. Double cuts will be assessed for absences immediately preceding or following holidays.
3. Excessive absences can reduce a student's grade or deny credit for the course.
4. Students taking a late exam because of an unauthorized absence will be charged a late exam fee.
5. Students and faculty at Oral Roberts University adhere to all laws addressing the ethical use of others' materials, whether it is in the form of print, video, multimedia, or computer software.

B. Department Policies and Procedures

1. It is expected that students shall conduct themselves in a discreet manner, conforming to school regulations as to dress, classroom conduct, and honesty in the fulfillment of course requirements.
2. Students desiring additional assistance are invited to see the instructor during office hours.
3. A grade of "C" must be maintained in this course in order to continue in the major.
4. Tests may be taken within one week after they are scheduled with an unexcused absence on the condition that the grade will be dropped one letter grade and a \$10 late-fee paid to the Modern Language Department before making up the test.

C. Course Policies and Procedures

1. There will be four one-hour examinations and a two-hour final.
2. There will be two papers, one short one due at mid-term, and a longer one due the next-to-last week of the course. (The longer paper could be based on the short paper, thus the work completed at mid-term would be invaluable to the student in the fulfillment of the longer paper.)
3. Three oral reports will be given during the semester on assigned subjects for research. Topics will be arranged with each student. (At least one of these will be connected in some way with the written projects.)
4. List of Topics
Students will compile, with the aid of the instructor, a long (but of course not complete) list of writers, in order to become thoroughly familiar with the most significant writers, works, and historical framework of the period.

VI. COURSE CALENDAR

Week

- | | |
|----|--------------------------------|
| 1 | Mauriac, Le Noeud de Vipères |
| 2 | Malraux, La condition humaine |
| 3 | Saint-Exupery, Vol de nuit |
| 7 | First written paper due |
| | Sartre, La Nausée |
| 8 | Camus, La Peste |
| 9 | Camus, L'Etranger |
| 10 | Robbe-Grillet, La Jalousie |
| | Exam |
| 11 | Cocteau |
| 12 | Giraudoux |
| | Oral reports |
| 13 | Oral reports |
| | Anouilh |
| 14 | Second paper due |
| | La Nouvelle Vague |
| 15 | Seminar |
| | Review |
| | Exam |

VII. ASSESSMENT SUMMARY

Larry Bolling
Name of Instructor

FRE 410
Course No.

Contemporary French Literature I
Title of Course

Modern Language
Name of Department

MISSION

The lifestyle at ORU is rooted in the word "Wholeness." ORU seeks to educate the whole person, with balanced emphasis placed on the development of mind, spirit, and body.

GENERAL OUTCOMES

1. Spiritual Development
2. Physical Development
3. Communication
4. Analysis
5. Problem Solving
6. Valuing in Decision-making
7. Social Interaction
8. Global Perspectives
9. Effective Citizenship
10. Aesthetic Responsiveness

MAJOR OUTCOMES

Communications:

Listening, speaking, reading, writing, proficiency in accordance with national standards.

- aural comprehension
- master grammatical structures
- reading comprehension
- writing ability
- cultural content
- knowledge of vocabulary

*With each level building on the previous one and going into more depth.

Global perspectives and analysis:

History, Cultures, Religion(s) of the respective countries.

Social interaction:

Effective citizenship

COURSE GOALS

Vocabulary memorization

Grammar tools

Oral and written mastery

Cultural and geographical orientation

Motivation to continue developing language skills

ASSESSMENT OF COURSE GOALS

STIMULI:

Language Lab
Cultural Center
Vocabulary quizzes
Chapter tests, mid-term
Final Exam
Language clubs
Community cultural activities
Videos
Text materials
Workbook and Lab assignments
Homework

CRITERIA:

National levels for corresponding courses.

90% - 100% = A
80% - 89% = B
70% - 79% = C
60% - 69% = D
59% & below = F