

**Department:** Modern and Classical Languages

**Course No:** 262W

**Credits:** 3

**Title:** From the Romantics to the Moderns: Introduction to

**Contact:** Roger Travis

**Content Area:** CA1-Arts and Humanities

**WQ:** Writing

**Catalog Copy:** FREN 262W. From the Romantics to the Moderns: Introduction to Literature Either semester. Three credits. Recommended preparation: FREN 164 or 175 or three years of high school French or consent of instructor. Study of poetry, theater and prose fiction that marks the evolution from the psychology of the romantic hero and heroine to Existentialist philosophy and the New Novel, and contemporary fiction and poetry.

**Course Information:** A. Description. The course covers French Literature from the Revolution of 1789 to the second half of the 20th century. Its main objective is to acquaint students with the new trends of modern art and culture, while especially focusing on the interaction between various artistic forms. B Course requirements :

Weekly short writing assignments about the most important texts of the period ; two essays, one mid-term and one final examination ; one long term-paper ; one oral presentation. In general, students are expected not only to understand the major ideas developed through these texts, but to also respond to them critically and Comparatively. C. Major themes, issues, topics, etc., to be covered.

Introduction au XIX siècle -les moments historiques

Les Pré-romantiques- Littérature populaire - Balzac (roman)- Lamartine (poésie) -  
Romantisme - Victor Hugo Littérature Populaire: La Grisettes - Paul de Kock Balzac : Splendeurs et Misères  
des Courtisanes Le Réalisme de Dumas Fils - La Dame aux Camélias - théâtre et roman La Dame aux  
Camélias et La Traviata - l'Opéra Mürger et la Vie de Bohème - Victor Hugo : Les Misérables Le Réalisme ;  
Champfleury - Chien Caillou - Bovary et Flaubert Charles Baudelaire - Les Fleurs du Mal Le Naturalisme -  
Emile Zola La Poésie du XX siècle: Apollinaire Marcel Proust: A la Recherche du Temps Perdu Le  
Surréalisme: Dada et Breton Marguerite Yourcenar Wang Fu L'existentialisme: Camus et Jean-Paul Sartre  
Le Théâtre de l'Absurde : Eugène Ionesco - Rhinocéros Michel Tournier: Eliazar et le Buisson

**Meets Goals of Gen Ed:** The course requires of students to become familiar with the traditional poetics of the literary texts under study, which involves familiarity with a broad spectrum ranging from simile and metaphor to alliteration and narrative technique. In addition, students are asked to familiarize themselves with

the rhetoric of a text: how the author uses language, but also how characters themselves within the text use language for different ends. Beyond emotional engagement with a literary text, students are taught how a literary text is constructed and how it functions. The objective is to develop their critical faculty

and give them the rhetorical tools to do this. Further, in class discussions and in written assignments, students are respectively encouraged and required to articulate what they have learned in thought out and substantiated responses. Lastly, since the texts under study cover several centuries, students become familiar with a broad range of stylistic and cultural contexts.

**CA1 Criteria:** The wide range of texts studied and discussed are essential for an understanding of the cultural as well as literary background of the French "exception". This course continues the systematic exploration of various

> literary "genres" while opening new vistas on other medias like opera

> and

journalism. It focuses on the connection between arts (e.g.

"Impressionnisme" or "Cubisme"), psychology and performance.

**W Criteria:** This course is based on the close study of various literary "genres" and forms, which naturally promotes the ability to reuse these processes in the students' own writing samples; the course requires a considerable amount of

> written work from the students, each essay being first presented in

> draft

form, then corrected and resubmitted for approval.