

**Department:** Modern and Classical Languages (French)

**Course No:** 270W REV

**Credits:** 3

**Title:** French Literature and Civilization in English

**Contact:** Roger Travis

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

**WQ:** Writing

**Catalog Copy:** 270W. French Literature and Civilization in English Either semester. Three credits.

Prerequisite: ENGL 105 or 110 or 111 or 250.

Representative works of French literature, on a particular theme. How literary forms articulate the ideas and values of different periods.

**Course Information:** a. The course will cover important works of French literature from the Middle Ages to the present day. Students will be presented with a variety of styles and genres, provided with the historical, cultural, and critical tools with which to interpret the texts, and required to write papers that involve the use of writing as a tool for idea development and critical thinking.

b. There will be a one-hour midterm essay exam and a two-hour final essay exam. The writing assignments will consist of 4 papers of 4-5 pages each (total 16-20 pages), of which the students will submit first a draft and then a revised version. The reading assignments will be 50-100 pages a week from the texts described above. The objectives of the course are to give students the occasion to think and reflect critically on literature in its cultural context.

c. The course will aim to introduce students to a variety of literary forms and genres, to provide them with knowledge of the diverse historical circumstances in which those forms and genres came about, to introduce them to societal structures vastly different from our own, and to ask them to use writing as a tool of apprehension and critical thinking.

**Meets Goals of Gen Ed:** The course will broaden students' understanding of culture, history, and literature, and in turn offer them a critical perspective from which they can view their own era and culture, and develop more general critical thinking skills.

**CA1 Criteria:** As this course covers literary works in their cultural and historical context, it provides students with knowledge of written cultural documents and provides them with the empirical and theoretical knowledge necessary to interpret them.

**W Criteria:** 1. There will be 4 papers of 4-5 pages each assigned in this course, each involving both a rough and a final draft. The writing in this course is designed to show students how writing can be a tool

in learning literary and cultural material and in critical thinking. Students will be guided through exercises that will help them read the texts attentively and draw from them those aspects that engage and develop their interests. When they draft papers, they will be asked not merely to report their findings but also to extend their intellectual capacities by developing and elaborating a personal reading of the textual material and problems posed. When they rewrite their papers, they will come to see writing as a means of developing and clarifying the ideas they generate in working with course materials. The W component will be 60% of the course grade, the exams being worth 20% each. Students cannot pass the course without passing the "W" component.

2. The students will be given very specific sets of guiding questions from which they will choose the topic of each paper. They will then execute a typed rough draft that they will turn in for commentary. The instructor will then comment on the paper, with an eye to guiding the student in using writing as a tool for building intellectual capacity, weighing both content and writing quality.