

FRENCH 4010/5010 –Topics in 20th Century French Literature-- Fall 2010 “Femmes au Carrefour”

Madame LYONS

OH: Monday 8:30-1:30 and BY APPOINTMENT

Office: KOM 103 F / Telephone: 898 – 5778 / Email: ltlyons@mtsu.edu

Required Texts: Agnant, Marie-Célie. Le Livre d'Emma.
Bâ, Mariama. Une Si Longue Lettre.
Condé, Maryse. Traversée de la Mangrove.
Pineau, Gisèle. L'Exil selon Julia.
Satrapi, Marjane. Broderies.

Course Description. “Femmes au Carrefour” (“Women at the Crossroads”) is an advanced literature course designed to increase students’ literary and cultural competency through the presentation of French-language texts written by women who represent a broad purview of the French-speaking world. The female characters depicted in the novels face a figurative “carrefour” as they find themselves at the intersection of a vast array of conflicts, socio-cultural, postcolonial, religious, economic, and more. In this course, students will read works by authors from Guadeloupe, Haiti, Iran, and Senegal so that they may be challenged not only to explore alternative definitions of “French”, but also to broaden their definitions of various thematic concepts in order to enrich their college experience and promote life-long learning.

Grade. Your final grade for this course will be based on the following components:

20% Class Participation
40% Homework and Quizzes
40% Midterm Essay Preparation Packet and Final Essay

Class participation. Learning is enhanced by the free exchange of ideas; the process of understanding literature is similarly strengthened not only by interacting with the text but with individuals as well. Therefore, the instructor will facilitate discussion rather than lecture on the literature and student participation is essential to the successful completion of this course. During each class session, students will be expected to discuss the day’s reading in detail in French and enthusiastically participate in all classroom activities so they may fully engage the text.

Homework. Students will be required to complete daily reading assignments. For some, this may require reading the selections more than once. Before coming to class, all students are expected to use a dictionary to seek definitions of all vocabulary with which they are unfamiliar. At least five such terms and definitions should be recorded by students and brought to class each day a reading assignment is given. Students must also complete “La Main de Madame” for each reading assignment. “La Main de Madame” is an organizational tool for reflecting on key questions (Who? What? When? How? Why?) regarding pivotal scenes in the day’s reading. Additional research assignments may also be given to students to provide a context for the readings. Although daily assignments may be graded or ungraded all homework is beneficial as it is designed to improve students’ understanding of the course material and increase their class participation. No late homework will be accepted and any more than four missing assignments will result in a failing Homework grade.

Quizzes. Students will take a quiz on each reading assignment. Quizzes may consist of any combination of passage / character identifications, short answer and short essay questions. Although no make-up quizzes will be given for any reason, the lowest quiz grade will be dropped.

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Midterm Essay Preparation Packet and Final Essay: Each student will write an 8-10 page essay in French that incorporates both individual literary analysis and scholarly research. Topics should be selected in consultation with the instructor to reflect the student's personal interest as well as a thematic concern addressed in the course material. Cited sources within the essay must be well-documented using MLA format and any suspected instances of plagiarism will result in a failing grade. In order to prepare the final draft of the essay, students must complete a Midterm Essay Preparation Packet that includes the following: a clearly written thesis statement for the essay; an "explication de texte" of a passage from the assigned readings that will be used in the essay to support the thesis; and an annotated bibliography of at least six sources (bibliographies must be written according to MLA style and annotations must be completed in French and reflect a strong understanding of the text's main ideas, strengths and weaknesses). The due dates for these important assignments may be found on the course schedule so that students may be well-prepared to submit their work on time. In the unfortunate event that either the midterm assignment or the final draft of the paper is submitted after the due date, the late assignment will reflect a ten point grade reduction for each calendar day that it is late.

Grading Scale. The grading scale for this course is written below.

A . . . 90-100 (4.00)	B+ . . . 87-89 (3.33)	B . . . 83-86 (3.00)	B- . . . 80-82 (2.67)
C+ . . . 77-79 (2.33)	C . . . 73-76 (2.00)	C- . . . 70-72 (1.67)	D+ . . . 67-69 (1.33)
D . . . 63-66 (1.00)	D- . . . 60-62 (.67)	F . . . below 60 (0.00)*	

Attendance: Each student is allowed four absences, although, given the nature of the course, any missed classes will negatively impact the student's grade. Any subsequent unexcused absences will result in a failing semester grade. Since lateness is disruptive to the class, two tardies will be equal to one unexcused absence. If you arrive more than twenty minutes late OR leave more than twenty minutes early, you will be counted absent for the day. *Even if your class average is above 60, you will fail the course if you have more than four absences.

Other Items of Importance:

If you have a disability that may require assistance or accommodation, or you have questions related to any accommodations for testing, note takers, readers, etc., please speak with me as soon as possible. Students may also contact the Office of Disabled Services (898-2783) with questions about such services.

To retain Tennessee Education Lottery Scholarship eligibility, you must earn a cumulative TELS GPA of 2.75 after 24 attempted hours and a cumulative TELS GPA of 3.0 thereafter. A grade of C, D, F, or I in this class may negatively impact TELS eligibility. Dropping a class after 14 days may also impact eligibility. If you withdraw from this class and it results in an enrollment status of less than full time, you may lose eligibility for your lottery scholarship. For additional lottery scholarship rules please refer to your Lottery Statement of Understanding form, review lottery scholarship requirements on the web at <http://scholarships.web.mtsu.edu/telsconteligibility.htm>, or contact the MTSU financial aid office at 898-2830.

Electronic Use Policy. Use of personal electronic devices is not permitted in the classroom. Please mute all cell phones during class time. Repeated disruptions of the class due to the ringing of cell phones will result in a lowered class participation grade. Please remember that the responsible use of technology involves respect and consideration for others.

Important Note: All work for this course (written and oral) is to be presented in French.

Français 4010/5010--Femmes au Carrefour

Le Programme

mardi 31 août	Introduction
jeudi 2 septembre	Bibliothèque
mardi 7 septembre	<u>Une Si Longue Lettre</u> chapitres 1 – 9
jeudi 9 septembre	<u>Une Si Longue Lettre</u> chapitres 10 – 14
mardi 14 septembre	<u>Une Si Longue Lettre</u> chapitres 15 – 21
jeudi 16 septembre	<u>Une Si Longue Lettre</u> chapitres 22 – 27
mardi 21 septembre	<u>L'Exil selon Julia</u> pp. 11 - 52
jeudi 23 septembre	<u>L'Exil selon Julia</u> pp. 53-107
mardi 28 septembre	<u>L'Exil selon Julia</u> pp. 109-174
jeudi 30 septembre	<u>L'Exil selon Julia</u> pp. 175-219
mardi 5 octobre	<u>Le Livre d'Emma</u> pp. 7-51
jeudi 7 octobre	<u>Le Livre d'Emma</u> pp. 52-94
mardi 12 octobre	<u>Le Livre d'Emma</u> pp. 95-125
jeudi 14 octobre	<u>Le Livre d'Emma</u> pp. 126-167
mardi 19 octobre	Pause d'automne !!!
jeudi 21 octobre	à rendre : Bibliographie Annotée / Thèse / Explication
mardi 26 octobre	<u>Traversée de la Mangrove</u> pp. 13-48
jeudi 28 octobre	<u>Traversée de la Mangrove</u> pp. 49-89
mardi 2 novembre	<u>Traversée de la Mangrove</u> pp. 91-130

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jeudi 4 novembre	<u>Traversée de la Mangrove</u> pp. 131-171
mardi 9 novembre	<u>Traversée de la Mangrove</u> pp. 173-214
jeudi 11 novembre	<u>Traversée de la Mangrove</u> pp. 215-251
mardi 16 novembre	Film : <u>Persépolis</u>
jeudi 18 novembre	Film et Discussion
mardi 23 novembre	<u>Broderies</u> 1 ^{ère} partie
jeudi 25 novembre	Pause de Thanksgiving !!!
mardi 30 novembre	<u>Broderies</u> 2 ^{ième} partie
jeudi 2 décembre	<u>Broderies</u> 3 ^{ième} partie
mardi 7 décembre	Jour de synthèse / à rendre : Essai

N.B. Il est possible que le programme du cours soit légèrement modifié.

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Additional Requirements for 5010 Students

In addition to the course requirements for 4010 students you will be required to complete the following:

Additional Required Reading:

Fanon, Frantz. Peau noire masques blancs. Paris: Éditions du Seuil, 1952.
Chapters 1, 4, 5, and 7

Mohanty, Chandra Talpade. “Under Western Eyes: Feminist Scholarship and Colonial Discourse.” Colonial Discourse and Post-Colonial Theory. Ed. Patrick Williams and Laura Chrisman. New York: Columbia UP, 1994. 196-220.

Schmitt, Richard. “Racism and Objectification: Reflections on Themes from Fanon.” Fanon: A Critical Reader. Ed. Lewis R. Gordon, T. Denean Sharpley-Whiting and Renée T. White. Oxford: Blackwell, 1996. 35-50.

Spivak, Gayatri Chakravorty. “Can the Subaltern Speak?” Colonial Discourse and Post-Colonial Theory. Ed. Patrick Williams and Laura Chrisman. New York: Columbia UP, 1994. 66-111.

You must submit a detailed analysis of each additional reading listed above no later than December 7, 2010, the day the final essays are due.

Midterm Essay Preparation Packet: Your bibliography due at midterm should contain at least ten sources from your own research with more detailed, critical notes.

Final Essay: At least 25 pages in length, your essay should be more theoretical in nature, reflecting an understanding and analysis of the additional required reading as well as primary sources.