

LOVE, SEX AND DESIRE IN FRENCH LITERATURE AND CINEMA

FCS292H1S

COURSE INSTRUCTOR: Dr. Marie-Anne Visoi, University of Toronto

FCS292H1S 2012

Thursdays 1-3

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COURSE DESCRIPTION

Through close reading and interpretative analysis of novels from the eighteenth to the twentieth century, this course will explore the themes of love, sex, and desire in French literature. Selections from ancient and modern philosophical texts on love, sex, and desire will be the starting point of our discussions: Plato, *Symposium*, Bataille, *Eroticism*, Beauvoir, *The Woman in Love*, Ricoeur, *Sexuality and the Sacred*. A comparative approach using various examples taken from literary texts and film adaptations will explore the concept of love and its many definitions.

Prerequisite: None

REQUIRED BOOKS

I. Pierre Choderlos de Laclos, "Dangerous Liaisons" ; Emile Zola, "Nana" ; Marguerite Duras, "The Lover"

The three novels are available from the **Bob Miller Book Room** located at: 180 Bloor Street West, Lower Concourse, Toronto, ON M5S 2V6 Telephone: (416) 922-3557

email: info@bobmillerbookroom.com

II. **Course Textbook** (Consult instructor)

Films to be viewed in class: "Dangerous Liaisons" (1988, Stephen Frears); "The Lover" (1992, Jean-Jacques Annaud)

FCS292H1S 2012 SYLLABUS

| Date | Lectures | Reading Assignments, Tests, Essays |
|-------------------|--|--|
| Jan. 12 | Introduction - Ancients: the concepts of “love”, “sex” and “desire” Courtly love | Read: Course Textbook, Chapter 1(hand-out) ; deLaclos, <i>Dangerous Liaisons</i> , Part I |
| Jan. 19 | 18th century French literature; the epistolary novel; woman as manipulator of desire DeLaclos , <i>Dangerous Liaisons</i> Writing an Essay | Read: deLaclos, <i>Dangerous Liaisons</i> , Part II |
| Jan. 26 | DeLaclos , <i>Dangerous Liaisons</i> Passage Analysis | Read: Course Textbook, Chapter 2 ; deLaclos, <i>Dangerous Liaisons</i> , Part III |
| Feb. 2 | Film: <i>Dangerous Liaisons</i> | Read : Course Textbook, Chapter 2 ; deLaclos, <i>Dangerous Liaisons</i> , Part IV; Zola, <i>Nana</i> , Chapters 1-5 |
| Feb. 9 | | *In-class Essay (110 min.) Read: Zola, <i>Nana</i> |
| Feb. 16 | 19th century French literature; Belle époque; Zola and naturalism Zola , <i>Nana</i> | Read : Course Textbook, Chapter 3 ; Zola, <i>Nana</i> , Chapters 5-10 |
| Feb. 20-24 | Reading Week | |
| Mar. 1st | Mysticism and sensuality in <i>Nana</i> Passage Analysis | Read : Course Textbook, Chapter 3 ; Zola, <i>Nana</i> , Chapters 10-14 |
| Mar. 8 | | *Mid-term Test |

| | | |
|----------------|---|---|
| | | (110 min.) |
| Mar. 15 | 20th century French novel and film Duras, <i>The Lover</i> | Read : Course Textbook, Chapter 4 ; Duras, <i>The Love</i> , pages 1-35 |
| Mar. 22 | Film: <i>The Lover</i> | Read : Course Textbook, Chapter 4 ; Duras, <i>The Lover</i> , pages 35-76 |
| Mar. 29 | The Rhetoric of Desire in <i>The Lover</i> Passage Analysis | Read : Duras, <i>The Lover</i> , pages 76-117 Review all course material; Course Textbook, Chapters 1- 4 |
| April 5 | | *Final Test (110 min.) |

EVALUATION AND COURSE EXPECTATIONS

Assignments and evaluation: one in-class essay 25%; one mid-term test 30%; one final test 35%; class participation 5%; overall assessment, attendance 5%.

In-class Essay (110 minutes) 25%

The essay (approximately 500 words) will be written in class on a topic chosen by the instructor related to the readings to date; possible topics will be discussed during lectures. Essays should be double-spaced throughout, with one-inch margins at the top, bottom, and both sides. Titles of works published on their own, such as *Dangerous Liaisons*, should appear in *italics* or underlined.

Please consult the following resources on essay writing:

<http://www.writing.utoronto.ca/advice/general/general-advice>

No aids will be allowed.

Mid-term Test (110 minutes) 30%

The test will be based on the readings to date; it will consist of questions on the representation of the concepts discussed in class; you will be asked to choose *five of ten* topics. Your answers should be in paragraph form and demonstrate close reading and ability to understand French cultural topics and concepts discussed in the course/in your assigned readings (approx. number of words per answer: 70)

No aids will be allowed.

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Final Test (110 minutes) 35%

The final test will quiz knowledge of detail and significance as well as your understanding of all the course material studied during the spring term. *The first part* of the test (40%) will consist of questions on the representation of the concepts discussed in class; you will be asked to choose *four of eight* topics. Your answers should demonstrate close reading and ability to understand French cultural topics and concepts discussed in the course/in your assigned readings (approx. number of words per answer: 50). *In the second part* (60%), you will be asked to choose *one* of three topics and write a short literary essay (400 words). *No aids will be allowed.*

Class Participation, Overall Assessment and Attendance (on-going) 10%

Participation and attendance are necessary because lectures provide the essential information for achieving course goals and objectives. You are required to attend each class, arrive on time, remain attentive, and participate in class discussions based on the assigned readings. Please ensure that you check the schedule of our class meetings and the information/documents provided in your Blackboard course website regularly. You are required to bring the assigned novel to class and come prepared to contribute actively to class discussions.

The class participation and overall assessment marks will be based on your ability to read attentively and understand the assigned readings, grasp French cultural concepts, use related terminology and develop critical capacity and analytic skills.

Absences due to emergencies will be reported as soon as possible to the instructor and to the appropriate college official, if necessary. Students are responsible for making up missed work and requesting hand-outs. No marks will be communicated by e-mail or telephone.

Academic dishonesty in any form will not be tolerated. Please consult the following link regarding academic honesty, plagiarism and student conduct at the University of Toronto: <http://www.utoronto.ca/academicintegrity/resourcesforstudents.html>

IMPORTANT NOTES:

Your final mark will be based solely on the tests, final examination, and overall assessment mentioned above – no additional assignments are possible under any circumstances. Should you miss any of the tests due to illness or major circumstances

beyond your control, you must contact your instructor within a maximum of one week to arrange a retake. For missed tests due to illness, you must provide an official University of Toronto *Student Medical Certificate* signed by a physician. For tests missed due to any other major circumstance, you must provide a letter from your registrar. Any test missed and not made up will be assigned a grade of '0'. For details regarding marking criteria, please consult the attached Grading regulations.

GRADING REGULATIONS

(<http://www.artsandscience.utoronto.ca/ofr/calendar/rules.htm>)

| Percentage | Letter Grade | Grade Point Value * | Grade Definition | |
|------------|--------------|---------------------|------------------|--|
| 90-100 | A+ | 4.0 | Excellent | Strong evidence of original thinking; good organization; capacity to analyze and synthesize; superior grasp of subject matter with sound critical evaluations; evidence of extensive knowledge base. |
| 85-89 | A | 4.0 | | |
| 80-84 | A- | 3.7 | | |
| 77-79 | B+ | 3.3 | Good | Evidence of grasp of subject matter, some evidence of critical capacity and analytic ability; reasonable understanding of relevant issues; evidence of familiarity with literature. |
| 73-76 | B | 3.0 | | |
| 70-72 | B- | 2.7 | | |
| 67-69 | C+ | 2.3 | Adequate | Student who is profiting from his/her university experience; understanding of the subject matter; ability to develop solutions to simple problems in the material. |
| 63-66 | C | 2.0 | | |
| 60-62 | C- | 1.7 | | |
| 57-59 | D+ | 1.3 | Marginal | Some evidence of familiarity with subject matter and some evidence that critical and analytic skills have been developed. |
| 53-56 | D | 1.0 | | |
| 50-52 | D- | 0.7 | | |
| 0-49 | F | 0.0 | Inadequat | Little evidence of even superficial understanding of subject matter; weakness in critical and analytic skills; with limited or irrelevant use of literature. |

POLICY CONCERNING E-MAIL

- 1) Instructors will not reply to e-mail concerning information already available in course syllabi, other handouts, or course websites;
- 2) Instructors are not obliged to respond to e-mail which they deem unprofessional, disrespectful, or inappropriate;
- 3) Appropriate use: e-mail correspondence should be used **only for administrative matters** (e.g., make-up tests due to illness). **It should not be used for:**
 - a. Inquiries concerning course content including evaluations. These must be posted on the Blackboard Discussion Board, asked in class, or discussed during office hours;
 - b. As an alternative to meeting with your instructor during office hours, as a private tutorial, or to review material covered in missed lectures;
 - c. For electronic submission of assignments. This is only permitted in exceptional circumstances with prior special permission granted by your instructor.
- 4) Account: university policy requires that you have a **UTORmail account**. All correspondence, including that via the Blackboard course site, must be conducted using this address (i.e, no hotmail, yahoo, gmail, or other external addresses);
- 5) Self identification: please identify yourself clearly by including the **course designator** (e.g., FSL221) in the subject line and your **full name with student number** in the message. Messages lacking this information will go unanswered;
- 6) Response time: Instructors and course coordinators will endeavour to reply to all messages within **48 hours** of receiving them. Please note that no correspondence will occur after 6PM or on weekends. If you do not receive a reply within this period, resend your message or contact your instructor by phone.

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REFERENCES CITED

- Bakhtin, Mikhail. *The Dialogic Imagination*, translated by Caryl Emerson and Michael Holquist. Austin: University of Texas Press, 1981.
- Bataille, George. *Erotism*. City Lights Publishers, 1986.
- Calvino, Italo. "Why Read the Classics." *The Uses of Literature*. New York: Vintage Books, 1999.
- Hoffman, Carol. *Forgetting and Marguerite Duras*. University of Colorado Press, 1991.
- Davies, Simon. *Pierre Choderlos de Laclos*. The Literary Encyclopedia, 2002.
- de Beauvoir, Simone. *The Second Sex*. Vintage, 1989.
- de Laclos, Pierre Choderlos. *Dangerous Liaisons*. Penguin Classics, 2007.
- Duras, Marguerite. *The Lover*. Pantheon, 1998.
- Gunther, R. *Marguerite Duras*. The Literary Encyclopedia, 2007.
- Harrow, Susan. *Emile Zola*. The Literary Encyclopedia, 2007.
- Ovid. *The Art of Love*. Penguin Classics, 1983.
- Plato. *The Symposium*. Penguin Classics, 2003.
- Zola, Emile. *Nana*. Penguin Classics, 1972.

Additional Resources

- Abrams, M. H. *A Glossary of Literary Terms*. 5th ed. New York: Holt, 1988.
- Bowers, Toni. *Epistolary Fiction*. The Literary Encyclopedia, 2009.
- Cuddon, J. A. *The Penguin Dictionary of Literary Terms and Literary Theory*. London: Penguin Books, 1991.
- Eagleton, Terry. *Structuralism and Semiotics*. Literary Theory: An Introduction. Minneapolis: U of Minnesota P, 1983.
- Frye, Northrop. *The Great Code: The Bible and Literature*. Toronto: Academic Press, 1982.

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Gianetti, Louis. *Understanding Movies*. 3rd ed., Englewood Cliffs, NJ: Prentice-Hall, 1982.

Martin, Wallace. *Recent Theories of Narrative*. Ithaca: Cornell University Press, 1986.

Visoi, Marie-Anne. *The Lover*. The Literary Encyclopedia, 2011.

Zola, Émile. *From The Experimental Novel*. Critical Theory Since Plato. Ed. Hazard Adams. New York: Harcourt Brace Jovanovich, 1971. 645-655.

Useful Links

Andreas Capellanus, The Art of Courtly Love, (btw. 1174-1186) Internet Medieval Sourcebook

<http://www.fordham.edu/halsall/source/capellanus.html>

The Bible, The Song of Songs, King James Version

http://www.online-literature.com/bible/The_Song_of_Songs/

Zola Collections: <http://www.chass.utoronto.ca/french/sable/collections/zola/index.html>

Additional terms:

http://www.wsu.edu/~brians/guides_index.html

Essay writing:

<http://owl.english.purdue.edu/>