

Fall 2019  
FREN 4415/6415: Francophone Literature

Instructor: Dr. Benjamin Sparks  
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Office Hours: TR 10:00-12:30am  
MW 8:00-9:30am

Course Meetings: TR 1:00-2:25

Course Location: 239 Jones Hall

Course Description:

This course is designed to provide a survey of literature throughout the Francophone world. This course will cover the following Francophone parts of the world: North Africa, West Africa, Vietnam, Louisiana, and the Caribbean.

Required Novels:

Any edition of these novels will work, however, if possible, please try to obtain these editions:

Cheikh Hamidou Kane : *L'aventure ambiguë* (ISBN: 978-2-264-03693-3)  
Aimé Césaire : *Cahier d'un retour au pays natal* (ISBN : 978-2-708-70420-6)  
Mouloud Feraoun : *Le fils du pauvre* (ISBN : 978-2-020-26199-9)  
Sidonie de la Houssaye : *Les Quarteronnes de la Nouvelle-Orléans* (ISBN : 0-9754244-2-4)  
Marguerite Duras : *L'amant* (ISBN : 978-2-70730695-1)

Learning Objectives:

Students will be able to:

- Read novels produced outside of hexagonal France
- Analyze Francophone literature through a theoretical lens
- Write coherently about thematic elements found in Francophone literature by using critical thinking and literary analysis.

Course Policies:

To achieve success in this class, students must be present and prepared for class, including bringing copies of required materials to class, and willing to participate in group discussions. There is a time and place for cell phones and texting, however, during this class period is not one of those times. Please keep your phones on silent and in your bags to be respectful of the professor and other classmates.

Grading:

Preparation/Participation	20%
Presentations	15%
Reading Journal	10%
Papers (2)	25%
Final Paper	30%

#### Preparation/Participation:

Students are expected to come to class prepared and contribute to all discussions. Students are also expected to have read the material listed in the course schedule before arriving to class. You will lose points here if you miss a class without a valid excuse, if you are continuously late to class, if you have not read the material before class, and if you do not participate in class discussions.

#### Presentations:

Each student will have the opportunity to give a short presentation at the beginning of class. The student will be expected to provide a short summary of the previous class' discussion and ask a few questions to get the discussion going.

#### Reading Journal:

Students will be expected to keep a reading journal of their thoughts, impressions, questions, and/or personal notes as they read the literature. It is advised that the students use either a composition or other small notebook. There will be one entry required per class period written, of course, in French. You will not be graded on grammar for the reading journal. This will be turned in the same time as the final paper.

#### Papers:

Students will write two (2) papers on the novels read up to that date. It can either be an analysis of one of the novels or a thematic comparison between multiple novels. The topic is completely up to the students. The professor is more than willing to help with any ideas if needed. These papers will be 2-3 pages in length for undergrads and 5-7 pages for graduate students. Due dates will be noted in the class schedule.

#### Final Paper:

The final project for this class (i.e. the Final Exam) will be a final paper analyzing one to two novels or a single thematic element using the novels read this semester. The final paper will be 5-7 pages in length for undergrads and 10-12 pages for graduate students. The professor can help with possible ideas if needed. This will be due the day of the scheduled final exam by noon.

**Tentative Course Schedule:**

27 août

Syllabus et les introductions

*Discours sur le colonialisme* (<http://www.larevuedesressources.org/IMG/pdf/CESAIRE.pdf>)

29 août

*Discours sur le colonialisme*

3 septembre

Introduction à la littérature martiniquaise

*Eloge de la Créolité*

5 septembre

*Cahier d'un retour au pays natal*

10 septembre

*Cahier d'un retour au pays natal*

12 septembre

*Cahier d'un retour au pays natal*

17 septembre

*Cahier d'un retour au pays natal*

19 septembre

Introduction à la littérature louisianaise

« L'émergence d'une littérature francophone en Louisiane »

« Une littérature louisianaise d'expression française à découvrir »

24 septembre

Introduction à Sidonie de la Houssaye et sa littérature

*Les Quarteronnes de la Nouvelle-Orléans*

26 septembre

*Les Quarteronnes de la Nouvelle-Orléans*

1<sup>er</sup> octobre

*Les Quarteronnes de la Nouvelle-Orléans*

3 octobre

*Les Quarteronnes de la Nouvelle-Orléans*

8 octobre

*Les Quarteronnes de la Nouvelle-Orléans*

10 octobre

Introduction à la littérature sénégalaise

La négritude et le colonialisme  
Paper 1 à rendre

17 octobre  
*L'aventure ambiguë*

22 octobre  
*L'aventure ambiguë*

24 octobre  
*L'aventure ambiguë*

29 octobre  
*L'aventure ambiguë*

31 octobre  
Introduction à la littérature maghrébine

5 novembre  
*Le fils du pauvre*

7 novembre  
*Le fils du pauvre*

12 novembre  
*Le fils du pauvre*

14 novembre  
*Le fils du pauvre*

19 novembre  
Introduction à la littérature vietnamienne  
*L'amant*  
Paper 2 à rendre

21 novembre  
*L'amant*

26 novembre  
*L'amant*

3 décembre  
*L'amant*

5 décembre  
Préparation pour le Final Paper