# FREN 2382–Introduction to French & Francophone Literature

# and FREN 4339 French Literature & Culture

Summer I 2024–Study Abroad in Paris

**Course Details & Program Schedule**

(Note: This is not the course syllabus; please see the syllabus on BB;

for the activity schedule, see page 4.)

# Course Details

**French 2382** and **French 4339**

**Summer Session I:** first, synchronous classes June 3-7 (five units for you to complete

at your leisure); second, classes in Paris June 10-21 (10 days of site visits)

visiting museums, palaces, cathedrals, and monuments, and other cultural activities **Location:** Hotel lounge, museums, monuments, parks, and streets of Paris; quizzes will take place after the cultural visits in the parks of the sites.

# Instructor

Dr. Suzanne LaLonde’s Office: hotel lounge

Email: suzanne.lalonde@utrgv.edu

Office hours: Make arrangements to meet your professor in the hotel lounge through email.

# Textbook and Electronic Requirements

*\*Paris and Its Revolutionary Ideas* by Suzanne LaLonde; see suzannelalonde.us

\*Computer or tablette to write your E-Journal–A carefully constructed e-journal of your impressions of French Literature and Culture and environmental issues confronted; include photos**.** (It will be posted on our class web page) and focuses on French Culture and Literature, artistic themes, psycho-philosophical topics, and environmental concerns, not on details of your private life.

# Course Topics

French Literature & Culture from the Middle Ages to the present; see topics on schedule page.

# Grades: Your final grade will be based on the following breakdown:

\*Homework—20% During the first week of the course (the asynchronous period), you will be required to answer the questions about literature in the toolboxes indicated by the page number in the schedule. You will upload your answers to a BB site.

\*Quizzes—20% You will have quizzes after each of the first 10 site visits-corresponding to the chapters.

\*Final E-Journal on a webpage—30% You should write at least 750 words on each book chapter or cultural excursion; prompts are presented in the book in the gray toolboxes at the end of the chapters.

\*Participation—30% Your professor will take attendance at the beginning of each excursion.

# Goals

The aim of these courses is to introduce students to a wide range of topics within the immense realm of French Literature and Culture from the Middle Ages to the present. Areas to be covered include literature, art, history, and philosophy with a special emphasis on literature. Representative texts and cultural icons from and representing each period will be studied. It is hoped that in addition to expanding students' knowledge of French Literature and Culture, students will become educated global citizens who thinks more critically about all cultures and customs, including and especially their own. At the heart of the course, we will discuss these fundamental issues: A.) **C**ulture versus **c**ulture; in other words, what makes up the Canon; B.) The "history" of literature; C) How one writes history and different concepts of history; D.) The “purpose” of art in general; E.) And finally, the “purpose” of one studying literature, the arts, and culture in an age of environmental crisis.

**Schedule of Topics Pre-Departure**

**FREN 2382**

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Class#** | **Date** | **Book Chapters to Read and PPs to Review*** It is recommended that you start the course earlier than the SSI schedule; namely, begin your coursework on the day after Memorial Day, which is Mon, 5/27.)
* Please watch the introductory video “Course & Program Mechanics” found on BB in the announcements area before you begin the coursework.
 | **HW:**Answer the questions in the toolboxes on and upload on BB: |
| 12 | 5/28-TU 5/29- WD | **Introduction of the book and course**PPA & PPBObjectives of course and book **Chap1** PP#1 Musée de Cluny, Notre Dame, Ste. Chapelle & the Latin QuarterGuides of literature: Abélard & Héloïse | P.xxiiP.12 |
| 34 | 5/30- TH5/31-FR | **Chap2** PP#2 Louvre & Guide of literature: Michel de Montaigne **Chap3** PP#3VersaillesGuide of literature: Voltaire  | P.33P.50 |
| 56 | 6/1- SA6/2- SU | **Chap4** PP#4 PanthéonGuide of literature: Rousseau **Chap5** PP#5Orsay MuseumGuides of literature: Mme de Staël & Victor Hugo | P.77P.93 |
| 78 | 6/3- MN6/4- TU | **Chap6** PP#6 Eiffel TowerGuides of literature: Charles Baudelaire & Emile Zola **Chap7** PP#7Rodin Museum & MontmartreGuide of literature: André Breton  | P.115P.133 |
| 910 | 6/5-wd6/6TH | **Chap8** PP#8 Pompidou CenterGuides of literature: Simone de Beauvoir & J.-P. Sartre **Chap9** PP#9Quai Branly MuseumGuides of literature: Albert Camus & Frantz Fanon  | P.154P.181 |
| 11 | 6/7- FR | **Chap10**PP#10 Natural History MuseumGuide of literature: J.M.G. Le Clézion  | P.198 |
|  | 6/8SA6/9SU | Travel to ParisArrival in Paris |  |

**Schedule of Topics and Activities in Paris**

**FREN 2382**

(Green below indicates that you can use your six-day "Paris Pass" at the site; \* indicates a reservation is necessary. Blue indicates purchasing a four-day pass to see other sites.

<https://www.parismuseumpass.fr/plan-sites>)

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| **Class day in Paris** | **Date** | **Cultural Site Visit** | **Special Notes** |
|  1 | 6/10- MN | \*Sainte Chapelle--9:30amMusée de Cluny & the Latin Quarter |  |
| 2 | 6/11- TU | \*Versailles—9:30am |  |
| 34 | 6/12- WD6/13-TH | \*Louvre--10:30am PantheonMusée d'Orsay Tour Eiffel |  |
| 5 | 6/14-FR | Musée de Rodin or de PicasssoPompidou |  |
| 6 | 6/15-SA | Quai Branly Museum--13:00 | Visit on Sat, but none on Sun. |
| 7 | 6/17-MN | Natural History Museum |  |
| 8 | 6/18- TU | Fontainebleau |  |
| 9 | 6/19-WD | Choice: any place on the ParisPass list, such as:**LA CINÉMATHÈQUE FRANÇAISE • MUSÉE MÉLIÈS****PHILHARMONIE DE PARIS • MUSÉE DE LA MUSIQU** |  |
| 10 | 6/20-TH | Choice:any place on the ParisPass list, such as: |  |
| 11 | 6/21-Fri | **Debriefing and free day** | Departure on Sat. 6/22 |

**Final Assignment of your E-Journal (Webpage) of each site visited, due:**

 **July 7 at 12:00pm Central time**

# Some inspirational quotes in order to approach the class:

1. “To flourish, you need by and large to stop being who you are.” (Terry Eagelton *After Theory* 160)
2. “The only respectable state of mind is to express constantly one’s perfect dissatisfaction with it.” (Aznar Nafisi *Reading Lolita in Tehran* 213)
3. “It is important that students bring a certain ragamuffin, barefoot irreverence to their studies; they are not here to worship what is known but to question it.” (Jacob Bronowski *The Ascent of Man* 360)
4. “Clichés, stock phrases, adherence to conventional, standardized codes of expression and conduct have the socially recognized function of protecting us against reality, that is, against the claim on our thinking attention that all events and facts make by virtue of their existence.” (Hannah Arendt *The Life of the Mind* 4)
5. “Scientists… are used to dealing with doubt and uncertainty. All scientific knowledge is uncertain. This experience with doubt and uncertainty is important. I believe that it is of very great value, and one that extends beyond the sciences. I believe that to solve any problem that has never been solved before, you have to leave the door to the unknown ajar: You have to permit the possibility that you do not have it exactly right. Otherwise, if you have made up your mind already, you might not solve it.” (Richard Feynman 1965 Nobel Prize in physics for his work in quantum electrodynamics.)

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# UTRGV POLICIES, ETC.

To be added as they are updated by the university.