

Etienne Balibar

DERRIDA AND HIS OTHERS (FREN GU4626)

A study of Derrida's work using as a guiding thread a comparison with contemporary "others" who have addressed the same question albeit from an antithetic point of view:

- 1) Derrida with Althusser on the question of historicity
- 2) Derrida with Deleuze on the question of alterity, focusing on their analyses of linguistic difference
- 3) Derrida with Habermas on the question of cosmopolitanism and hospitality

Etienne Balibar

THE 68-EFFECT IN FRENCH THEORY (FREN GU4625)

A study of the relationship between the May 68 events in Paris and "French theory," with a focus on 1) "Power and Knowledge" (Foucault and Lacan); 2) "Desire" (Deleuze-Guattari and Irigaray); 3) "Reproduction" (Althusser and Bourdieu-Passeron).

Antoine Compagnon

PROUST VS. SAINTE-BEUVE (FREN GR8605)

A seminar on the origins of the Proust's novel, *À la recherche du temps perdu*, in the pamphlet *Contre Sainte-Beuve*, both an essay and a narrative drafted by Proust in 1908-1909. But who was Sainte-Beuve? And how did the monumental novel curiously emerge out of a quarrel with a 19th-century critic? We will also look at the various attempts to reconstitute the tentative *Contre Sainte-Beuve*, buried deep in the archeology of the *Recherche*.

Souleymane Bachir Diagne

DISCOVERING EXISTENCE (FREN GU4730)

Modern science marking the end of the closed world meant that Earth, the abode of the human being, lost its natural position at the center of the universe. The passage from the Aristotelian closed world to the infinite universe of modern science raised the question of the meaning of human existence, which is the topic of the seminar. How that question continued to resonate in French literature and philosophy, will be examined, first through the study of texts by Blaise Pascal in the 17th century; then through the reading of texts centered around the topic of the "discovery of existence" (echoing, as we will see, many of Pascal's topics): texts by Jean Paul Sartre, Simone de Beauvoir, Frantz Fanon and Albert Camus will thus be analyzed.

Souleymane Bachir Diagne

QUESTIONS IN AFRICAN LITERATURE (FREN GU4800)

The seminar will examine the writing of violence, resistance and hope in two films by Ousmane Sembène and four novels dealing with the genocide in Rwanda. The novels are Boubacar Boris Diop's *Murambi*, le livre des ossements, Veronique Tadjo's *L'ombre d'Imana*, voyage jusqu'au bout du Rwanda; Abdourahman Waberi's *Moisson de crânes*, and Tierno Monenembo's *L'aîné des orphelins*. Sembene's films are *Moolaadé* and *Guelwar*

Souleymane Bachir Diagne

BERGSON AND BERGSONISM (FREN GR8189)

This seminar will examine the significance of a "Bergson moment" in the history of French philosophy. In a first part, different works by Henri Bergson will be studied with a particular emphasis on his reflections on art and literature. The second part will be devoted to the reception of Bergson's thought beyond France, among intellectuals from the colonial world in particular Indian poet and philosopher Muhammad Iqbal and Senegalese poet and thinker Léopold Sédar Senghor.

Souleymane Bachir Diagne

AFRICAN LITERATURE AND PHILOSOPHY (FREN GR8618)

The seminar will examine the poetry and the philosophical writings of Negritude authors Léopold Sédar Senghor (1906-2001) from Senegal, Aimé Césaire (1913- 2008) from Martinique and Léon Gontran Damas (1912-1978) from Guyana in connection with the works of Marx, Nietzsche, Bergson, Levy-Bruhl, Sartre, and Teilhard de Chardin. Discussions on philosophical questions of identity and difference, or of an African aesthetics, or of universalism will be combined with close readings of the poetry and theater of the three authors.

Madeleine Dobie

THE MAGHREB IN TRANSITION: CULTURE AND SOCIETY IN NORTH AFRICA SINCE 1990 (FREN GR8626)

In this course, we explore cultural production in the contemporary Maghreb. We consider how important dimensions of social and political life are explored in literature and film as well as the role of these and other media in shaping social and political dynamics. We focus on Algeria, Tunisia and Morocco, though we also situate these nations in broader regional and global contexts. As former French colonies, these three nations share a multilingual cultural environment in which French coexists with Arabic. Though our sources are primarily in French, we examine material produced in both languages with options to read/watch in translation. Most of the course materials are also available in English translation.

The course begins in roughly 1990, a time of disenchantment when the political leadership brought to power at Independence was replaced or at least challenged. We explore the dynamics of Algeria's 'Black Decade', Morocco's emergence from the 'Years of lead' and, with an eye to more recent developments, Tunisia's 'Arab spring' as well as less punctual and less highly mediatized currents of social and economic life. Our primary focus is on the varied ways in which the arts and cultural media have responded and contributed to change while also revisiting the past and reframing national narratives. The course is interdisciplinary, combining historical, sociological and anthropological approaches with close reading of texts and films.

The syllabus is organized both historically and thematically. We explore questions including aesthetic responses to violence and the theorization of trauma and memory; the changing geography and sociology of migration and the changing landscape of media and publication. Many of our sources explore the meaning of 'modernity', often in conjunction with explorations of subjectivity and spirituality, gender and sexuality.

Thomas Dodman

HOW TO TEACH FRENCH CIVILIZATION (FREN GR8789)

This class prepares graduate students to teach "Civilization" classes in French departments, a qualification that is increasingly being demanded for positions in the field. It does so by examining major themes in French politics, culture and society, and by placing these in historical context. By studying historiographical and methodological debates, students also work towards refining their own research topics.

Thomas Dodman

STRUCTURES OF FEELING: EMOTIONS IN HISTORY AND LITERATURE (CLFR GR8547)

This seminar initiates graduate students in the humanities and social sciences to the historical study of emotions broadly defined. It provides an interdisciplinary genealogy of a field recently propelled into the spotlight by the so-called "biological turn," and pushes to reflect upon the opportunities and pitfalls of studying emotions. Topics covered include: anthropological and psychological understandings of emotion; affect theory and its critique; what insights neuroscience, cognitive psychology, and evolutionary biology can bring to the humanities; and, conversely, what a historically grounded approach to emotion can provide to a critical understanding of society and culture.

Pierre Force

PROSEMINAR. INTRODUCTION TO LITERARY RESEARCH (FREN GR8091)

This course is designed for first-year graduate students in French. It is an introduction to the conceptual and practical tools of literary research.

Pierre Force

FRENCH AMERICA, 1534-1804 (HIST GU4110)

A study of the French Atlantic World from the exploration of Canada to the Louisiana Purchase and Haitian Independence, with a focus on the relationship between war and trade, forms of intercultural negotiation, the economics of slavery, and the changing meaning of race. The course is designed for advanced undergraduates and graduate students.

Pierre Force

PASCAL, HERMENEUTICS AND RHETORIC (FREN GR8417)

A study of Blaise Pascal's complete works, including the *Pensées*, the *Lettres provinciales*, and the *Entretiens sur Epictète et Montaigne*, with a focus on issues of persuasion, Biblical interpretation, epistemology, and politics.

Aubrey Gabel

SOCIOLOGIES OF THE EVERYDAY (FREN GR8819)

Mid-to-late 20th-century France saw the rise of literary practices less centered on narrative, and more on the experience of everyday life. Influenced by scholars from diverse intellectual traditions (like Marxism, history, anthropology, sociology, and psychoanalysis), authors and intellectuals directed their attention to analyzing, understanding, and documenting lived experience. We will consider how literature engaged in "comportements analogiques" to sociology, undertaking its own critical investigation of le quotidien.

Elisabeth Ladenson

IMAGES OF THE FRENCH REVOLUTION (ENFR GU4419)

Elisabeth Ladenson and Caroline Weber

This course is designed as an overview of responses to the French Revolution, concentrating on popular depictions in Francophone and Anglophone works. We will start with contemporary responses and move on through 19th- and 20th-century literary representations of the Revolution, including plays and films, both adaptations of literary responses and original treatments. Readings will include works by Wordsworth, Coleridge, Burke, Wollestonecraft, Sade, and Dickens, along with more recent responses.

J. Meyer

SIXTEENTH-CENTURY FRENCH LITERATURE (FREN GU4203)

This course will introduce major works from the sixteenth century with a particular emphasis on the relationship between geography and literature. We will consider representations of France in the works of Marguerite de Navarre, Montaigne, and Rabelais, noting ways in which cartographic practices inform literary depictions of French space. Our examination of the historical context of these readings, with attention to such topics as the rediscovery of Ptolemy, the discovery of the New World, and the Wars of Religion will help elucidate the unique historical circumstances that shaped the literary developments of the French Renaissance. Readings will include works by contemporary scholars of the period Frank Lestringant, Timothy Hampton and Tom Conley, among others.

Camille Robics

GENDER AS CRITIQUE (FRHS GR8938)

In recent years, conservative and religious activists throughout Europe and Latin America have organized massive street protests against what they are calling "the theory of gender." Although rarely defined, this "theory of gender" has been decried as the inspiration for women and LGBT rights and it has come to encapsulate a series of wide-ranging fears and fantasies from individualism, Marxism, hyper-liberalism, to the dissolution of the self. The goal of this seminar is to explore different scholarly articulations of gender, in order to understand why this concept appears so threatening today. What does it mean to consider gender as a method rather than an object and how does it shift in relation to sex, class, and race? The course will begin with more "classic" accounts of gender (Beauvoir, Lévi-Strauss, Rubin, Wittig, Butler, Foucault, Scott) before turning to recent critical works across various disciplines (history, anthropology, literature, political theory, history of science, and psychoanalysis).

Emmanuelle Saada

A HISTORY OF THE SOCIAL (FRHS GR8813)

This graduate seminar will explore the trajectory of a "science of the social" in France from the end of the nineteenth century to the present with a focus on the transformation of the concept of the "social" it entailed. Starting with the successful efforts by Emile Durkheim to institutionalize sociology as a field that federated all other forms of social analysis, the class will end with Bruno Latour's critique of the durkheimian conceptualization of "the social." On the way, we will read some of the major works by Marcel Mauss, Maurice Halbwachs, Claude Lévi-Strauss, Michel Foucault and Pierre Bourdieu, with attention to the relationship between different social sciences (sociology, anthropology, economics and history), the shared interest in the production of 'categories', the recurring debate over the 'scientific'

status of the social sciences and their relationship to politics, among others. In a nutshell, the class will function as (1) an introduction to French social theory and social sciences and (2) a history of the concept of the "social."

Emmanuelle Saada

FRENCH EMPIRES (CLHS GR8916)

As in many other European countries in the last twenty years, the historiography of France has been reshaped by interest in the imperial trajectory of the nation. This class will explore this 'imperial turn', and examine its specificity vis-à-vis the historiographies of other European empires. We will examine the questions that have been at the center of the historian's agenda: what kind of historical processes are revealed (or masked) by the imperial perspective? How do we think historically about the relationships between nation, republic and empire? How has the 'imperial turn' shaped the categories and writing practices of historians? What are the contributions of historians to the understanding of post-colonialism?

Joanna Stalnaker

DIDEROT AND THE DISCIPLINES (FREN GR8316)

One of the central concerns of Denis Diderot's famous Encyclopédie — the "machine de guerre" of the Enlightenment — was the organization of human knowledge. In this course, we will read Diderot's remarkably wide-ranging corpus as an occasion to think critically and historically about the organization of disciplines in his time and our own. On the one hand, the range of Diderot's polymathic writings indicates the extent to which our modern disciplinary divisions were not operative during the Enlightenment: his work ran the gamut from natural philosophy, to theater, to the novel, to moral philosophy, to political theory, to medicine, with significant overlap among these areas. On the other hand, he contributed to the elaboration of a number of modern disciplines, both through his reflection on knowledge in the Encyclopédie and through his forays into new modes of knowledge such as art criticism and anthropology. We will read his works both in their Enlightenment context and in the context of recent critical reflections on the organization of knowledge and the problems it poses in our own interdisciplinary, information-laden age.

Joanna Stalnaker

ROUSSEAU AND HIS CRITICS (FREN GR8420)

In this course we will read Rousseau through the lens of the extremely polarized critical reactions his writings have elicited, from Diderot to Derrida and beyond. We will try to understand why this figure has been viewed as an exemplar of both the Enlightenment and the Counter-Enlightenment, as a defender of human liberty and as a proto-fascist, as an inspiration to women writers and as a misogynist. We will also address the ways Rousseau defined himself and his work, often in opposition to his fellow philosophes and critics. The course will be held in French, but papers may be written in English for students outside the French department.

Susan Rubin Suleiman

WAR AND MEMORY: POSTWAR REPRESENTATIONS OF WORLD WAR II AND THE OCCUPATION IN FRENCH LITERATURE, HISTORY, AND FILM (FREN GR6602)

This seminar will examine the evolution and varieties of French memories of World War II, specifically as concerns the still sensitive subjects of defeat, collaboration, and resistance. We will discuss selected works from 1945 to the present, representing a range of styles and genres as well as points of view. The focus of class discussions will be chiefly on fiction, memoirs, and a few films (documentary and fiction); and, in a supporting role, on current historiography. Required works by J-P Sartre, Irène Némirovsky, Claude Simon, L.-F. Céline, Robert Antelme, Marguerite Duras, Georges Perec, Patrick Modiano, and others.

Eliza Zingesser

ELOQUENT ANIMALS IN MEDIEVAL LITERATURE (FREN GU4418)

Medieval literature, like contemporary literature, sometimes features talking animals. But medieval grammatical treatises describe non-human animal utterances as meaningless and (usually) as untranscribable in writing. Some human utterances also fall into this category—a fact that grammatical treatises acknowledge—, rendering language alone an inadequate means of shoring up the species boundary. When authors liken their own language to that of a non-human animal, such as the myriad medieval poets who profess to "sing like the birds," is this a serious claim, leading to

experimental poetics? When non-human animals "speak" in medieval fiction, do they speak differently from their human counterparts? This seminar surveys texts in which animals communicate—via language or via other symbolic systems. How, if at all, did medieval authors attempt to draw the line between human and non-human animals? Our reading will include lyric poetry by the troubadours and trouvères, Chrétien de Troyes' Yvain, Philomena, selected *lais* by Marie de France, the *Novas del papagai* (The Story of the Parrot), the *Roman de Renart*, and Gaston Phébus's *Le livre de chasse*. Alongside these texts, we will read theoretical reflections on language and sound, both medieval and modern, including medieval catalogs of animal "noises" and grammatical treatises on voice. Contemporary reflections by Derrida, Jean-Christophe Bailly, Mladen Dolar and others.