



SPRING 2017

## FRENCH COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

**French 4003 - Spring 2017**

**Professor Peters-Hill**  
[rpeters@lsu.edu](mailto:rpeters@lsu.edu)

**from Femme Fatale to Bohemian Belle : *Carmen*, theme and variations**

**Prosper Mérimée's novella « Carmen, » published in 1846, tells the story of a beautiful gypsy woman and her bandit lover. Since its publication, Mérimée's story has captivated audiences the world over, mostly through Georges Bizet's 1875 opera adaptation. Through reinterpretations, retellings, and reimaginings, the story of « la Carmencita » has undergone a vast and varied evolution since its first publication, and fascinated readers, listeners, and viewers across the globe and across genres. This course, which fulfills the senior seminar requirement in the Department of French Studies, will take Mérimée's novella as a point of departure to examine several questions, including :**

- the characterization of the femme fatale**
- the politics of national identity**
- the use of language as a barrier and a passport**
- the tradition of adaptation and performance**
- the issue(s) of translation and cultural appropriation**

**Our encounter with *Carmen* will introduce students to diverse ways of reading, with critical resources as lenses through which to examine the story and its adaptations, the woman and the myth. Texts will include Mérimée's novella, the libretto of Bizet's opera, selected poems, secondary readings in film theory, gender studies, music history, postcolonial studies, and sociology. In addition, students will attend film screenings. A final project will consist of both written work and an oral presentation, in French.**

# FREN 4015: “Advanced French Phonetics”

Sibylle Noetzel



Dans ce cours, nous allons étudier les aspects théoriques et pratiques de la phonétique française. On analyse le système articulatoire des sons, la structure des syllabes, le rythme du français, la production des voyelles et des consonnes et le système phonologique.

Quant à la prononciation, on pense souvent que la prononciation de la ‘r’ française est difficile pour les anglophones. Mais dans une étude phonétique systématique, on va trouver que ce sont les voyelles qui sont assez différentes. Les voyelles sont un groupe de sons bien développé en français et se distinguent dans beaucoup d’aspects de l’anglais. Les diphtongues de l’anglais n’existent pas en français standard mais par contre il y a une classe de sons tout à fait étrangère, ce sont les semi-voyelles.

La phonologie est l’étude du système des sons, leur réalisation dans un contexte concret et leur influence sur les sons voisins. Parfois, un son ‘prend’ un trait caractéristique du son précédent ou suivant, comme par exemple le trait de la sonorité. Les différentes réalisations d’un même phonème peuvent être assez subtiles et elles ne sont pas toujours évidentes pour un étudiant de langues. N’oublions pas le contexte linguistique de la liaison qui a pour conséquence la prononciation des consonnes normalement ‘muettes’. Même pour les francophones, la liaison peut poser des problèmes. Tandis que « laisser [R] un message » avec la ‘r’ prononcée est tout à fait possible dans un style formel, une prononciation comme « le Président va [R] aller à l’Élysée » est une liaison fautive.

Dans le but d’élargir la connaissance du système phonétique et phonologique du français et d’améliorer la prononciation de l’étudiant, il y aura deux examens, une présentation orale, un projet final et un examen final pendant le semestre.

## The French Existentialists and their Heirs

FREN 4100:01 TT 1:30p 434 Hodges

A study of the French existentialists and their heirs. We will begin by studying the intellectual and historical context for the emergence of existentialism in France. To that end, we will examine the French reception of Heidegger, drawing from the recently published *Heidegger in France* by Dominique Janicaud and the earlier *Generation Existential: Heidegger's Philosophy in France, 1927-1961* by Ethan Kleinberg. We will then read recently available texts by early existentialists such as Jean Wahl's *Transcendence and the Concrete: Selected Writings*, to finally read several more recent works by the "heirs" of the existentialist movement (Emmanuel Levinas, Jean-Francois Courtine, Jean-Luc Marion, Claude Romano, Jocelyn Benoist, Michel Henry, Renaud Barbaras, Jean-Louis Chretien) gathered in the recently published volume *Quiet Powers of the Possible: Interviews in Contemporary French Phenomenology*. Themes addressed will include: existence and thought; the absurd; transcendence and metaphysics; the question of being; the definition of the phenomenon; freedom and responsibility; the question of the human; community and being-with; ethics and the other.



## FICTIONS OF FEMININITY IN 17TH-CENTURY FRANCE

French 7022

Spring 2017, Wednesday 3-5:50 p.m.

Professor Kate Jensen



In this course, we will study the representations of women as both subjects and objects in various kinds of writing--theatrical, polemical, epistolary, fictional--produced by both men and women. We will begin by studying *préciosité* and salon culture as a remarkable example of women's influence on literature and society and how such influence produced a backlash against it. Next, we will examine the polemical texts of *la querelle des femmes* to understand further the competing definitions of the category "woman" during the period. Third, since the love letter was considered to be the feminine genre par excellence, we will read examples of these amorous texts to discern how women positioned themselves as masochists or narcissists. Finally, we will read narrative fictions that privilege feminine desire and autonomy (indeed, feminine desire as autonomous) and which might be seen to answer, *avant la lettre*, Freud's famous question: what does a woman want?

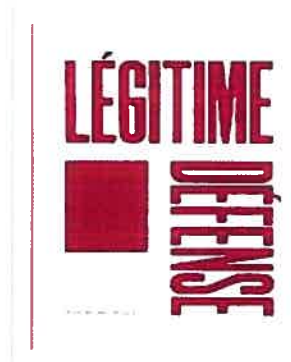
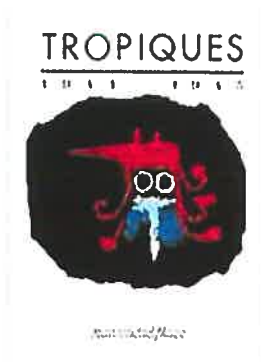
Primary texts include: Molière's *L'Ecole des femmes* and *Les Femmes savantes*; Poullain de la Barre's "De l'Egalité des deux sexes"; Marie de Gournay's "L'Egalité des hommes et des femmes." Scudéry's selected conversations; Boileau's "Satire X"; Guilleragues's *Lettres portugaises*; selections from Villedieu's *Lettres et billets galants*; Lafayette's *La Princesse de Clèves*; Perrault's "Griselidis"; d'Aulnoy's "La Chatte blanche;" and Choisy/l'Héritier/Perrault: "Histoire de la Marquise-Marquis de Banneville."

The course will be taught in English. Primary readings will be in French.  
For questions about the course: [kjensen@lsu.edu](mailto:kjensen@lsu.edu)



**French 7960 (sec 1)**  
**The Literary Journal in the Francophone World**  
**Thursday 3-5:50**  
**436 Hodges Hall**  
**Adelaide M. Russo**

The objective of this course is simultaneously historical and methodological. We will study significant literary and journals in the Francophone world at different periods during the 20<sup>th</sup> century in different geographical regions including: Belgium (*Variétés*); the Caribbean (*Légitime Défense. Tropiques*); North Africa (*Simoun, Souffles*). We will try to identify and judge the geographical and temporal influences of these journals as they reflect the political reality of the day. In addition, we will examine the portrayal of world-wide literatures in the Francophone world in their presentation in one significant contemporary French journal *Poésie*. Students will learn how to approach the literary journal as an object of study. In some cases, literary journals express the aesthetic, ethical, and artistic values of a literary group or coterie. They are collective manifestations of shared perspectives on the world. We will study each journal in its political and historical context and examine the works of its contributors. Students will learn methods and approaches to these hybrid sources by learning how to integrate the study of text and image and how to identify texts written as responses to other texts in the same journal. Students will be required to do final paper based on the relationship between a journal of their choosing and their personal research agenda. Students will also participate in a research project on the journal *Poésie*. The result of this research may lead to a publication.



*Afriques 1*



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