

French 326K – Fall 2009

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About the reading: A standard survey of the history of French literature will not be used in this course. The course will not provide comprehensive coverage of the literature of the period (the Middle Ages to the mid-eighteenth century), but instead will give an introduction to the writing of select major early writers. We will approach the study of literature in this period by genre, and therefore will repeatedly cross century boundaries (except in the case of theater). One major goal of this course is to lead you to enjoy reading literature. This goal is posited on the belief that the more skill you have as a reader, the more you enjoy reading. Some of you may have linguistic deficiencies that keep you from being a fluent reader in French, and you may need to do some independent remedial work. From time to time you will be asked to turn in brief written answers (a few sentences) to specific questions on some reading assignments. These questions are designed to help you focus on a) the literal meaning of a given passage or text, or b) narrative techniques used by the authors, and they should help you acquire critical reading and writing skills, and enable you to write better papers and exams. You should also be able to contribute to class discussion in a more informed way, as you will have thought about certain aspects of the reading before coming to class. Hopefully, your speaking skills and confidence will also improve.

Texts:

- Packet #1: Poésie (IT Copy; 512 W MLK, across from Jimmy John's, next to fire station) This packet includes some supplementary material.
- Packet #2: Prose (IT Copy)
- Racine, Phèdre (http://abu.cnam.fr/cgi-bin/donner_html?phedre2)
- Molière, Le Misanthrope (<http://gallica.bnf.fr/ark:/12148/bpt6k891095>)

NOTE: You may download the last two texts from the Web, or you can purchase them at the Co-op.

Final Grade Computation:

Hour exams (3): 30%
Homework: 20%
Papers (3): 30% [750 words; 750+ words; 1,000+ words]
Class response: 20%
No final exam.

The University of Austin provides upon request appropriate academic accommodations for qualified students with disabilities. For more information, contact the Office of the Dean of Students at 471-6259 .

NOTE: A new grading system will be in effect starting in fall 2009. Here is how the grades will break down:

A	95-100
A-	90-94
B+	86-89
B	83-85
B-	80-82
C+	76-79
C	73-75
C-	70-72
D+	66-69
D	63-65
D-	60-62

Below 60 = F

Additional information:

- Absentee policy: More than 6 absences will result in a failing grade. Please contact me before class in the event of an emergency.