FREN 4000
EXPLICATION DE TEXTES

Description of the course

Required books and editions.
None. The texts are provided.

Prerequisites.
All courses at the 3000 level.

Aims of the course. Text commentary, a second phase of the simple text explanation, is absolutely essential for an understanding of how written language works. The technique is not a simple one, and it is often experience which allows to master it. There is in fact no theory, but there are rules to respect in order to obtain a good text commentary. The aims of this course are therefore to help you acquire such a technique, based on excerpts taken from works that are the most important in French literature. Our goal with be to consider diverse periods and literary genres (prose and poetry, for instance). We will examine in detail, together, all the excerpts during the semester. The course will alternate between the study of a text done by the instructor with the help of students, and another done by students only in the form of an oral presentation (exposé; each student will have to do one oral presentation during the semester, with one or two other classmates). Students must read all of the texts that will be considered, and read and prepare in detail all of the excerpts which will be studied during class (the detailed schedule lists them). This preparation task is very important; it is necessary to read regularly so that students do not have issues with understanding during the course and also because this is the only means to start mastering the technique of text commentary.

Please note that the detailed schedule (attached) is an “ideal” one and may be modified according to our speed; any changes will be announced in advance.

Grading system.
Two partial exams: 40 % (each counting for 20 %)
Two written papers: 40 % (each counting for 20 %)
One oral presentation: 15 %
Class participation: 5 %

Attendance and participation. Participation in class is necessary, as is regular attendance. Three unjustified absences will result in a 0 for the participation grade. After six unjustified absences, the student may be withdrawn from the class, according to the University Policy on absences. In case of an on-going problem (such as chronic illness or personal crisis), you are encouraged to seek a Hardship Withdrawal (HW). If you are absent, it is obviously your responsibility to complete the required course work, and catch up regarding what you have missed. Students who do not attend class during the first two weeks may be dropped from the roll.
Lateness. Any late piece of work will not be accepted, except in particular cases when a prior arrangement was made with the instructor.

Written papers. Students have to write two papers during the semester. The length of these papers will be approximately 3000 words (it is indeed the minimum in order to argue on a text in a way which is not superficial; about 4-5 pages). These papers will be a text commentary. They have to be submitted electronically to the email address indicated above. The grades for written work (papers as well as exams) are calculated as followed: 50 % for the technique (valid organization of the argument, a clear and logical structure); 50 % for the language (clarity, style, grammar, etc.).

The grading system is structured as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Minimum Score</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A+</td>
<td>98-100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>93-97</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A-</td>
<td>90-92</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B+</td>
<td>87-89</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>83-86</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B-</td>
<td>80-82</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C+</td>
<td>77-79</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>73-76</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C-</td>
<td>70-72</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>60-69</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>0-59</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Exams. There are two partial exams during the semester; they will last one hour and twenty minutes only. Students will have the choice between two texts for the first exam, but no choice for the second exam. Exams must take place only at the designated date and time on the detailed schedule.

Oral presentations. All students have to make an oral presentation with one classmate or two during the semester. Texts are given early, so everyone will be able to choose his or her partner and text as soon as possible. Students who choose early will have more choice than those who wait longer, obviously. As for the written work, oral presentations are evaluated as follows: 50% for the technique of text commentary in an oral way (valid organization of the argument, a clear and logical structure); 50 % for the language (clarity, style, grammar, etc.). Oral presentations must not be read but improvised from written notes. Any oral presentation which will be read will be penalized.

Courtesy:
For obvious reasons of courtesy for everyone in class, all smart phones must be muted before entering the classroom and must remain so during the entire class time. No rings, no text-messages will be tolerated.

WLC’s policy on academic dishonesty. Appropriate help (which does not provide the final product itself), especially that of classmates or tutors at the LARC, is strongly encouraged. However, the final product must be entirely the student’s own. It is the department’s policy that all incidents of Academic Dishonesty be reported to the Dean of the College of Arts & Sciences. Punishments may include academic penalties (from a zero on the assignment(s) where dishonesty took place, a reduction of the final grade in the class, or to an F in the class, etc.) and disciplinary penalties (from notation on student records up to expulsion from the university) depending on the severity of the infraction and proportional to the weight of the assignment. Please see the University’s Student Code of Conduct for definitions as well as examples of academic and disciplinary penalties. (http://deanofstudents.gsu.edu/student-conduct). The faculty member, in consultation with the department chair, prepares the Notice of Academic Dishonesty.

Campus Carry Law:
The Campus Carry legislation allows anyone properly licensed in the state of Georgia to carry a handgun in a concealed manner on university property with noted exceptions. Information about the law can be found at safety.gsu.edu/campus-carry. It is the responsibility of the license holder to know the law. Failure to do so may result in a misdemeanor charge and may violate the Georgia State Student Code of Conduct.
DETAILED SCHEDULE

11 janvier : Technique du commentaire. Application : Flaubert : incipit de Bouvard et Pécuchet

18 janvier : Pas de cours


1 février : Commentaire : Robbe-Grillet : Topologie d'une cité fantôme

8 février : Commentaire : Rabelais : Gargantua

15 février : Commentaire : Baudelaire : « Spleen »

TRAVAIL 1 À RENDRE

22 février : EXAMEN PARTIEL 1

29 février : Textes de l’examen revus
[NOTE : 1 mars : midpoint : LAST DAY TO WITHDRAW WITH A « W »]

7 mars : Commentaire : Balzac : Le Père Goriot

14 mars : Pas de cours

21 mars : Commentaire : Proust : Du côté de chez Swann
   Exposé : Robbe-Grillet : Projet pour une révolution à New York

28 mars : Commentaire : Lautréamont : Les Chants de Maldoror
   Exposé : Balzac : Eugénie Grandet

4 avril : Exposé : Rimbaud : « Le dormeur du val »
   Exposé : Rabelais : Gargantua

11 avril : Commentaire : Hugo : « Demain, dès l’aube »
   Exposé : Flaubert : Madame Bovary

18 avril : Exposé : Perec : Les Choses
   Exposé : Lamartine : « Le lac »

TRAVAIL 2 À RENDRE

25 avril : EXAMEN PARTIEL 2