FREN 4020
French Literature and Culture of the Twentieth Century

Instructor:
Office:
Email:
Office Hours:

Description of the course

Prerequisites
All courses at the 3000 level.

Required books and editions
2. Georges Perec: Les Choses, Paris, Presses-Pocket
3. Alain Robbe-Grillet: Djinn, Paris, Éditions de Minuit

Aims of the course
We will focus on the modernity of the works listed above (in the order listed), beginning with the notion of absurd (Ionesco), then with the importance of consumerism in the sixties in France (Perec) and will move to the mind games imposed by Robbe-Grillet on his readers. Our goal is also to consider diverse authors and diverse themes (madness with Duras, the issue of creation with the female writers Cardinal and Cixous, the use of slang with Dard, the representation of a diseased city with Brussolo, etc.). 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 works that will be considered, and read and prepare all of the excerpts which will be studied in class (they are listed on the detailed schedule). This preparation task is very important, as the program is heavy; it is necessary to read regularly so that students do not have issues with understanding during the course.

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 %

The grading system is structured as follows:

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**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 After six unjustified absences, the student may be withdrawn from the class, according to the University Policy on absences.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), students 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 has been missed. Students who do not attend class during the first two weeks may be dropped from the roll.

**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 in a way which is not superficial; about 4-5 typed pages). These papers will be on topics discussed in class and will take the form of an essay and a commentary: if a student chooses the essay for the first paper, then the second paper has to be a commentary (and vice-versa). Any work must 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 (a valid organization of the argument, a clear and logical structure); 50 % for the language (clarity, style, grammar, etc.).

**Lateness**
Any late piece of work will not be accepted, except in particular cases when a prior arrangement was made with the instructor.

**Exams**
There are two partial exams during the semester; they will last one hour and thirty minutes only. For the exams, students can choose the exercise that they prefer (an essay or a commentary), with no restriction. As for the papers, the grades are calculated as follows: 50 % for the technique (a valid organization of the argument, a clear and logical structure); 50 % for the language (clarity, style, grammar, etc.). Exams must take place only at the designated date and time on the detailed schedule.

**Oral presentations**
All students have to make one oral presentation (exposé) with one classmate or two during the semester. Texts are given early (everything is posted in iCollege), 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 that will be read will be penalized. Please consult iCollege regularly for updates.

**Courtesy**
For obvious reasons of courtesy for everyone in class, all smartphones 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](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.
DETAILLED SCHEDULE


19 janvier : PAS DE COURS.

26 janvier : Technique du commentaire (suite) : construction d’un commentaire de texte (Robbe-Grillet).

2 février : Ionesco : Rhinocéros.

9 février : Ionesco : Rhinocéros.
Commentaire : extrait de Rhinocéros.

16 février : Perec : Les Choses.

Commentaire : Jacques Prévert : « Barbara ».
TRAVAIL 1 À RENDRE.

2 mars : EXAMEN PARTIEL 1
[Note : 3 mars = LAST DAY TO WITHDRAW WITH A « W »]

9 mars : Robbe-Grillet : Djinn.
Commentaire : Sarraute : extrait de Le Planétarium.

16 mars : PAS DE COURS

23 mars : Robbe-Grillet : Djinn.
Commentaire / exposé : Duras : extrait de Le Ravissement de Lol V. Stein.

30 mars : Robbe-Grillet : Djinn.
Commentaire / exposé : Simon : extrait de La Route des Flandres.

6 avril : Robbe-Grillet : Djinn.
Commentaire / exposé : extrait de Djinn.

13 avril : Commentaire / exposé : Hélène Cixous : extrait de La Venue à l’écriture.
Commentaire / exposé : Marie Cardinal : extrait de La Création étouffée.

20 avril : Commentaire / exposé : Frédéric Dard : extrait de Bacchanale chez la mère Tatzi.
Commentaire / exposé : Serge Brussolo : extrait de Vue en coupe d’une ville malade.
TRAVAIL 2 À RENDRE

27 avril : EXAMEN PARTIEL 2.