

French Graduate Courses – Spring 14

ROFR 63340-01 THEATER AND PSYCHOANALYSIS

R 3:30-6:15

L. MacKenzie

In this seminar we will be looking at works by the "holy trinity" of French classical theater (Corneille, Racine and Moliere) through the lens of psychoanalysis theory and thought. Our truck will be with the texts as expressions of issues dear to psychoanalysis, not with the psychography of the authors. Plays will include, but may not be limited to *Le Cid*, *Horace*, *Andromaque*, *Britannicus*, *Phèdre*, *L'École des femmes*, *Tartuffe*, *Le Bourgeois gentilhomme*. In French or English depending on student preference. [Open to advanced undergraduates as ROFR 40340]

ROFR 63955-01 NEW PARADIGMS FOR THE STUDY OF FRENCH FICTION

W 3:30 – 6:15

J. Douthwaite

This course will introduce students to two approaches that are currently driving some of the most interesting literary studies, based in the study of cognition and a new kind of positivism. We will spend two-thirds of the semester on the theme of sensory awareness in literature (*l'éveil des sens*) and its corollary, synesthesia, in works such as Graffigny, *Lettres d'une Péruvienne* (1747), Rousseau, *Rêveries du promeneur solitaire* (written 1776-78; pub. 1782) Diderot, *Lettre sur les aveugles* (1749) and Huysmans, *À Rebours* (1884) as well as background readings in period philosophy, and a brief incursion into the theme through its 20th-century avatar: Vian, *L'écume des jours* (1947). The last third of the semester will address the "new positivism," that is, literary history triangulated by use of historiography, primary documents, and later appropriations in other media (notably newspaper and popular art, including film). Students will see how historical research can illuminate the reasons behind literature's impact, taking as our case study Diderot, *La Religieuse* (written 1760; pub. 1796, and many times since, notably in the post-Commune period, 1871 and 1886), and its two cinematographic remakes (1967 and 2013). [Open to advanced undergraduates as ROFR 40955]