

Fall 2015 - French Graduate Courses

Subject to change. Please refer to InsideND for the most up-to date, accurate information.

ROFR 63115-01: LYRIC & NARRATIVE IN MEDIEVAL FRENCH LITERATURE

W 3:30-6:15

M. Boulton

This course will examine the ideology of troubadour poetry and its influence on French literature of the twelfth, thirteenth, and fourteenth centuries. We will trace this influence from the narrative response to lyric poetry in romances (Chrétien de Troyes' *Lancelot, Tristan & Iseut, La Châtelaine de Vergi*, and *Guillaume de Dole*), and erotic pseudo-autobiographies (*Le Roman de la Rose*, Guillaume de Machaut's *Remède de Fortune*, before examining the tendency of lyric cycles to recount stories (Christine de Pizan's *Cent Ballades*). In these works and others, the confrontation of lyric and narrative tendencies, the combinations of song and speech, and the intertextual implications of hybrid works will be of particular interest. The course will be conducted in French or English, depending on the linguistic abilities of the class. Modern French translations will be provided for all medieval texts, and a good reading knowledge of modern French is required. Requirements: One 15-20 page research paper; several oral presentations. . Crosslisted with LIT 73599/MI 60535.

ROFR 63731-01: PROUST: A WORLD LOST AND REGAINED

T 3:30-6:15

C. Perry

Considered by many to be the greatest French novelist of the twentieth century, Marcel Proust remains vastly influential to this day. Not only did he recover a world through his creative exploration of time and memory, but he established a new type of novel in which poetic prose alternates with philosophical contemplations, art criticism, reflections on history and politics, astute observations of society, and insightful analyses of human psychology. His work may also be understood as a process of contemplative inquiry, integrating sensation, emotion, intuition, and thinking.

As an introspective writer, Proust invites us to discover ourselves. Accordingly, we will incorporate a few contemplative exercises in order to reach a place of quiet attention, enabling us to appreciate our readings and to expand our class discussions. With Proust's support, by the end of the semester we will have evolved into discerning readers of literature as well as perceptive readers of our lives.

The semester will be dedicated to exploring three volumes from Proust's monumental work, *À la recherche du temps perdu*, along with some of the most significant critical texts written on Proust and *la Recherche*. We will end the semester with *Le Testament français*, a 1995 novel by Russian writer Andreï Makine, which will help us evaluate Proust's relevance for our times.

Assiduous preparation for class and active participation in discussions are essential to the success of this course. Students will be responsible for two oral presentations: 1) a textual interpretation; 2) a report on a critical work. Students will also compose four brief reflections in response to passages in the novel and a 14–16 page research paper. Classes conducted in French. Crosslisted with LIT 73820.