
THE MONSTROUS AND FABULOUS RENAISSANCE in Spring 2021 (FR3032)

Course Code	FR3032	Professor(s)	Brenton Hobart
Prerequisites	None	Office Number	G-107
Class Schedule	MR: 12:10-13:30 in G-102	Office Hours	By appointment
Credits	4	Email	bhobart@aup.edu
Semester	Spring 2021	Office Tel. Ext.	

Course Description

The Fabulous Renaissance —

This course outlines the historical and literary contexts of the Renaissance from a Franco-centric perspective. Students will study texts by a range of Renaissance authors (including Erasmus, Rabelais, Marguerite de Navarre, Louise Labé, Montaigne, as well as Marlowe and Shakespeare) while learning about early-modern book culture, medicine, cartography, religion, colonization, magic, monsters, witchcraft and plagues. They shall also seek to comprehend how France became dominant in language and literature throughout Europe for centuries to follow.

This was a time when unicorns and dragons flew through the heavens. Enchanters erected huge stones. Mermaids inhabited the waters of the ocean; sea-beasts appeared at times on the surface. Prophets spoke with angels and demons. Fairies healed by way of spells. Surgeons healed by way of bloodletting. Dog-headed people ate each other. Knights were handsome and courageous. Princesses were beautiful and pristine. Men transformed at night into wolves. Fairies abducted new-born children; ogres ate them alive. Witches caused storms and bad harvests. The plague ravaged the world: it swept away “more than twenty-two hundred, sixty thousand and sixteen lives” in “eight days”.

This fabulous world, which appears strange and distant, provides a context in which many recognisable features of the modern world were born. It is the period of rebirth (of classical literature, philosophy, art and architecture), inventions (such as the printing press), discoveries (of the Americas), literary innovations (such as the sonnet, the novel, the essay), medical innovations (in anatomy, in empirical medicines and methods of surgery), capitalism (the search for gold, the employment of slavery), confirmations (of the nation and the supremacy of national languages), translations (from Hebrew, from Greek, from Latin), religious turbulence and persecutions (Catholics against Muslims, Catholics against Protestants) and mythical realities (such as plagues, witches, monsters and prodigies).

A study-trip through the Loire Valley includes visits of the château de Chambord (palace of Francis I and the model of Rabelais' Abbaye de Thélème), Clos Lucé (Da Vinci's final

residence and museum), and La Devinière (Rabelais' birthplace and museum, and the battleground of Gargantua). Visits to the Louvre, Écouen, Chantilly, or Fontainebleau shall also be proposed, depending upon the current offered exhibitions and, of course, depending on confinement.

1) Critical Reading: students will be able to explore, analyze, and reflect critically on major works of world literature (**Boccaccio, Rabelais, Marlowe, Shakespeare**), philosophy (**Thomas More, Erasmus, Montaigne**), and criticism (**Bakhtin, Certeau, Foucault, Genette, etc.**) across a wide range of genres (**poetry, novel, novella, prophesy, narrative history, treatise, essay, drama**) and time periods (**1349-1606: Italy, France, Holland, England, Spain, as well as the Americas**).

2) Writing: students will be able to express themselves creatively, clearly, coherently, and elegantly in order to produce effective writing in different genres (**one creative project: 8-page minimum; one academic final project: 10-12 pages**).

3) Comparison and Contextualization: students will be able to analyze their readings within their historical, geographical, and generic contexts to make enlightening connections with other works on the basis of responsible and informed awareness of cultural and linguistic diversity (**linguistic emphasis shall be placed namely on French, with some Latin and Italian**). Students of Comparative Literature will be able to demonstrate knowledge of traditional and recent methods in literary scholarship.

4) Languages and Linguistics: Students will be able to read and write about works in different languages (**they'll also feel comfortable researching in other languages, and quoting texts of Romance literatures in their original**).

Course Learning Outcomes

European Renaissance literature and history.

Early-modern (French) linguistics.

Early-modern book culture.

Renaissance philosophy and theology.

Biblical stories and Classical mythology essential to understanding Renaissance Europe.

The elements of Renaissance art.

The ability to recognize the impact of the all the above upon, and reuse in, the world today.

General Education

Course Outline

Tentative Class Schedule

January

Week 1

Monday 18 - Course Introduction. Boccaccio / Boccace, *Decameron* (c. 1349): "Introduction to the First Day" / « Introduction à la Première Journée ». Michel de Montaigne, *Essais* (1580): "To the reader" / « Au lecteur » and II 10: "On books" / « Des livres ».

Thursday 21 - Columbus / Colomb, *Travel Journal / Journal de voyage* (1492): selections. Erasmus / Érasme, *Praise of Folly / Éloge de la folie* (1509).

Week 2

Monday 25 - Erasmus / Érasme, *Praise of Folly / Éloge de la folie* (1509).

Thursday 28 - Erasmus / Érasme, *Praise of Folly / Éloge de la folie* (1509). Rabelais, *Pantagruel* (1532/3), ch. 1-2 & 31-32.

February

Week 3

Monday 1 - Montaigne, *Essais* (1580), I 21: "On the power of the imagination" / « De la force de l'imagination ». François Rabelais, *Gargantua* (1535).

Thursday 4 - François Rabelais, *Gargantua* (1535).

Week 4

Monday 8 - No Class.

Thursday 11 - François Rabelais, *Gargantua* (1535).

Week 5

Monday 15 - François Rabelais, *Gargantua* (1535).

Thursday 18 - Thomas More, *Utopia / Utopie* (1516). Montaigne, *Essais* (1580), I 42: "On the inequality there is between us" / « De l'inégalité qui est entre nous ».

Week 6

Monday 22 - Thomas More, *Utopia / Utopie* (1516). Michel de Montaigne, *Essais* (1580), I 31: "On the cannibals" / « Des cannibales ».

Thursday 25 - No Class.

March

Week 7

Monday 1 - François Rabelais, *The Fourth Book / Le Quart livre* (1548/52).

Thursday 4 - François Rabelais, *The Fourth Book / Le Quart livre* (1548/52).

Week 8

Monday 8 - François Rabelais, *The Fourth Book / Le Quart livre* (1548/52).

Thursday 11 - **Midterm Exam**

Week 9

Monday 15 - Bartolomé de Las Casas, *A Short Account of the Destruction of the Indies / Très brève relation de la destruction des Indes* (1552). Michel de Montaigne, *Essais* (1588), III 6: "On Coaches" / « Des coches ».

Thursday 18 - Nostradamus, *Prophecies / Prophéties* (1555). Michel de Montaigne, *Essais* (1580), I 11: "On prognostications" / « Des prognostications ».

Week 8

Monday 22 - Michel de Montaigne, *Essais* (1580), I 28: "On affectionate relationships" (or "On friendship") / « De l'amitié ». Étienne de La Boétie, *Discourse of Voluntary Servitude* (1549) / *Discours de la servitude volontaire* (1549), I & II.

Thursday 25 - Étienne de La Boétie, *Discourse of Voluntary Servitude* (1549) / *Discours de la servitude volontaire* (1549), I & II. Machiavelli / Machiavel: *The Prince / Le Prince* (1532).

Week 9

Monday 29 - Easter Break (no classes).

April

Thursday 1 - Louise Labé, 24 *Sonnets* (1555). Other Sonnets by Petrarch / Pétrarque, Clément

Marot, Joachin du Bellay, Pierre de Ronsard, Étienne de la Boétie, Sir Philip Sidney, William Shakespeare.

Week 10

Monday 5 - Marguerite de Navarre, *Heptaméron* (1559): Prologue, Novellas I, XVI, XXX, XL.

Thursday 8 - Christopher Marlowe, *Edward II* (1593). Michel de Montaigne, *Essais* (1580), II 11: "On cruelty" « De la cruauté ».

Week 11

Monday 12 - Christopher Marlowe, *Edward II* (1593).

Thursday 15 - Michel de Montaigne, *Essais* (1580/1588), I 20: "To philosophize is to learn how to die" / « Que philosopher, c'est apprendre à mourir » & III 12 "Of Physiognomy" « De la phisionomie ».

Week 12

Monday 19 - Michel de Montaigne, *Essais* (1588), I 11: « Des boyteux » / "On the Lamé, or Cripple". William Shakespeare, *Macbeth* (1606): Acts I.

Thursday 22 - William Shakespeare, *Macbeth* (1606): Acts II-III.

Week 13

Monday 26 - William Shakespeare, *Macbeth* (1606): Acts IV-V. Pierre Boaistuau, *Le Théâtre du monde* (excerpts).

Final exam: Thursday, 10 May 2019 - 18:30

Textbooks

This course doesn't have any textbook.

Attendance Policy

Regular attendance and participation in class discussion is crucial for a student's success in

this course. Coming to class late, repeatedly leaving the room during class discussion or talking amongst yourselves during class discussion will affect your final grade for the course. Students who attend class every day, without fail, gets “A’s” more often than not.

Students studying at The American University of Paris are expected to attend ALL scheduled classes, and in case of absence, should contact their professors to explain the situation. It is the student’s responsibility to be aware of any specific attendance policy that a faculty member might have set in the course syllabus. The French Department, for example, has its own attendance policy, and students are responsible for compliance. Academic Affairs will excuse an absence for students’ participation in study trips related to their courses.

Attendance at all exams is mandatory.

IN ALL CASES OF MISSED COURSE MEETINGS, THE RESPONSIBILITY FOR COMMUNICATION WITH THE PROFESSOR, AND FOR ARRANGING TO MAKE UP MISSED WORK, RESTS SOLELY WITH THE STUDENT.

Whether an absence is excused or not is ALWAYS up to the discretion of the professor or the department. Unexcused absences can result in a low or failing participation grade. In the case of excessive absences, it is up to the professor or the department to decide if the student will receive an “F” for the course. An instructor may recommend that a student withdraw, if absences have made it impossible to continue in the course at a satisfactory level.

Students must be mindful of this policy when making their travel arrangements, and especially during the Drop/Add and Exam Periods.

Grading Policy

Midterm (40% keywords, 60% recognizing and commenting textual passages)....	25%
Final Exam (20% keywords, 40% textual passages, 20 % essay questions).....	25%
Final Paper (12-page academic essay).....	25%
In-class participation, attendance, and presentations.....	25%

Other

TEXTBOOKS: FRENCH AND ENGLISH EDITIONS

FR = Credit toward French Studies

* = Asterisked works are to be purchased and brought to class (available at Gibert Joseph/Jeune, etc.)

Boccaccio (photocopies)	<i>Decameron</i> (c. 1349), « Introduction à la Première Journée »
Christopher Columbus	<i>Journal de voyage</i> (1492), sélections (photocopies)
Louise Labé	<i>Sonnets</i> (1555), download from www.gallica.fr
Marguerite de Navarre	<i>Heptaméron</i> (1559), sélections (photocopies)
Michel de Montaigne Gallimard.	<i>Essais</i> (1580/1588), sélections, either: Livre de Poche, PuF, or
Érasme	* <i>Éloge de la folie</i> (1509), Garnier Flammarion (9782080700360)
Thomas More	* <i>Utopie</i> (1516), Folio (9782070439751)
Rabelais	* <i>Pantagruel</i> (1532/3), Seuil (9782020300339)
Rabelais	* <i>Gargantua</i> (1535), Seuil (9782020300322)
Étienne de La Boétie Flammarion (9782081366671)	* <i>Discours de la servitude volontaire</i> (1549), I & II, Garnier
Bartolomé de Las Casas	* <i>Très brève relation de la destruction des Indes</i> (1552), La
Nostradamus	* <i>Prophéties</i> (1555), Garnier Flammarion (9782080711731)

CL = Credit toward Comparative Literature

* = Asterisked works are to be purchased and brought to class (available at the AUP bookstore)

Boccaccio	<i>Decameron</i> (c. 1349), "Introduction to the First Day" (photocopies)
Christopher Columbus	<i>Travel Journal</i> (1492), selections (photocopies)

Desiderius Erasmus	* <i>Praise of Folly</i> (1509), Penguin (9780140446081)
Étienne de La Boétie	<i>Discourse of Voluntary Servitude</i> (1549), I & II (photocopies)
Louise Labé	<i>Sonnets</i> (1555), download from www.gallica.fr
Marguerite de Navarre	<i>Heptameron</i> (1559), selections (photocopies)
Michel de Montaigne	<i>Essais</i> (1580/1588), selections (Penguin or Everyman)
Thomas More	* <i>Utopia</i> (1516), Penguin (9780140449105)
François Rabelais (9780140445503)	* <i>Gargantua</i> (1535) and <i>Pantagruel</i> (1532/3), Penguin
Bartolome de Las Casas Penguin (9780140445626)	* <i>A Short Account of the Destruction of the Indies</i> (1552),
Nostradamus	* <i>Prophecies</i> (1555), Penguin (9780143107231)
Christopher Marlowe	* <i>Edward II</i> (1592), Oxford (9780199537068)
William Shakespeare	* <i>Macbeth</i> (1606), Arden Shakespeare (9781904271413)