

Seton Hall University

Modern Languages Department

FREN 4319 – Twentieth Century French Literature II  
Identity, Ethics and Trauma

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This course centers on twentieth century French literature produced from the 1940's to the 1980's. All texts center on questions of how extreme situations threaten identity while posing key ethical questions. Themes to be studied include justice, identity, ethics and trauma in works by Camus, Sartre, Sarraute, Duras and Perec. Examining these texts will also require studying some of the basic concepts of existentialism, the New Novel (*Nouveau Roman*) and Trauma Studies.

**Papers:**

All written work is to be emailed to my SHU email account in the following file name format:

**YourLastName\_Title.doc** (ex: "Smith\_Camus.doc")

For the **two short papers only**, I will make suggestions for improvements and indicate which grammatical corrections need to be made to the first draft, then you will be required to send a FULLY CORRECTED final draft with the following file name format: **YourLastName\_Title\_FINAL.doc** (ex: "Smith\_Camus\_FINAL.doc")

*If you have fully corrected the first draft, your grade for that paper will be raised by a half grade.*

For the final paper (7-8 pages) send me an email in advance with a couple paragraphs telling me what you plan to work on. There will be **no first draft for the final paper** though we can and will discuss your approach to it and you are encouraged to bounce your ideas off me as early as possible.

**Note:** This course will be conducted entirely in French and all written work must be written in French **without the use of computerized translation**.

**Required Work:**

**1 oral presentation** (1 page of notes to be emailed several days before presentation)

**2 short papers** - 3 pages

**1 final paper** – 7-8 pages

## Disability Services Statement

Students at Seton Hall University who have a physical, medical, learning or psychiatric disability, either temporary or permanent, may be eligible for reasonable accommodations at the University as per the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and/or Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act. In order to receive such accommodations, students must identify themselves at the Office of Disability Support Services (DSS), provide appropriate documentation and collaborate with the development of an accommodation plan. The DSS phone number is 973-313-6003. For further information, please go to our website at <http://studentaffairs.shu.edu/health/DisabilitySupportServices.html>

Texts (only texts by Camus, Duras and Perec need to be purchased at the bookstore – the others will be posted on Blackboard):

Camus, Albert *L'étranger* pp.7-120

Sartre, Jean-Paul "Le mur"

Sartre, Jean-Paul *Huis clos*

Sarraute, Natalie extrait de *Tropismes*

Duras, Marguerite. *L'amant*. Paris: Minuit, 1984 paperback. 146pp. ISBN: 2707306959

Perec, Georges. *W ou le souvenir d'enfance*. Paris: Gallimard (L'imaginaire, 293), 1993 paperback. 224pp. ISBN: 2070733165

Week 1: Intro to course

Week 2: Camus *L'étranger*

Week 3: Camus *L'étranger*

Week 4: Sartre "Le mur"

Week 5: Sartre *Huis clos*

Week 6: Sartre *Huis clos*

Week 7: Sarraute extrait de *Tropismes*

Week 8: Duras *L'amant*.

Week 9: Duras *L'amant*.

Week 10: Duras *L'amant*.

Week 11: Perec *W ou le souvenir d'enfance*

Week 12: Perec *W ou le souvenir d'enfance*

Week 13: Perec *W ou le souvenir d'enfance*

Week 14: Perec *W ou le souvenir d'enfance*