FREN 4005/6005 Syllabus

**Contemporary French Lit, Section TBD, 3 Credits**

**DAYS/TIME/ROOM TBD**

**Instructor Information**

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| --- | --- | --- |
| Instructor | Email | Office Hours & Location |
| Dr. Christophe Ippolito | christophe.ippolito@modlangs.gatech.edu | TBD and by appointment |

**General Information**

**Description**

This course will study contemporary French authors and their ideas in context, with a focus on specific authors or texts. Taught in French

## Pre- &/or Co-Requisites

NONE

## Course Goals and Learning Outcomes

This course will introduce students to contemporary literary movements or issues in France, with a focus on interdisciplinary perspectives (history, culture) and on developing an analysis of significant contemporary works. Students will:

develop their analysis skills related to literature and rhetorics;

analyze and present in French literature, documents, and literary criticism related to contemporary French literary issues/themes/developments;

improve their oral and written communication skills at the mid-advanced level; and

understand the importance of literature in French-speaking cultures.

**Course Requirements & Grading**

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| --- | --- | --- |
| Assignment | Date | Weight (Percentage, points, etc) |
| Participation | See syllabus below | 10% |
| Weekly Postings | See course schedule below | 20% |
| Bi-Weekly Presentations | See course schedule below | 20% |
| 2 Essays | See course schedule below | 40% (20% each) |
| Final Project | See course schedule below | 10% |

**Extra Credit (1) and Grade Dispute Policies and Procedures (2)**

(1) NO extra-credit; (2) GT Policies and Procedures apply.

**Description of Graded Components**

*\*This template is done with a TUE/THU schedule, which may be adjusted with another schedule as needed (MWF, etc.), and with reference to T-square, which may be adjusted with another program as needed (Canvas, etc.).*

*++ While the final grade given for a course will always be A, B, C, etc., for the following subcategories, scale can be more detailed: A+ (98-100), A (93-97), A- (90-92), B+, B, B-, etc.*

**10% -** **Active participation and in-class activities including exercises assigned for a specific class;** participation required (quantity 25%, quality 25%; French 25% [French only in class]; attendance/lateness 25% [see attendance/lateness policy for further details]). Make a constant effort to participate in each class. *There will be at least one grade given prior to drop day.*  
  
**40%** - **Homework**

**READ** excerpts and documents for the week (for TUE). Documents available on T-square in folder “Resources.”

**POST** (each week on TUE) **+ PRESENT** (each other week on THU) on theme/topics for the week (posting) or the last two weeks (presentation), using excerpts or series of excerpts in READER and/or documents for the week/the last two weeks, and/or (when applicable) films/videos or other documents shown in class.

**1/ Weekly Postings on T-square (TUE each week) [20%];** Include 2 remarks then 2 questions (4 remarks then 4 questions at the 6xxx level) on the material you post on. Write at least 10 lines, with complete sentences only. Double-check your French. Always title these postings as “Week # - Your name” otherwise they may not be taken into consideration. Your postings will support class discussion. Grading criteria: content 50% (arguments, research, originality), format [2 remarks/questions, 10 lines, full sentences], overall presentation and [written] French (50%). Grades averaged over time.

**2/ Bi-Weekly Presentations in class including postings on T-square (THU every other week) [20%].** Attach your PowerPoint presentation with at least 5 slides (10 slides at the 6xxx level, including a short commented bibliography on the selected topic). Always title these postings as “Presentation # - Your name” otherwise they may not be taken into consideration. This means half the class will present each week, beginning with students whose names begin with an A, etc. Double-check your French. Always finish your presentation with at least one question addressed to class. Grading criteria: Grading criteria: content 50% (arguments, research, originality), effective delivery, overall presentation and [spoken and written] French (50%). Grades averaged over time.

**40%** - **2 Essays** (20% each); Two essays on topics related to the course and chosen by student with instructor's approval. Length: 4 to 5 pages each (10 pages each at the 6xxx level), format: see instructions in writing guide on T-square. Use MLA style for notes and bibliographical information. For each essay, 2 grades, for 2 drafts (preceded by an ungraded outline to be approved by instructor). The average of the 2 grades is the grade for the essay.

50%: 1st draft graded for content (66,66%: arguments, research, originality), organization, overall presentation and quality of [written] French (33.33%); grades may include A+, A. A-, B+, B, B-, etc. at this point.

50%: 2nd draft [after 1st correction by instructor, who will underline each mistake in French and make other remarks] graded for French and any improvement linked to instructor’s remarks in the margin. 2nd draft may if satisfactory improve the grade within these limits: if 1st draft grade is B, 2nd draft grade can be B+ at most, if 1st draft grade is B+, 2nd draft grade can be A- at most, etc.

**10%** - **Final Project** (individually or in groups): Present a project (project selected by student(s), topic to be approved by instructor). To be prepared individually orin groups of 2, 3 or 4 (10 slides each), the project will address a particular aspect of the above topic to be determined by the students in each group. Each student will present a section of the group project (5 minutes max.).

50%: French (2 subcategories: 1/ delivery in class, including clarity, quality of French, ability to engage class [spoken French 40%]; 2/ correctness of text on slides [written French] 10%)

50%: Content (quality of main point(s) made, arguments’ validity, organization [Particular attention will be paid to the coherence of the group project as a whole], relevance of material used (sources, examples, visual/audio support); 25% for each of these 4 subcategories)

Visual/Audio Support: use any props that will make you talk more interesting and easy to follow for the audience: pictures, links, video/audio files (mandatory for any presentation on film/music), maps, statistics, charts, *realia*, etc. You may have brief notes, but they must be on index cards. Do not (just) read what is on your slides in class. Remember your Spoken French will be evaluated.

Prepare documentation of all your sources to turn it, including Internet sites. If you have to use a reference (quote) on a slide, document it on the same slide in smaller characters (link, full bibliographical information including page numbers.

Projects may relate to a student’s second essay.

**Grading Scale**

Your final grade will be assigned as a letter grade according to the following scale:

A 90-100%

B 80-89%

C 70-79%

D 60-69%

F 0-59%

GRADEBOOK - Calculate your grade:

40% Essays 1a/ 1b/ 2a/ 2b/

20% Postings on week material; week…

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 12 | 13 | 14 | Average |
| n/a |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |

Week 1: posting not graded/not mandatory. Week 11: spring break (no posting); last 2 weeks: no posting (except for final presentation)

20% Presentations: week…

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 12 | 13 | 14 | Average |
| n/a |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |

10 % Final Project: 10 % Participation:

**Course Materials**

**Course Text**

Course packet: Required book(s) or online material; selected documents and links on each unit studied on T-square

## Additional Materials/Resources

Recommended: at the advanced level, a good bilingual dictionary (Robert, Robert-Collins, Harraps…), and a unilingual, French-French dictionary, both giving examples of appropriate sentences including the considered word; for grammar/writing at this level, use L.-F. Hoffmann’s *L*’essentiel de la grammaire française, Pearson, 3rd edition, 1997: https://www.amazon.com/LEssentiel-Grammaire-Francaise-Travaux-Pratiques/dp/0130807591, and J. Morton’s English Grammar for Students of French, Olivia & Hill, 7th edition, 2013, as needed (also to be used at the intermediate level): https://www.amazon.com/English-Grammar-Students-French-Learning/dp/0934034427.

## Course Website and Other Classroom Management Tools

http://christopheippolito.com/: instructor’s website, with links on student resources, media, etc.

**Course Expectations & Guidelines**

## Academic Integrity

Georgia Tech aims to cultivate a community based on trust, academic integrity, and honor. Students are expected to act according to the highest ethical standards. For information on Georgia Tech's Academic Honor Code, please visit http://www.catalog.gatech.edu/policies/honor-code/ or http://www.catalog.gatech.edu/rules/18/.

Any student suspected of cheating or plagiarizing on a quiz, exam, or assignment will be reported to the Office of Student Integrity, who will investigate the incident and identify the appropriate penalty for violations.

I am interested in your work, not in that of a friend or material copied from the Internet or any other source. Avoid plagiarism at all costs, and always quote all your sources. Any form of cheating (be it on an essay or a test or any other assignment) is discouraged and will affect your grade. Internet-based tools make it extremely easy today to find out whether somebody pasted material from the Internet or other sources.

## Accommodations for Individuals with Disabilities

If you are a student with learning needs that require special accommodation, contact the Office of Disability Services at (404) 894-2563 or http://disabilityservices.gatech.edu/, as soon as possible, to make an appointment to discuss your special needs and to obtain an accommodations letter. Please also e-mail me as soon as possible in order to set up a time to discuss your learning needs.

## Assignment Turn-In

All postings including weekly assignments, essays and final presentation (or project) are due on the first day of the week except when indicated otherwise on the syllabus. Presentations to be posted on the second day of the week except when indicated otherwise.

All written assignments (Essays, Weekly Postings, Presentations slides (including all materials used for the Final Presentation) have to be posted on T-square at the dates indicated on this syllabus. *On T-square, all homework/assignments are to be posted on the “Forum” for the class.* Assignments button on T-square is not used.

*Essays* (outlines and drafts) *also to be turned in class* at the dates indicated on this syllabus.

## Attendance and/or Participation

Your presence and active participation in class are essential. Daily class attendance is required. Attendance will be taken each day of class. Please be on time too. Being late once or twice is understandable, but half a point will be deducted from your final grade for each additional occurrence of lateness. Two unexcused absences allowed (an excused absence has to be documented by a letter from the Office of the Dean of Students); one point off your final grade for each additional unexcused absence.

In the event of a medical emergency or an illness that is severe enough to require medical attention, students are responsible for contacting the Office of the Dean of Students as soon as possible to report the medical issue or emergency, providing dated documentation from a medical professional and requesting assistance in notifying their instructors. The medical documentation will be handled confidentially within the Dean of Students Office and will inform a decision as to whether communication with instructional faculty is appropriate. It is the expectation of the Institute that instructional faculty will honor a request from the Office of the Dean of Students to excuse a medical emergency or illness and allow make-up of the work missed, including homework, quizzes, presentations, examinations, or other class assignments.

Students who are absent because of participation in approved Institute activities (such as field trips, professional conferences, and athletic events) will be permitted to make up the work missed during their absences. Approval of such activities will be granted by the Student Academic and Financial Affairs Committee of the Academic Senate, and statements of the approved absence may be obtained from the Office of the Registrar.

See the catalog for more information about the Institute Absence Policy: http://www.catalog.gatech.edu/rules/4/

The work is task-oriented (see schedule below). Prepare these tasks well in advance, especially when you have to present in groups. Visuals are appreciated; use of PowerPoint or web files is welcome. You may always see me before a presentation to discuss what you plan to do or other issues. You need up to an hour a day to prepare for each class session. Read the pages assigned for each day thoroughly. You will have not only to know the material but also to apply it. Take a study partner and work with her/him, especially on oral presentations. However, the written work given to me should be your own (see above).

## Collaboration & Group Work

Encouraged as long as you respect the rules set by this syllabus and GT policy on the matter

## Extensions, Late Assignments, & Re-Scheduled/Missed Exams

No extensions/late assignments/rescheduled exams allowed, except if authorized by instructor in writing, or in case of documented absences (Doctor’s letter etc.). Missed exams: F for the exam, except in cases above; however all late exams (if any) will be penalized like late assignments. Late assignments: usually penalized by a grade decrease: A > B for 1 day/week, A > C for 2 weeks, etc.).

Again, all written assignments (Essays, Weekly Postings, Presentations (including all materials used for the Final Presentation) have to be posted on T-square by the dates indicated on this syllabus. If you miss a class, you can still post the homework for it the same day, after that class; if you don’t post on that day, you will be penalized (usually by a grade decrease: see above).

## Student Use of Mobile Devices in the Classroom

Cell phones off in class (and kept in your bag/pocket) except when explicitly allowed by instructor for a class activity

## Student-Faculty Expectations

At Georgia Tech we believe that it is important to continually strive for an atmosphere of mutual respect, acknowledgement, and responsibility between faculty members and the student body. See http://www.catalog.gatech.edu/rules/22/ for an articulation of some basic expectations – that you can have of me, and that I have of you. In the end, simple respect for knowledge, hard work, and cordial interactions will help build the environment we seek. Therefore, I encourage you to remain committed to the ideals of Georgia Tech.

Welcome to my office!

Do not hesitate to come and see me as often as you want! You can also take an appointment if office hours are not convenient to you, or just drop by. Especially, come as soon as you feel you have any problem and/or need help with anything. Take at least one appointment with me to discuss honestly your progress and difficulties. I will make sure any question, concern or suggestion gets the attention it deserves. I will be happy to inform you on your grades including in class. You do have a section on your syllabus that is design to help you on calculating it. I will also be happy to help you as much as I can with your homework assignments, your latest essay/project, any issue pertaining to the course, the French program at Georgia Tech, or queries on French and Francophone cultures. *When I am not in my office, the best way to reach me is to email me, rather than leave a message on my office voice mail.* No emails after 8 pm except in some urgent cases (family or personal emergency resulting in your absence on next day of class, for example).

**Course Schedule**

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| Date | Topic | Reading, Notes, due dates, and more |
| Week 1 | Intro | Readings, Postings |
| Week 2 | French literature: the 1980 turn. | Readings, Postings, First Presentations, |
| Week 3 | Autobiography, autofiction and egotism | Readings, Postings, First Presentations, |
| Week 4 | Consumerism and anti-consumerism | Readings, Postings, Second Presentations, |
| Week 5 | Urban and suburban contexts | Readings, Postings, Second Presentations, Essay 1 outline due |
| Week 6 | The ivory tower | Readings, Postings, Presentations, Essay 1 1st draft due |
| Week 7 | Literature and theory | Readings, Postings, Presentations, Essay 1 2nd draft due |
| Week 8 | Old and new models - The end of avant-garde | Readings, Postings, Third Presentations, |
| Week 9 | Houellebecq | Readings, Postings, Third Presentations, |
| Week 10 | Houellebecq | Readings, Postings, Fourth Presentations, |
| Week 11 | Quignard | Readings, Postings, Fourth Presentations, Essay 1 outline due; |
| Week 12 | Quignard | Readings, Postings, Presentations, Essay 1 1st draft due |
| Week 13 | Ndiaye | Readings, Postings, Presentations, Essay 1 2nd draft due |
| Week 14 | Ndiaye | Readings, Postings, Presentations |
| Week 15 | New Trends | Readings, Preparation for Final Presentation |
| Week 16 | Final Discussion | Final Presentations (on final project) |

*The above schedule is subject to changes. Any changes will be announced in class, ahead of time. Should you be absent on a day a change is announced, it is your responsibility to remain apprized of that change.*