Description: This course reviews the progression of the French novel (in translation) from the eighteenth century to the present. We will be interested in formal matters (e.g., the epistolary novel, *style indirect libre*), thematic matters (e.g., the mediation of desire, existentialism) and issues of literary history and period (e.g., romanticism, realism, naturalism, the *nouveau roman*). We will take some interest also in matters of cinematic adaptation.

ENGL 4305 "Topics in Comparative World Literature" (3 credits) typically meets three times each week in 50-minute segments or twice each week in 75-minute segments for 15 weeks, and also meets for a 2-hour final examination. Students have substantial weekly reading assignments, including both primary and secondary (critical) material. Students typically produce a major researched term paper (12–15 pages) and a group presentation. All of these activities average at a minimum 6 hours of work each week to prepare outside of classroom hours.

Required Texts (in approximate order of use):

- Marcel Proust. *Swann’s Way* (from *In Search of Lost Time*). Trans. Moncrieff. Project Gutenberg

Note: A certain reputation of licentiousness has accompanied the French novel historically, and, especially in the case of *Dangerous Liaisons* and *The Lover*, not without cause, as they do contain sexually frank material. We will consider such material as sensitively as possible. Also, you don’t have to have the exact editions above, except in the case of Flaubert, where you do need the Norton Critical Edition. But you do have to have a usable edition of each novel each time that we meet.

Course Requirements: The main goal of this course is to develop familiarity with key novels in the French tradition, one of the great novel traditions. Novels being generally speaking longish works, and this being a 4000-level class, there is obviously a considerable amount of reading to be done. The 10% participation grade is designed to encourage and reward that reading, evidence of which will be your ready, able, and ongoing participation in classroom discussion (which certainly requires good attendance). Another 10% of your grade will come from a group film presentation project. The midterm and final exams will each be worth 25%. The 2500–3000 word researched critical essay will be worth 30%. More information about each assignment will be forthcoming.

General Grading Expectations: A=exceptionally high performance in every element of an assignment, from content to expression. B=good performance in both areas. C=acceptable performance, but there
were some issues of content and/or expression. D=minimal achievement, with significant issues of content and/or expression. F=the requirements of the assignment were not met.

**Program Objectives:** The Program Learning Outcomes for the English major are as follows:

1. The student will demonstrate the ability to analyze works accurately through close reading.
2. The student will demonstrate the ability to conduct and apply effective textual research.
3. The student will demonstrate the ability to write clear, grammatically correct prose for a variety of purposes.

**Attendance (6.7):** The attendance policy for this course is the official SFASU policy, by which regular and punctual attendance is expected for all classes, laboratories, and other activities for which a student is registered. Valid excuses are limited to health, religious observation, family emergencies, and participation in certain SFASU-sponsored events—and documentation may be required. Whether absences are excused or unexcused by the instructor, a student is still responsible for all course content and assignments. Students with accepted excuses may be permitted to make up work for absences equaling no more than 15% of the scheduled course meeting time for the term, depending on the nature of the missed work. The timeline for completing make-up work will be determined by the instructor.

**Institutional Absences: (HOP 04-110):** An Institutional Absence may be granted to a student who participates as a representative of the University in academic (including research), extra- or cocurricular, or athletic activities. Students will be excused for institutional purposes from otherwise required academic activity only when a valid Institutional Absence is approved by the appropriate administrative unit or official and the documentation of approval is provided to the faculty member at least five (5) days in advance. Institutional absences will not be approved for keystone events, defined as: a special or unique assignment, test, project, experience, or other academic exercise identified by the Faculty member as critical for successful completion of standards of the class and unable to be missed. These events must be identified on the syllabus at the beginning of the semester and communicated to the students. Events added to the syllabus at a later date will not qualify for Keystone Event status. Keystone Events where the date/time is changed will no longer be considered a Keystone Event. Students should make themselves aware of any Keystone Events identified in the syllabus to ensure there are no conflicts. For keystone events where the assignment dates vary, it is incumbent upon the students to work with their faculty member to not select a conflicting date. More information on Institutional Absences, including how to apply, can be found at [https://www.sfasu.edu/deanofstudents/student-resources/institutional-absences](https://www.sfasu.edu/deanofstudents/student-resources/institutional-absences).

**Academic Integrity (4.1):** The Code of Student Conduct and Academic Integrity outlines the prohibited conduct by any student enrolled in a course at SFA. It is the responsibility of all members of all faculty, staff, and students to adhere to and uphold this policy. Articles IV, VI, and VII of the new Code of Student Conduct and Academic Integrity outline the violations and procedures concerning academic conduct, including cheating, plagiarism, collusion, and misrepresentation. Cheating includes, but is not limited to: (1) Copying from the test paper (or other assignment) of another student. (2) Possession and/or use during a test of materials that are not authorized by the person giving the test. (3) Using, obtaining, or attempting to obtain by any means the whole or any part of a non-administered test, test key, homework solution, or computer program, or using a test that has been administered in prior classes or semesters without permission of the Faculty member. (4) Substituting for another person, or permitting another person to substitute for one’s self, to take a test. (5) Falsifying research data, laboratory reports, and/or other records or academic work offered for credit. (6) Using any sort of unauthorized resources or technology in completion of educational activities. Plagiarism is the appropriation of material that is attributable in whole or in part to another source or the use of one’s own previous work in another context without citing that it was used previously, without any indication of the original source, including words, ideas, illustrations, structure, computer code, and other expression or media, and presenting that material as one’s own academic work being offered for credit or in conjunction with a program course or degree
requirements. **Collusion** is the unauthorized collaboration with another person in preparing academic assignments offered for credit or collaboration with another person to commit a violation of any provision of the rules on academic dishonesty, including disclosing and/or distributing the contents of an exam. **Misrepresentation** is providing false grades or résumés; providing false or misleading information in an effort to receive a postponement or an extension on a test, quiz, or other assignment for the purpose of obtaining an academic or financial benefit for oneself or another individual or to injure another student academically or financially.

**Withheld Grades Semester Grades Policy (5.5):** Ordinarily, at the discretion of the instructor of record and with the approval of the academic chair/director, a grade of WH will be assigned only if the student cannot complete the coursework because of unavoidable circumstances. Students must complete the work within one calendar year from the end of the semester in which they receive a WH, or the grade automatically becomes an F. If students register for the same course in future terms the WH will automatically become an F and will be counted as a repeated course to compute the grade point average. For additional information, go to [https://www.sfasu.edu/policies/course-grades-5.5.pdf](https://www.sfasu.edu/policies/course-grades-5.5.pdf).

**Students with Disabilities:** To obtain disability-related accommodations, alternate formats, and/or auxiliary aids, students with disabilities must contact the Office of Disability Services (ODS), Human Services Building, and Room 325, 468-3004 / 468-1004 (TDD) as early as possible in the semester. Once verified, ODS will notify the course instructor and outline the accommodation and/or auxiliary aids to be provided. Failure to request services promptly may delay your accommodations. For additional information, go to [http://www.sfasu.edu/disabilityservices/](http://www.sfasu.edu/disabilityservices/).

**Student Wellness and Well-Being:** SFA values students’ overall well-being, mental health and the role it plays in academic and overall student success. Students may experience stressors that can impact both their academic experience and their personal well-being. These may include academic pressure and challenges associated with relationships, emotional well-being, alcohol and other drugs, identities, finances, etc. If you are experiencing concerns, seeking help, SFA provides a variety of resources to support students’ mental health and wellness. Many of these resources are free, and all of them are confidential.

**On-campus Resources:**

The Dean of Students Office (Rusk Building, 3rd floor lobby)
[www.sfasu.edu/deanofstudents](http://www.sfasu.edu/deanofstudents)
936.468.7249
dos@sfasu.edu

SFA Human Services Counseling Clinic Human Services, Room 202
[www.sfasu.edu/humanservices/139.asp](http://www.sfasu.edu/humanservices/139.asp)
936.468.1041

The Health and Wellness Hub “The Hub”
Location: corner of E. College and Raguet St.
To support the health and well-being of every Lumberjack, the Health and Wellness Hub offers comprehensive services that treat the whole person – mind, body and spirit. Services include:

- Health Services
- Counseling Services
- Student Outreach and Support
- Food Pantry
- Wellness Coaching
• Alcohol and Other Drug Education
  www.sfasu.edu/thehub
  936.468.4008
  thehub@sfasu.edu

Crisis Resources:
• Burke 24-hour crisis line: 1.800.392.8343
• National Suicide Crisis Prevention: 9-8-8
• Suicide Prevention Lifeline: 1.800.273.TALK (8255)
• Crisis Text Line: Text HELLO to 741-741

Schedule

NB: The schedule may be adjusted with sufficient notice to accommodate presentations or for some other compelling reason.

Week One
18 Jan  Introduction to course; French literary and historical backgrounds

Week Two
23 Jan  Laclos: Dangerous Liaisons (DL) part 1 (letters 1–50)
25 Jan  DL part 2 (letters 51–87)

Week Three
30 Jan  DL part 3 (letters 88–124)
1 Feb   DL part 4 (letters 125–175)

Week Four
6 Feb   Balzac: Colonel Chabert (first half)
8 Feb   Colonel Chabert (second half)

Week Five
13 Feb  In-class discussion of Stendhal’s The Red and the Black
15 Feb  Flaubert: Madame Bovary (MB) part 1

Week Six
20 Feb  MB part 2.1–6
22 Feb  MB 2.7–15

Week Seven
27 Feb  MB part 3
29 Feb  “Madame Bovary on Trial” (pp. 313–88) and the LaCapra essay

Week Eight
5 Mar   Essays/reviews by Sainte-Beauve, Baudelaire, Heath, Schor, and Matlock
7 Mar   Midterm Exam

Week Nine
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<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>19 Mar</td>
<td>In-class discussion of <strong>Zola’s</strong> novels <em>Thérèse Raquin</em> and <em>Nana</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>21 Mar</td>
<td><strong>Proust:</strong> “Overture” to <em>Swann’s Way</em>, vol. 1 of <em>A la Recherche du temps perdu</em></td>
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**Week Ten**
- 26 Mar | Presentations |
- 28 Mar | Easter Break |

**Week Eleven**
- 2 Apr  | Presentations |
- 4 Apr  | Presentations |

**Week Twelve**
- 9 Apr  | **Sartre:** *Nausea*, pp. 1–81 |
- 11 Apr | *Nausea*, pp. 81–end |

**Week Thirteen**
- 16 Apr | **Camus:** *The Stranger* |
- 18 Apr | **Daoud:** *The Meursault Investigation* |

**Week Fourteen**
- 23 Apr | In-class discussion of the **nouveau roman** (“New Novel”) |
- 25 Apr | **Duras:** *The Lover* |

**Week Fifteen**
- 30 Apr | Critical Essay due |
- 2 May  | Recent French novels and novelists (e.g., Houellebecq, Slimani, Ndiaye, Sarr, Ernaux, Le Tellier) |

**Finals Week**