

**College of Arts and Sciences  
Department of Modern Languages and Literatures  
Oakland University**

**FRH 416: French Literature: From the Middle Ages through the Sixteenth Century  
4 credits**

**Fall 2005**

Instructor: Professor Stacey Hahn  
Office: 419 Wilson Hall  
Class Time: M W F 1:20-2:30

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Office Hours: M W F 12:00 –1:00

**Course catalogue description:** A study of works in various genres of several periods. Works and authors may include epics, bawdy tales, courtly romances, Villon, Rabelais and Montaigne. Conducted in French.

**This class satisfies the General Education requirement in the Capstone Experience in the Major Area.**

**Course Prerequisites: FRH 314, 370 and 380.**

**General Education Learning Outcomes:**

*Integration Knowledge Area*

*As a capstone course*

The student will demonstrate:

- appropriate uses of a variety of methods of inquiry (through exposure to a variety of literary approaches via lectures and research) and a recognition of ethical considerations that arise (through discussions and written treatments [tests, research paper] of literary themes).
- the ability to integrate the knowledge learned in general education (foreign language and culture, and literature) and its relevance to the student's life and career

**Knowledge Areas:**

1. Foreign Language and Culture Students integrate the following ACTFL national standard skills in the French language: speaking (class discussions), listening (lectures), reading (literary texts), culture and writing (tests, papers) in the context of French literature.
2. Literature Students will develop and integrate literary knowledge of genres and periods from the Middle Ages through the Renaissance, demonstrating how literature is a manifestation of culture and how literary form functions to enable this artistic expression.

### **Cross-Cutting Capacities:**

1. Critical Thinking - Students will develop an appreciation for reading and hone their critical thinking skills through textual analysis. Students will further develop critical thinking by writing an 8 to 10 page research paper on a literary topic.

**Course Objectives:** The aim of this course is to familiarize you with the important works, themes, historical events and literary terminology of the Middle Ages and Renaissance. Starting with the Middle Ages, we shall examine the saint's life, *chanson de geste*, medieval verse romance, miracle play, biography genre and allegory. We shall then continue our examination of literature into the Renaissance period as it is exemplified in the bawdy adventures of Rabelais' Gargantua and some selected essays by Montaigne. By the end of the course students should have a sound knowledge of the following concepts: *chanson de geste*, *allégorie*, *ballade*, *fin'amor*, *clerc*, *jongleur*, *matière de France*, *de Bretagne et de Rome*, *laisse*, *essai*, feudalism, humanism, *conjointure*, *translatio studii*, etc. It is assumed that students have some knowledge of classical mythology and the Bible. If not, students are encouraged to ask questions or seek out relevant information in an encyclopedia, the library or the Web.

### **Required Texts:**

**La Vie de Saint Alexis**, anonymous, photocopy  
**La Chanson de Roland**, anonymous, livre de poche, lettres gothiques  
**Tristan et Yseut**, livre de poche, lettres gothiques  
**Erec et Enide**, Chrétien de Troyes, livre de poche, lettres gothiques  
**Le Miracle de Théophile**, Rutebeuf, GF-Flammarion  
**Le Roman de Mélusine**, Coudrette, GF-Flammarion  
**Le Livre de la Cité des Dames**, Christine de Pizan, Stock  
**Gargantua**, François Rabelais, Classiques Larousse  
**Essais**, Michel de Montaigne, Bordas

**Course Procedures:** lectures, class discussion, discussion groups, performance of miracle play and oral presentations

**Expectations of Students:** In order to participate fully in class discussions, students should schedule enough time to read, enjoy and think about the selections of this class; a quick scan will not be enough for either the class discussions or the exam questions. Attendance and participation are essential in this kind of course and therefore you are required to attend regularly. Excessive absences may result in the failure to pass course. There are no make-ups for missed homework or exams. If an emergency should arise, please contact your instructor immediately.

**Grade Determination:**

<b>Exam I</b>	20%
<b>Final Exam</b>	20%
<b>3 Compositions</b>	30%
<b>Research paper (8 to 10 pages)</b>	10%
<b>Class Participation</b>	20%

**Exams** will consist of some objective, multiple choice questions, short answer, identification, definitions and essays.

**Compositions:** Students will write 3 compositions that will be graded according to a rubric that requires that each composition contain a clear introduction with thesis statement, development and conclusion.

**Research paper:** Students will be required to write an 8 to 10 page research paper on a topic of their choice. I will approve the topic in advance. It is assumed that all work submitted is that of the student and that **no outside help**, except for dictionaries, grammars and the instructor's assistance, has been sought.

There has been a strong push in recent years to have students present research papers or projects to the campus community. Three such forums are the Michigan Academy, Meeting of the Minds (May 2006) and the DMLL Student Research Colloquium (April 2006). I encourage you to participate in these activities.

**Class Participation:** includes attendance, participation in class discussions, group work, and oral presentations.

**Oakland University Grading Scale**

100-98 = 4.0	79 = 2.9	69 = 1.9
97-96 = 3.9	78 = 2.8	68 = 1.8
95-94 = 3.8	77 = 2.7	67 = 1.7
93-92 = 3.7	76 = 2.6	66 = 1.6
91-90 = 3.6	75 = 2.5	65 = 1.5
89-88 = 3.5	74 = 2.4	64 = 1.4
87-86 = 3.4	73 = 2.3	63 = 1.3
85-84 = 3.3	72 = 2.2	62 = 1.2
83-82 = 3.2	71 = 2.1	61 = 1.1
81 = 3.1	70 = 2.0	60 = 1.0
80 = 3.0		59 = 0.0

**Graduating with Honors:** Seniors, don't forget that in order to graduate with Honors in French, you must submit a research paper or translation completed in a course at the 400 level and maintain a grade point average of at least 3.6. Please submit your paper and inform faculty of your desire to be considered for graduation with honors early on in the semester directly preceding your graduation.

**Academic Conduct Policy:** Cheating on examinations, plagiarism, falsifying reports/records, and unauthorized collaboration, access, or modifying of computer programs are considered serious breaches of academic conduct. The Oakland University policy on academic conduct will be strictly followed with no exceptions. See catalogue under Academic Policies and procedures.

**Add/Drops:** The University add/drop policy will be explicitly followed. It is the student's responsibility to be aware of the University deadline dates for dropping courses.

**Special Considerations:** Students with disabilities who may require special considerations should make an appointment with campus Disability Support Services. Students should also bring their needs to the attention of the instructor as soon as possible.

### **Tentative Schedule<sup>1</sup>**

<b>Septembre</b>	2	Introduction au cours: le Moyen Age et le système féodal.
	5	Labor Day Holiday
	7	<b>La Vie de Saint Alexis</b> , hagiographie.
	9	<b>La Vie de Saint Alexis</b>
	12	<b>La Chanson de Roland (21-73)</b> la chanson de geste
	14	Roland (74-119)
	16	Roland (120-167)
	19	Roland (168 – 215)
	21	Roland (215-259)
	23	<b>Dissertation I à me rendre</b> <b>Tristan et Yseut</b> , la fin'amor: Béroul: la version primitive ou féodale (22-93)
	26	Tristan (94-164)
	28	Tristan, Thomas, la version psychologique ou courtoise (165-230)
	30	Tristan (337-418)

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<sup>1</sup> The class schedule indicates dates, exams dates, specific topical material to be covered, and reading/homework assignments. The instructor reserves the right to make minor adjustments to this schedule.

<b>Octobre</b>	3	Tristan (419-483)
	5	Chèvrefeuille
	7	<b>Dissertation II à me rendre</b> Erec et Enide (28-111)
	10	Erec (112-195)
	12	Erec (196-279)
	14	Erec (280-389)
	17	Erec (390- 525)
	19	Erec. Discussion
	21	EXAMEN I
	24	Le Miracle de Théophile
	26	Le Miracle de Théophile
	28	Le Roman de Mélusine (39-62)
	31	Mélusine (63-86)
	<b>Novembre</b>	2
4		Mélusine (111-134)
7		Mélusine (135-155)
9		<b>Dissertation III à me rendre</b> Le Livre de la Cité des Dames (35-83)
11		La Cité des Dames (84-132)
14		La Cité des Dames (133-181)
16		La Cité des Dames (182-230)
18		La Cité des Dames (231-278)
21		<u>A me rendre: la bibliographie de votre “research paper”</u>

La Renaissance: **Gargantua**

23 **Gargantua** (11-50)  
**VACANCES DE THANKSGIVING**

28 **Gargantua** (51-100)

30 **Gargantua** (101-128)

**Décembre** 2 **Montaigne** De l'institution des enfants, De l'amitié

5 Montaigne Des cannibales, Apologie de Raimond Sebond

7 A me rendre: Research Paper- for assessment purposes, please hand me two sets of papers, one for me to grade and hand back and the other to include in our assessment file.  
 Montaigne

**EXAMEN FINAL:** lundi le 12 décembre 8h à 11h