

MLL 425-02 Automne 2006

Instructor: Dr. Randi Polk

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Office hours: M-F 8:30-10:00; M 8:00-8:30;

T 1-3

French Table: TH 12-1

Texts: *Civilisation progressive du français*

(niveau intermédiaire) ; *Moments littéraires*

2nd edition ; handouts



Course description : This course is designed to help students gain a better understanding of a variety of texts written in French by considering not only the text itself, but the cultural and historical period in which it is situated. Each literary text will be preceded by informative readings about cultural, historical, and artistic trends shaping the mentality behind the text. In addition, we will be following current events in the Francophone world to see how these events are reflections of the past or indicators of possible changes in the future.

Student responsibilities: Students are expected to read all assigned texts and complete all assignments for a given day BEFORE coming to weekly discussions. These meetings will be spent going beyond the texts and seeing how they can improve our understanding of Francophone societies and their customs. All students should consult a French news source on a regular basis. If you have any questions about how to access such sources please see me. Attendance and participation are mandatory. In addition, academic integrity is expected of all students. This means that each assignment must represent the student's original thought. Turning in assignments that are the work of web translators or anyone other than the student will be considered academic misconduct. Blackboard will be used for this class so be sure to check periodically for assignments and/or messages.

Any student who has special needs resulting from a disability please see me immediately so that we can make necessary arrangements.

Evaluation: Your final grade will be an average of scores earned on individual assignments, and calculated according to the following breakdown:

Attendance/ Participation/ Preparation: 30%

Reading journal: 25%

Papers: 20%

Final Exam: 25%

Attendance/ Participation/ Preparation = In order to do well in this course, each student must read all of the assigned texts before coming to class. You should have completed all assignments and be ready to discuss the texts. I expect EVERY student to contribute to class discussions.

Reading Journals = For each text that you read, you will take some notes about the historical period in which it is situated or points you find important. You may write out questions that you have as well. I would also encourage you to look up words or expressions that are new to you along with their meaning. This is a good way to continue increasing your vocabulary.

Papers = You will write 2 papers during the semester. One must be an extension of one of the civilization topics we have gone over in class (or another topic which interests you). The other will be a literary analysis of a chosen text (again, it may be a text we discuss or another one of your choice). If you choose a topic/text that we have not covered in class you **MUST** discuss this topic with me for approval. Each paper must be 2-3 pages (standard format), written in French with bibliographical information. See me if you have questions. The due dates are indicated on the course calendar.

Final Exam/ Paper = You will be given a list of questions and you will have to answer 2-3 questions that will cover both the literature and civilization portions of the course. The final exam must be turned in by **Wednesday December 13 at 3pm**. You will be expected to type your responses. Each response will be 2-3 pages. Two hard copies should be submitted to me or placed in my mailbox by the due date and time. **No late work will be accepted.**

PLEASE NOTE THAT THERE WILL BE NO MAKE UP TESTS OR EXAMS EXCEPT IN THE CASE OF AN EXTREME EMERGENCY.

Your final grade will be based on the university grading scale (A= 90-100%, B= 80-89%, C= 70-79%, D= 60-69%, F= 0-59%).

Retro-Credits: The Department of Modern Languages and Literatures has a retro-credits program designed to reward students who have already spent years learning languages in high school. Students must sign up for the program with Kathy Dyer, Departmental Secretary, during the first three weeks of the semester in which they take their **first** language course at PSU. That course determines their entry level and the maximum credits they can earn through retro-credits.