

Fall 2017

FACULTY OF ARTS AND SCIENCE- AUB  
Civilization Sequence Program

**SYLLABUS CVSP 216 (3 credits)**  
**A Survey of 20th Century French Literature in English**

Instructor : Zeina Fayad

**1. Course description**

This course offers an approach of the Modern French literature of the XXth century with a special interest on how literary streams influenced other disciplines like arts, music, sociology, anthropology, and psychology opening the way to the XXIst century.

**2. Course objectives**

- a- Analyzing and debating the stimulating intellectual life of the XXth century that brought together visions of social sciences and artistic or literary works.
- b- Acquisition of a complete and critical knowledge of the principal steps in literary and artistic XXth century French Modernity and of its most representative authors.
- c- Acquisition of reading and analysis techniques of the texts ( response essays, and oral presentations ) through the recognition of the different themes, styles, and specificities of each art stream in the program.

**3. Textbook**

A reading pack will be made available.

**4. Evaluation**

Presence and participation in class : 10%

Exam I : 30%

Oral presentation : 10 %

Essays : 20 %

Final Exam : 30 %

**5. Program**

**Week 1- Introduction** : What is French XXth century Modernity ?

**A. From the Belle Epoque to the Great War**

**Week 2- The New Spirit** : Apollinaire ( 1880- 1918 ), *Alcools* and *Calligrammes*

**Week 3- A New Esthetic** : Proust ( 1871-1922 ), *In search of Lost times*

**B. From the Golden Years to the Popular Front**

**Week 4- Dadaism and Surrealism** : Eluard ( 1895-1952 ), *Capital of pain*

**Due** : Essay #1

**Week 5- Spoken Language in Literature** : Celine (1894-1961 ), *Journey to the end of the night*

**Week 6- Revision and Exam I**

**B. From May 1940 to May 1968**

**Week 7- Absurdist Theater** : Ionesco ( 1912- 1994 ), *Rhinoceros*

**Week 8- Nouveau Roman** : Duras ( 1914- ? ), *Moderato Cantabile*

**Due** : Essay #2

**Week 9- Film Queneau** : *Zazie dans le Metro*

**C. Stepping into the XXIst century**

**Week 10- Fictional biography** : Michon ( 1945- ? ), *Small lives*

**Week 11- School of the derisory** : Echenoz ( 1947- ? ), *I'm gone*

**Week 12- Oral Presentations**

**Week 13- Conclusion and revision**

**FINAL EXAM**

**6. Bibliography**

A- Literary history

MITTERAND, Henri ( éd. ),

- *XVIIIème siècle. Littérature, textes et documents*, Paris, Nathan, 1992.

- *XIXème siècle. Littérature, textes et documents*, Paris, Nathan, 1992.

- *XXème siècle. Littérature, textes et documents*, Paris, Nathan, 1992.

TADIE, Jean-Yves ( éd. ), *Histoire de la littérature française, Vol. II*, Paris, Folio, 2007.

VIART, Dominique, *La littérature française au présent, Héritage, modernité, mutations*, Paris, Bordas, 2005.

B- Literary works

APOLLINAIRE, Guillaume, *Selected Writings*, New York, New Directions, 1971.

CELINE, Louis Ferdinand, *Journey to the end of the night*, New York, New Directions, 2006.

DURAS, Marguerite, *Four novels : The square, Moderato cantabile, 10 :30 on a summer night, and The afternoon of Mr. Andemas*, New York, Grove Press, 1994.

ECHENOZ, Jean, *I'm gone*, New York, The New Press, 2014.

ELUARD, Paul, *Capital of Pain*, Virginia, Commonwealth Books, 2006.

IONESCO, Eugene, *Rhinoceros and other plays*, New York, Grove Press, 1994.

MICHON, Pierre, *Small lives*, New York, Archipelago, 2008.

PROUST, Marcel, *Swann's Way*, New York, Dover Thrift Editions, 2013.