

French culture and literature

Prof. Anderson Magalhães

Title: *The historical novel between construction and reconstruction of history*

Course Objectives:

This course explores the French-language historical novel, focusing on the characteristics of this hybrid literary genre and the issues facing the Francophone. We aim to provide students with skills related to the techniques used by authors to rewrite and represent history, as well as the main themes and theoretical questions characterizing the Francophone novel.

Course Content:

The course will be divided into two parts, a division based on the authors' relationship to the French language and their use of their sources, sometimes to reconstruct an era and bring a character and their entourage back to life, and sometimes to construct the history of their country by unearthing myths, traditions, or events obscured by official historiography, thus compensating for the silences in a history often written by colonizers. In the first part, we will examine the strategies of historical reconstruction in two novels set during the Renaissance, one in Italy and the other in Spain. The second part of the course will focus on the analysis of two works set in the French colonies in Africa. While highlighting the place of these two Francophone novels in a given period of literary and historiographical production, we will also examine their use of a “francographie” to translate allophone realities. We will question the aims of their respective authors and their reception in the political and sociological context at the time of their publication.

Assessment Method

Reading and analysis of novels during lessons;

Presentations;

Oral exam.

Bibliography

1. Novels

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Marguerite Yourcenar, *Anna, soror...*, Paris, Gallimard, « Folio », 1981.
Michel Del Castillo, *La tunique d'infamie*, Paris, Gallimard, « Folio », 1997.

2. Critical studies

Paul Zang Zang et Pierre Essengue, *Le français d'Afrique : une langue française de culture africaine*, in *Dynamique des Français africains : entre le culturel et le linguistique. Hommage à Ambroise Jean-Marc Queffélec*, sous la direction de Peter Blumenthal, Frankfurt, Peter Lang, 2015, p. 43-45.

Francographies africaines contemporaines. Identités et globalisation, sous la direction de Roger Fopa Kuete et Bernard Bienvenu Nankeu, Frankfurt, Peter Lang, 2017.

Yves Clavaron, *Des marges au centre : l'Histoire dans le roman postcolonial, quelques exemples africains*, in *Le Romanesque et l'Historique. Marge et écriture*, sous la direction de Dominique Peyrache-Leborgne et André Peyronie, Nantes, Cécile Defaut, coll. « Horizons comparatistes », 2010, p. 331-344.

Dominique Viart, *Nouveaux modèles de représentation de l'Histoire en littérature contemporaine*, in *Nouvelles Ecritures littéraires de l'Histoire*, sous la direction de Dominique Viart, Caen, Lettres modernes Minard, 2009, p. 11-39.

Rosanna Gorris Camos, « *Renouer avec la mémoire* » : *histoire et identités dans le roman francophone (del Castillo, Yourcenar, Aquin & les autres)*, in *Variations autour d'Agota Kristof*, Atti della giornata Agota Kristof, Verona, 26 maggio 2006, a cura di Rosanna Gorris con la collaborazione di Sara Arena e Riccardo Benedettini, Publifarum, n. 13, 2010 (rivista on-line in www.publifarum.farum.it).

Nicolas Schaub, *Représenter l'Algérie. Images et conquête au XIX^e siècle*, Paris, Cths – Inha, 2015.

Hafid Gafaiti, *L'autobiographie plurielle : Assia Djebar, les femmes et l'histoire*, in *Postcolonialisme & Autobiographie*, Alfred Hornung, Ernstpeter Ruhe (eds.), Rodopi, Amsterdam – Atlanta, GA, 1998, p. 149-160.

Michelle Perrot, *Histoire et mémoire des femmes dans l'œuvre d'Assia Djebar*, dans Mireille Calle-Gruber (dir.), *Assia Djebar, Nomade entre les murs... Pour une poétique transfrontalière*, Maisonneuve & Larose, 2005, p. 33-42.

Lamet, Lalir, Lalit, Mantua, September 15, 2025.