

Syllabus

Course description:

- a) **Course title:** French as second foreign language
- b) **Pre-requisites:** Students should master French grammar, have a solid vocabulary and basic knowledge of French literature
- c) **Course Type:** compulsory
- d) **Abstract:** Students will be informed about the main achievements of French and Belgian literature of the XXth century. Poetry and novel extracts will be read and discussed in the class in French. Unknown words and expressions will be especially analysed. From time to time, students will be asked to watch a short interview or to listen a song / a speech in the class.

Learning objectives:

- Ability to understand a literary text and to discuss about it.
- Students should develop their writing skills

Learning outcomes:

- Preparation for the DELF examination (Diplôme d'études en langue française /in english: Diploma in French Studies): Level B2.

Course plan:

Module I

1. Jean Paul Sartre *Huis clos*, Paris, Editions Gallimard, 2010.
2. Emile Verhaeren *Les Campagnes hallucinées; Les villes tentaculaires*, Editions Gallimard 1982 : analysis of the following poems : *La ville, L'âme de la ville, La plaine, Les usines, Le port*. Discussion, writing exercises
3. Jacques Brel *Amsterdam* (1964) : https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=REKfgS1_A5I , *Le plat pays* (1962): <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=seMFkItmGFs>. Analysis of the poems, discussion, writing exercises.

Module II

1. Guillaume Apollinaire *Alcools*, Editions Gallimard, 2007. (*Pont Mirabeau, Zone, Chanson du Mal-Aimé*,): lesson - lecture: Apollinaire's poetics and French modern literature ; students will be asked to learn the poem *Pont Mirabeau* by heart. Listening Léo Ferre's and Marc Lavoine's musical versions.

2. Marguerite Duras *Amant*, Gallimard, Editions de Minuit, 1884 / Optional: *Un barrage contre le Pacifique*, Paris, Editions Gallimard, 2009 (reading of the extracts from the novel in the class; written task: essay).
3. Dominique Costermans : *Je ne sais pas dire non*, éd. Luce Wilquin, Bruxelles, 2004. Short stories : *Lily à Paris* (57-62), *Je ne sais pas dire non* (31-39), *On toucherait la pluie* (21-27), *Le jour où j'ai appris que mon père était/n'était pas James Bond* (83-95). Writing exercises
4. Optional : analysis of articles from reviews

Module III

Extracts from the following novels will be read and discussed in the class. Students will be required to do writing exercises: commenting on the specific issues.

- 1 André Gide *La Symphonie pastorale*, Paris, Gallimard, 1998 / Optional : André Gide *L'immoraliste*, Paris, Editions Mercure de France, 2010.
- 2 Andreï Makine *Le testament français*, Paris, Mercure de France, 1995 / Optional : J.M.G. Le Clézio *Désert*, Paris, Editions Gallimard, 1980 /
- 3 Patrick Modiano *Accident nocturne*, Paris, Editions Gallimard 2003
- 4 Suzanne Lilar *Une enfance gantoise*, Paris, Editions Grasset, 1976. / Optional : *Anthologie de littérature francophone de Belgique*, coordonnée par Jean-Marie Klinkenberg, Bruxelles, Editions Labor, 2012.

Grading System:

Final assessment is held at the end of the 3rd module in written and oral form. To get a passing grade, students are expected:

- to regularly attend classes
- to do at least 1 homework during one module
- to engage in class discussion
- to pass a final test consisting of an essay and oral presentation.

Reading list

Further literature will be suggested during the course and will depend on students' linguistic skills.

Recommended dictionaries / books:

Le Grand Robert de la langue française. Dictionnaire alphabétique et analogique de la langue française de Paul Robert, Paris, 1978.

Larousse. Available online :

<http://www.larousse.fr/dictionnaires/francais-monolingue>

Guidelines for knowledge assessment:

The course is based on discussion on literary works. So, students are required to prepare for the class: to do their reading. Skills of discussing and presenting will be particularly appreciated.

Methods of Instruction: lesson – lecture, discussion, individual presentations, short written tasks, frequent routine assessments: homework, assignments, essays, oral presentations, dialogues.

Special Equipment and Software Support (if required): Students are kindly asked to bring their laptops