Héritages des Femmes Résistantes

« Je trahirai demain. Pas aujourd’hui, demain. »
(Marianne Cohn)

This seminar examines emblematic women resisters in the French Resistance, their antecedents, the complexity and specificity of their contexts, their strategies and their legacies. Readings will explore why and how women resisters on different front lines in France intervened to disrupt and challenge literary, social and political norms, and eventually “the enemy.”

Class consists of discussion based on assigned literary and historical texts. Students will gain familiarity with basic genres and movements of literary and artistic resisters and activists that precede and continue during the war, familiarity with the history of the French Resistance, the cultural context of the women resisters, the figures and forms that mark and memorialize the French Resistance, and the ways in which women resisters may intervene in discussions of France and the past… before, during, and in the aftermath of World War II.

Taught in French, the class introduces students to known and lesser-known women resisters—each selected as representative of the problematics to be addressed. Including lectures, literary texts, historical texts, tracts, and journalism, as well as examples of cultural production from the visual and the plastic arts, the course will be of interest to students of French and Francophone Studies, European and International Studies, Jewish Studies, WWII and Women’s Studies. While the class will include secondary readings, primary readings (and in certain cases visual art and films) will be discussed as the basis for understanding the shifting aesthetic, social, political and commercial contexts with which Women Resistors engage.
**Required Texts:**
Most material (primary and secondary readings) for the course will be available electronically or on reserve.
*The will be addition recommended readings for undergraduates that are required for graduate students.

**Preparation and Attendance:**
Attendance and demonstration of preparation at each class session are required.

For each week there will be a seminar sheet with reading assignments and themes for discussion, questions to guide your reading, and critical works for consultation or suggested consultation.

**Organization of class sessions (some preliminaries):**

Participation and attendance are mandatory. This course will be conducted in seminar format. Each student is expected to come to each session prepared to discuss the readings assigned. Reading of the assigned material and participation in class discussion are essential to the successful completion of the course.

Everyone prepares questions and comments on the texts and critical texts.

*Everyone prepares one page of written comments—a mini essay-- on one chosen theme or aspect of the text for discussion (see "synthetic notes" below).*

**Written Work:**

Each week on Monday, you will turn in a one page synthetic a mini essay (of 1-1.5 pages max) addressing *an aspect* (a theme, a technique, a strategy of the text, a question) of the readings that you have thought about/considered/studied. I will explain further how “mini-essays” work and the logic behind them for stimulating class discussion and building material for class papers.

Final Paper: 7-10 pp. Due by email to zachmann@ufl.edu no later than December 10.

**Grading:**
Participation/demonstrated preparation (25%), oral presentations/preparation of weekly mini-essays on readings (50%): 75%
Final Paper: 25%

**Please note the following UF policies regarding grades, honor code and accommodations:**

http://www.registrar.ufl.edu/catalog/policies/regulationgrades.html
http://www.dso.ufl.edu/drc/
Preliminary Program Themes and Primary Readings

*N.B. You will receive weekly seminar sheets with reading assignments, secondary readings, themes for discussion and questions to guide your reading. Below you will find a listing of themes and some of the primary materials around which additional primary and secondary readings will be grouped weekly.*

**Week of August 27**

*Legacies: Women Resistors & Women in the Resistance*

Introduction - Memory, Heritages and Women Resistors

**Week of September 10**

*Antécédents – Résistance au féminin au 19e*

Claire de Duras, *Ourika*;  
Eugenie Foa, *Rachel, ou l’héritage, Tirtza, La Kalissa*  
George Sand, *Indiana*

**Week of September 17**

*Antécédents - Résistance au féminin au 19e*

George Sand, *Indiana*

**Week of September 24**

*Antécédents – Héroines Surréelles:*

*Résistances visuelles, littéraires et journalistiques*

Claude Cahun, *Héroines, Sélections*

**Week of October 1**

*La Résistance et le Panthéon invisible des femmes résistantes:*

*Héroines invisibles, Héritages, La fiction et la guerre*

Triolet, *Les Amants d’Avignon*  
Weitz, *Sisters in Resistance (extraits)*

**Week of October 8**

*Résistances de tous les jours, collectives et littéraires:*
Les roles des femmes et l’organisation de la résistance

Elsa Triolet, Alexis Slavsky, peintre; Cahiers sous un pêcher; //Le Cheval blanc*

Week of October 15

Choix de vivre et clandestinité: Résistances et résistantes juives

Marianne Cohn, Léa Feldblum, l’UGIF et Izieu

Week of October 22

Résistances journalistiques et journaux clandestins

Claude Cahun et al., Sélections

Week of October 29

Poèmes, Prières, Promesses, et Lettres

Edith Thomas, Arlette Humbert-Laroche, Madeleine Riffaut, Claude Cahun, Sélections

Week of November 5

Femmes de l’ombre, le soldat sans nom: la lutte armée et les armes

Cahun, suite; Lucie Aubrac, Il partiront dans l’ivresse*

Week of November 19

Les combats: Femmes résistantes et la transmission

Genevieve DeGaulle-Anthonioz et Germaine Tillion (Sélections)

Week of November 26

“Simones” Résistantes:

Beauvoir, Veil et le Panthéon des femmes résistantes

Sélections sur le Procès Bobigny

Week of December 3

Conclusions et Héritages: Femmes résistantes au Panthéon