

FRT 3561 (011C) WST 3930 (078B)
Women in French literature and/or Cinema
T, period 5-6, R, period 6

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Spring 2016
T, 5-6; R, 6
TUR2353 (T) TUR2354 (R)

Office hours, T, R, period 7

Modern Families. Recollections of childhood by modern French and Francophone Women Writers: Colette, Beauvoir, Duras, Cixous, and Sarraute



Marguerite Duras and her mother in Saigon, circa 1930

Course Description and Objectives

In this course we will explore representative works by some of the most powerful and influential French and Francophone women writers of the 20th and 21st centuries as they reflect on the role of family dynamics in the shaping of their identities. Camaraderie, conflict, cultural dislocation and oftentimes turbulent explorations of self through a family other—sibling or parent—mark these texts as meditations on familial relationships.

The works chosen span a variety of temporal and geographical landscapes, from Gabrielle-Sidonie Colette's tribute to her mother, *My Mother's House* and *Sido*, set in 19th-century Burgundy, to H el ene Cixous's memories of her youth in colonial Algeria in *Reveries of the Wild Woman*, *Primal Scenes*. We will also follow Nathalie Sarraute's search for truth and a language with which to express it in *Childhood* while growing up in the Russian enclaves of early twentieth-century Paris and Marguerite Duras's struggles in *The Lover* with individuation in French Indochina. In *Memoirs of a Dutiful Daughter*, noted philosopher and

feminist writer Simone de Beauvoir evokes vividly her bourgeois family life in early twentieth-century Paris, her adolescent rebellion and the burgeoning of her intellectual ambition in a politically-charged time.

In our class discussions we will focus on historical and cultural contexts, literary techniques and questions of identity (class, race, gender and age).

Course Requirements

Students will read, discuss and analyse primary sources and some secondary sources, prepare short answers to questions on the readings, participate in an oral presentation, and write a final paper (8-10 pages) on a selected topic. There will be a few quizzes based on the readings.

Grading

Presence and Participation in Class*	15%
Oral Report	15%
Quizzes	20%
Final paper**	50%

*Please note that there is a presence policy in this course. Three absences are allowed for urgent matters (illness, religious holiday, etc.). More than three absences will result in a grade reduction. **Tuesday's double class counts for two absences.**

**The grade for the final paper is divided into three parts: 10% for the outline and bibliography, 10% for the abstract and draft introduction, and 30% for the final paper. Please check the course calendar, below, for due dates.

Reading List: Primary and Secondary Texts

N.B.: Required texts MUST be purchased in the editions indicated to facilitate class discussion. .

Required texts

Beauvoir, Simone de, *Memoirs of a Dutiful Daughter*, ISBN 0060825197.
Cixous, Hélène, *Reveries of the Wild Woman, Primal Scenes* ISBN 9780810123632
Colette, Gabrielle Sidone de, *My Mother's House and Sido* ISBN 0374528330
Duras, Marguerite, *The Lover* ISBN 0375700528
Sarraute, Nathalie, *Childhood* ISBN 9780807611166

Secondary texts (* denotes books on reserve in Library West)

Beauvoir, Simone de, *The Second Sex**
Best, Victoria, *Critical Subjectivities: Identity and Narrative in the Work of Colette and Marguerite Duras**
Cixous, Hélène, "The Laugh of the Medusa"
Hewitt, Leigh. *Autobiographical Tightropes: Simone de Beauvoir, Nathalie Sarraute, Marguerite Duras, Monique Wittig and Maryse Condé**
Kristeva, Julia, *Colette**

Ladimer, Bethany, *Colette, Beauvoir and Duras, Age and Women Writers**
 Moi, Toril, *Simone de Beauvoir, the Making of an Intellectual Woman**
 Stewart, Joan Hinde, *Colette*
 Tidd, Ursula, *Simone de Beauvoir, Gender and Testimony**
 Winston, Jane Bradley, *Postcolonial Duras: Cultural Memory in Postwar France**

CALENDAR

Week 1

Tuesday, Jan. 5 Introduction to the course
 Thursday, Jan. 7 Introduction to Colette

Week 2

Tuesday, Jan. 12 Colette, pp. 5-79
 Thursday, Jan. 14 Colette, pp. 79-99

Week 3

Tuesday, Jan. 19 Colette, pp. 100-141
 Thursday, Jan. 21 Colette, pp. 147-174

Week 4

Tuesday, Jan. 26 Colette, pp. 175-219
 Thursday, Jan. 28 Colette, conclusions

Week 5

Tuesday, Feb. 2 TEAM Colette, Introduction to Beauvoir
 Thursday, Feb. 4 Beauvoir, pp. 5-82

Week 6

Tuesday, Feb. 9 Beauvoir, pp. 82-161
 Thursday, Feb. 11 Beauvoir, pp. 161-210

Week 7

Tuesday, Feb. 16 Beauvoir, pp. 210-259
 Thursday, Feb. 18 Beauvoir, pp. 259-314

Week 8

Tuesday, Feb. 23 Beauvoir, pp. 314-360, conclusions
 Thursday, Feb. 25 TEAM Beauvoir

SPRING BREAK February 28 – March 4

Week 9

Tuesday, March 8 Introduction, Duras, pp. 3-60
 Thursday, March 10 Duras, pp. 60-85

Week 10 Tuesday, March 15 Thursday, March 17	Duras, pp. 85-117, conclusions TEAM Duras
Week 11 Tuesday, March 22 Thursday, March 24	Introduction Sarraute, pp.1-79 Sarraute, pp. 80-124
Week 12 Tuesday, March 29 Thursday, March 31	Sarraute, pp. 125-243 Sarraute, conclusions
Week 13 Tuesday, April 5 Thursday, April 7	TEAM Sarraute, Introduction to Cixous Cixous, pp. 3-45
Week 14 Tuesday, April 12 Thursday, April 14	Cixous, pp. 45-96 Cixous, conclusions
Week 15 Tuesday, April 19	TEAM Cixous, Conclusion du cours

IMPORTANT DUE DATES

Choice of Paper topic
Outline and Bibliography
Draft (abstract, intro)
Final Paper Due Date

Tuesday, March 8
Thursday, March 24
Thursday, April 7
Monday, April 25, noon
N.B. Each paper must be submitted with a self-addressed, stamped manila-style envelope. Final grades will not be submitted if this step is omitted.

Other Important Information

VOIR <http://www.registrar.ufl.edu/catalog/policies/regulationgrades.html> pour une explication du système de notation. Notez surtout qu'un C- ne constitue pas une note satisfaisante pour la spécialisation en français.

VOIR <http://www.dso.ufl.edu/sccr/honorcode.php> pour tout renseignements concernant le code d'honneur pour les étudiants.

VOIR <http://www.dso.ufl.edu/drc/> pour la politique de l'université concernant des étudiants ayant besoin d'accommodation spéciale.