

## **French Graduate Courses for spring 2020**

### **Special Topics: Introduction to Semiotics**

#### **FRE 6735**

**Dr. Theresa Antes (MWF: 7)**

Course description: This course will provide a general introduction to Semiotics, the study of signs. We will focus primarily on a linguistic approach to semiotics, focusing on ways that language is used signify meaning. Through a close examination of symbols, indexes and icons that derive from language but appear in other media, such as advertising, art, clothing, literature, and film and television, we will discuss how cultural differences shape message transmission in different languages and in multilingual societies. We will explore myth and metaphor, and examine ways that language and thought are shaped by forms of expression that we use, both denotative and connotative.

### **The French Language in the Americas: Varieties of French in North America**

#### **FRE 6736**

**Dr. Hélène Blondeau (M: 11, W: 10-11)**

French in the Americas, language practices of Francophone communities, linguistics characteristics of the varieties of French, language variation, effect of language contact, language representations, attitudes. This semester the course will focus on the situation of the varieties of French in North America. This class will be taught in French.

### **Readings in 18th-Century French Literature: Eighteenth-Century Paris**

#### **FRW 6276**

**Dr. Rori Bloom (T: 7, R: 7-8)**

Before Paris became “the capital of the nineteenth century,” it was already in the eighteenth century the capital of the Enlightenment, with its famous salons and cafés as centers of the new philosophy. In studying Paris through eighteenth-century French literature, we will develop an understanding of how space can be an essential inspiration for art and ideas. Our reading of the novel *Manon Lescaut* will explore the Parisian underworld with a focus on gambling dens and prisons (The Châtelet and the Salpêtrière) but also interrogate the novel’s the evocation of America as a utopian/dystopian, anti-Parisian experience. Our analysis of *Le Neveu de Rameau* will examine the open spaces of the Palais Royal and the Jardin de Luxembourg as well as the space of the philosophical and anti-philosophical salon as we accompany the characters on their stroll through the city. In between, we will analyze descriptions of Paris in Mercier (*Le Tableau de Paris*) and Restif (*Les Nuits de Paris*) as calls for reform on the eve of the French Revolution. For additional context for our primary texts, we will consult historiographical materials that provide background on the evolution of the city. Ultimately, students will create their own mental (and maybe digital!) maps of eighteenth-century Paris and come away with a more place-based understanding of this period in French cultural history.

### **Special Study in French Literature: Literature and Migration**

#### **The New Francophone “novel of education”**

#### **FRW 6900**

**Dr. Alioune Sow (M: 9-10, W: 9)**

The aim of this course is to examine the renewal of the *bildungsroman* using a selection of contemporary francophone novels. The course engages with the idea that the novel of education is a “symbolic form” (Moretti) whose variations (Lukacs, Williams) are determined by a changing social and political history in which youth remains “problematic” (Moretti). The commentaries and analysis of the works will focus on the relation between the forms, features and narrative configurations of the selected novels and the recent transformations of French society and francophone spaces. We will see how the selected novels respond to the new exigencies imposed by issues of migration, mobility, diaspora, race, extremism and terrorism. Authors include Mahir Guven, Alain Mabanckou, Jean-Eric Boulain, David Diop and Marie NDiaye.