Course Description: This course offers an introduction to masterpieces of French literature. We will focus on three major (and very funny) comedies by Molière (*The School for Wives*, *Tartuffe*, and *The Misanthrope*) and on two of the greatest French novels: Madame de Lafayette’s short but intense narrative of infidelity and temptation, *The Princesse de Clèves*, and Choderlos de Laclos’s *Dangerous Liaisons*, a novel in letters about the ruthless amorous maneuverings of decadent aristocrats and the shortcomings of the old nobility’s education of women. All readings are in English but students may read the texts in French if they would like. Weekly writing assignments and a final 8-10 page paper.

Texts:


Assignments and Grading:

Weekly reading assignments and short written responses, a mid-term exam (take-home), and a final paper of 8-10 pages.

Attendance is a basic course requirement.

Attendance/participation/reading responses: 40 %

Mid-term exam: 20%

Final paper: 40%