

L/Hum152a
Classical French Literature in Translation

Spring 2020

Instructor: Trevor Merrill
Office: Dabney 113
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Class meetings/location: TBD

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:

Molière, *The Misanthrope and Tartuffe*, trans. Richard Wilbur, Mariner Books, 1965 (reprint edition, paperback), ISBN: 978-0156605175

Molière, *The School for Wives and The Learned Ladies*, trans. Richard Wilbur, Harvest Books, 1991, ISBN: 978-0156795029

Madame de Lafayette, *The Princesse de Clèves*, translated by Terence Cave (paperback), ISBN: 978-0199539178

Choderlos de Laclos, *Les Liaisons dangereuses*, trans. Helen Constantine, Penguin Classics, ISBN-13: 978-0140449570

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%