



GENDER AND FRANCOPHONE LITERATURE

APA Program: Online Francophone Summer

Language of instruction: French

US semester credits: 4.0

Term: Summer (6 weeks)

Distance learning: Class meets online for 75 minutes, four days per week

Instructor: Dr. Hassan Moustir, Professor, Department of French Language and Literature/Faculty of Letters and Human Sciences | University of Rabat; Rabat, Morocco
Dr. Nadia Setti, Department of Gender Studies Director | Université Paris 8 St-Denis; Paris, France

Course Description

This course focuses on the political and literary movements that mark the so-called second wave of feminism. Discussions and reflections focus on the body, desire, sexuality but also questions of identity (woman, lesbian, gay). How do literature and more broadly media (art, show, cinema) meet these challenges? How does the writing question the status of the author, and dare to pronounce as to a "female writing" or a "lesbian body" or queer? Embodiment, a term that marks the re-resignation of the body and gender, can become a subversive act, the possibility of saying the forbidden, of recreating a body that would no longer be the object of a male gaze but of a completely different figuration and narration.

Although few women openly declare themselves feminists, their writings deal with stories and relationships that challenge gender models. The codes of representation are upset, as for example that of female beauty, so feminists take over the witch as one of the figures of the revolt against patriarchy and stereotypes of femininity. At the same time, the AIDS epidemic in the 1980s corresponded to the emergence of gay and later, LGBTQ activism. In the literary world many fictions (often autobiographical) and the stories of writers, artists, homosexuals produce a literature testimony. One of the most remarkable, Hervé Guibert, is the author of a work of autobiographical fiction and at the same time photographic.

While addressing key themes and ideas of feminism, this course considers a historical perspective of contemporary literature between the 20th and 21st centuries as well as French-speaking feminist ideas and practices, in a Western space nevertheless inseparable from the global dimension (Homi Bhabba).

Keywords: feminism, writing, sexuality, autobiography, autofiction, subversion, ecofeminism, postcolonial

Guest speakers: French-speaking critics and authors

Requirements: Read the bibliography

Schedule

Week 1 (Dr. Setti)

- The turn of the 1970s: revolutions and debates - body, writing, desire, sexuality:
 - H. Cixous *Le Rire de la Méduse* (extraits)
 - M. Wittig «Le point de vue. Universel ou particulier» *La pensée straight*
- What languages? Creators (m/f), author (m/f)
 - «Couples créateurs», «A Tongue Called Mother» (Nancy Huston)
- Rewriting Literary History, the Other Memory
 - «écrire des vies de femmes» (Christine Planté), Annie Ernaux *Les années* (extrait)
- Feminist biography and comics
 - BD et vidéo *Les Culottées* (Pénélope Bageu), Emma (Fallait demander)

Week 2 (Dr. Setti)

- The 80s emergence and translations of Gender in France
- Autobiography and/or self-account: Annie Ernaux: *The event*, *The Frozen Woman* (extracts)
- The bizarre Amélie Nothomb *Métaphysique des tubes* www.youtube.com/watch?v=-1oxwDMdsMo pour approfondir: (master classe France Culture, 03/09/2016) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Qb3hLwTdsGM>
- The Disturbing King Kong Theory (extract) Virginia Despentes

Week 3 (Dr. Setti)

- Reveal the unspeakable, the forbidden, the secret: Christine Angot *Incest*
- Self-photobiography and homosexuality: Hervé Guibert *L'image fantôme* (extrait), *Le mausolée des amants* (extraits)
- The New Witches: Marie Diaye *La sorcière* 1996; *Trois femmes puissantes* (2009), Gisèle Pineau *Chair-Piment* (2002), Condé, Maryse, *Moi, Tituba sorcière ... Noire de Salem*, (1986)
- Literature and ecofeminism: guest (to be confirmed) Jamie Herd

Requirements

Setti: 1 presentation on a book, article or theme and a final assignment.

Book to read (fiction) to choose from:

- Christine Angot, *L'inceste*, Livre de poche, 1999.
- Condé, Maryse, *Moi, Tituba sorcière ... Noire de Salem*, Folio, 1986
- Annie Ernaux, *L'événement*, Folio, 2000.

The reading of the proposed excerpts is recommended before each course, preferably.

Week 4 (Dr. Moustir)

Axis: Gender representations (female: male point of view)

- The birth of the male French-language novel
- Feminism: struggle that is initially masculine?
- The portrait of the woman as the "second colonized"
- Narrative stereotyping of gender

Week 5 (Dr. Moustir)

Axis: Becoming a women's writer in the Maghreb and sub-Saharan Africa

- The model: bourgeois feminism vs postcolonial feminism
- The voice effect of writing
- Writing / Fighting: the author and the character
- Body and culture: a crisis of modernity

Week 6 (Dr. Moustir)

Axis: Feminism and literature: commitment through text

- The writing of the body, by the body
- Deconstructing the coloniality of patriarchal power
- Stating matriarchy
- Beyond gender: writing

Corpus - Dr. Setti

- Angot, Christine, *Inceste*, Livre de poche, 1999.
- Bageu, Pénélope, *Les Culottées*, (BD)2016/17
- Cixous, Hélène, *Le Rire de la méduse et d'autres ironies*, Galilée, 2010.
- Condé, Maryse, *Moi, Tituba sorcière ... Noire de Salem*, Folio, 1986.
- Despentes, Virginie, *King Kong théorie*, Grasset, 2006.
- Diaye, Marie, *La Sorcière*, Les éditions de Minuit, 1996.
- *Trois femmes puissantes*, Gallimard, 2009.
- Guibert, Hervé, *L'image fantôme*, éditions de Minuit, 1981.
- *A l'ami qui ne m'a pas sauvé la vie*, Folio, Gallimard, 1990.
- *Le Mausolée des amants*, Folio, 2001.
- Huston, Nancy, *Désirs et réalités*, Babel, 1995.
- Huston, Nancy. *Âmes et corps*, Actes Sud, 2004.
- Nothomb, Amélie, *Métaphysique des tubes*, Albin Michel, 2000.
- Pineau, Gisèle, *Chair Piment*, Folio, 2002.

Corpus - Dr. Moustir

- Nina Bouraoui, *La Voyeuse interdite*, Gallimard, 1993
- Souad Bahéchar, *Le Concert des cloches*, Le Fennec, 2005.
- Yasmine Chami, *Cérémonie*, Le Fennec 2004.
- Calixthe Beyala, *C'est le soleil qui m'a brûlée*, J'ai Lu, 1999.
- Ken Bugul, *La Folie et la mort*, Présence africaine, 2001.
- Driss Cgraïbi, *Le Passé simple de Driss Chraïbi*, Denoel, 1954.
- Albert Memmi, *La Statue de Sel*, Corrèa, 1953.
- Tahar Ben Jelloun, *L'Enfant de sable de Ben Jelloun*, Seuil, 1985.

Bibliography - Dr. Moustir

Abbes Maazaoui, « L'Enfant de sable et La Nuit sacrée ou le corps tragique », *The French Review*, vol. 69, n°. 1 (Oct., 1995), p. 68-77.

« Genre, modernité et 'colonialité' du pouvoir », *Cahiers du Genre*, n° 50, L'Harmattan, 2011.

« La distinction entre sexe et genre. Une histoire entre biologie et culture », *Cahiers du Genre*, n° 34, L'Harmattan, 2003.

Gayatri Spivak, *les Subalternes peuvent-elles parler*, Ed. Amsterdam, 2006.

« Genre et activité littéraire : les écrivaines francophones », *Sociétés contemporaines*, n° 78, Presses de Sciences Po, 2010.

Les Représentations du corps, mises en mots, mises en images, Publications de la Faculté des lettres de Rabat, série Actes et colloques, n°174, 2014.