

FREN 4170, Francophone Culture and Film COURSE DESCRIPTION 8/18/03

Time: M,W,F, 2:30-3:20

Room: Gilbert 320 (Wednesday and Friday), 351K (Mondays)

Instructors:

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Office hrs: Monday, 9-11:45 am; Tuesday, 3-5 pm

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Office: 307 Gilbert Hall; Office Phone: 542-3173

Office hrs: Tuesday, 2-2:50; Thursday, 3:30-4:20; Friday, 9:05-9:55

Texts

1. Joseph Zobel, *La Rue Cases-nègres*
2. Maryse Condé, *La Migration des coeurs*
3. Jean Rhys, *Wide Sargasso Sea*

Bel Jean Packet

1. L'Esclavage, "Un Tabou français enfin levé"
2. Prosper Mérimée, *Tamango*
3. Suzanne Dracius, "De Sueur, de sucre et de sang"
4. Gisèle Pineau et Marie Abraham, *Femmes des Antilles*
5. Mayotte Capécia, *Je suis martiniquaise*
6. Aimé Césaire, *Cahier d'un retour au pays natal*
7. Franz Fanon, *Peau noire, masques blancs*

Films: required viewing

1. *La Rue Cases-nègres*: language lab and library
2. *Tamango*: reserve, library
3. *Romuald et Juliette*: library
4. *Franz Fanon*: library
5. *Aimé Césaire*: language lab (3 parts, approximately 50 minutes each)
6. *Wide Sargasso Sea*, 2 versions: library

Other films providing background on French Caribbean culture

1. *Le Bouillon d'Awara*: library
2. *Sucre Amer*: library
3. *Chercher la vie*: library
4. Krik Krak: language lab
5. *Siméon*: language lab
6. *Voodoo Dance*: language lab
7. 2001 Speech by Raphaël Confiant: library

Goals of the Course:

The first half of the goal will focus on understanding Francophone culture through film and literature. In the second half, the focus will shift to include an understanding of postcolonial literature and Caribbean film. The improvement of students' spoken and written French will be an important goal throughout the

course.

Class Activities:

Lectures on historical, cultural, and literary subjects; discussion of readings and films. Additional class

time will be devoted to presentations by students and films.

Grades

Class Participation: 15%; Film Journals: 15%; Presentations: 20%; Written Presentation: 10%; Midterm: 20%; Final: 20%

Class Policies:

1. Students must participate actively in the discussion for each non-lecture class. (Lecture classes are indicated on the syllabus with an asterisk). There will be four grades over the semester for participation; they will be posted on the WebCT site for this class. Students who do not have the occasion to participate in class or who prefer to express their ideas in writing may use the WebCT bulletin board which will count toward the participation grade.

2. Students will be expected to view at least one hour of French films outside of class each week. A record of the viewing and reflections on the films viewed must be provided in a film journal. There should be an entry for each week. There will be four grades over the semester for the film journal that will be posted on WebCT. Journal entries should be thorough, detailed, and critical. At least one journal entry of your choice for each grading period will be judged for the correctness of the French language.

3. Students will be required to make two group presentations in class and to develop one of those presentations into a written report including a bibliography of sources to be submitted on the last day of the class. Information for the presentations should be obtained through a combination of print media, scholarly sources, and internet research. Use of Power Point or other kinds of visual material for the presentation is encouraged but not required. (More details about the presentations will be distributed in class).

4. The subject of the first presentation should be one of the topics considered in the lecture classes (e.g. history, slavery, women's issues, education); but students who have a special topic in mind such as religion or music can request permission to write on a subject of their choice. One source of information for the presentation must come from the assigned films.

5. The subject of the second presentation must be one of the following: *La Migration des coeurs*, *Le Cahier d'un retour au pays natal*, *Je suis martiniquaise*, *Peau noire, masques blancs*.

Assignments in class will not require reading these works in their entirety. For the presentation, students must read the entire work and demonstrate a thorough understanding of the work and the essential issues that it raises.

6. A WebCT site will be available for this course. It will be used to provide information about the course, grades (private to each student), email contact with the instructor and other students, bulletin board, and links to relevant information on the internet. New material and changes in the syllabus will be posted throughout the course: please check for updates frequently.

7. Attendance is required. More than four unexcused absences will result in lowering the final grade

in the course according to the following formula: one point will be deducted from the final grade for every absence above the four unexcused absences that are allowed for the course. Excuses for absences must be supplied when the student returns to class after the absence occurs. We reserve the right to withdraw you from the course for excessive absences.

8. The midterm and final exams will cover the materials presented in the first and second halves of the course respectively (the final will not be comprehensive).

Tentative Syllabus, August 18

August 18: Introductions

August 20, 22: Geography and culture of Haiti; Slavery (discussion of "L'Esclavage, Un Tabou français enfin levé")

*August 25: History of Haiti

August 27, 29: discussion of "De Sueur, de sucre et de sang"

September 3, 5: discussion of *Tamango* (novel and film)

*September 8: History of slavery

September 10, 12: discussion of *La Rue Cases-nègres* Part I (novel and film)

*September 15: Women and society

September 17, 19: Discussion of *Je suis martiniquaise*

*September 22: Geography and culture of Martinique and Guadeloupe

September 24, 26: discussion of *Femmes des Antilles* and *Romuald et Juliette*

September 29-October 3: Reports

*October 6: Social Class, Education

October 8: Midterm

October 10: discussion of *La Rue Cases-nègres* Part II (novel and film)

*October 13: Film analysis

October 15, 17: discussion of *La Rue Cases-nègres* Part III (novel and film)

*October 20: Postcolonialism

October 22, 24: discussion of *Wide Sargasso Sea* (the novel)

*October 27: *Wide Sargasso Sea*

October 29: discussion of *Wide Sargasso Sea* (the two film versions)

*November 3: Maryse Condé and Emily Brontë

November 5, 7: discussion of *La Migration des coeurs* (Part I)

*November 10: Franz Fanon

November 12, 14: discussion of *Peau noire, masques blancs*

*November 17: Aimé Césaire

November 19, 21: discussion of *Cahier d'un retour au pays natal*

November 24: discussion of *Cahier d'un retour au pays natal*

December 1-5: Reports

December 8: Review and Conclusion