

FRW 4583

Fall 2009

Office Hours:

DM 497B

Women Writers in French

9:30AM – 10:45AM

11:00AM – 12:30PM

Tel: 305-348-2851

Tuesdays and Thursdays

Tuesdays and Thursdays and by appointments

email: becelp@fiu.edu**Dr. Pascale Bécél****Course description:**

This course examines different narrative forms (novel, short story, autobiography, “chant-roman”) in the works of women writers from the Caribbean, France, and West Africa. It explores topics such as the poetics of silence and rebellion; mother/daughter relations; narration and origi/nation; gender, race, and exile; intersections of sexual, cultural, racial, and class/caste difference in the experiences of men and women.

Course objectives:

1. Develop a better understanding of gender issues and their complexities as they are explored in the texts of Francophone women writers and develop in various cultural contexts.
2. Develop a critical perspective from the social and formal elements that inform the literary works under examination.
3. Develop research and analytical skills in the interpretation of literary works. To that effect, students will write an analytical paper.
4. Give an oral presentation of their research project.

Required readings:Mariama Bâ, *Un chant écarlate* (1980)Simone de Beauvoir, *La femme rompue* (1967)Marie Cardinal, *Les mots pour le dire* (1975)Maryse Condé, *La traversée de la mangrove* (1989)Gisèle Pineau, *L'exil selon Julia* (1996)

Additional materials are on reserve (2nd floor, Green Library).

Films :*Finzan* (Malian cinema, 1990)*Femmes aux yeux ouverts* (documentary on West African women in four West African countries, 1994)*Simone de Beauvoir: La femme rompue**Simone de Beauvoir* (interviews with Beauvoir and Sartre, and documentary on French society and political events from WWII until May 1968 and after)**Grading :**

Mid-term exam I	20%
Mid-term exam II	25%
Research paper (9-10 pages minimum + bibliography)**	30%
Oral presentation on research	10%
Attendance and constructive participation to class discussions*	8%
Oral report on a critical article	5%
Bibliographical exercise	2%

* **Regular attendance and participation** to class discussions **are expected**: they are part of the grading.

1. Missing class will be penalized each time by one percentage point. Please be on time and remain for the entire period. Late arrivals and early departures will also count in the attendance grade (two occurrences of 15 mn each = one absence). Arriving late and/or leaving early distract your classmates who are trying to listen to a lecture or participate in a discussion.
2. In order to participate to discussions in a constructive manner, all students must do all the required and assigned readings before class. Missing one class is not an excuse for coming to the next class unprepared. Make sure you have the contact information of other classmates you can reach in order to catch up with the work you missed.

** **About your papers** :

1. For your term paper, you must choose a topic that is related to the works studied in the course.
2. You must incorporate at least five secondary sources (literary criticism or theory) to your paper. Your bibliography should include at least ten bibliographical entries other than the primary texts.
3. The volume of quotations should not exceed 10%-15% of the total paper.
4. Be aware of what **plagiarism** is. Plagiarism consists in “the deliberate use and appropriation of another’s work without any indication of the source and the passing off of such work as the student’s own. Any student who fails to give credit for ideas or materials taken from another is guilty of plagiarism” (*Student Handbook* 39).
5. This course will use the services of **Turnitin**.

TENTATIVE SCHEDULE

25-27 août Introduction au cours. Documentaire Simone de Beauvoir, écrivain, féministe et activiste, accompagné de segments sur la société française et les événements politiques des années 1930 à 1980. Session recherche à la bibliothèque.

1-3-8 septembre Simone de Beauvoir, *La femme rompue*
Féminisme et existentialisme: « On ne naît pas femme, on le devient. »

10-15-17 septembre Mariama Bâ, *Un chant écarlate*

22-24 septembre Révéler la famille: Dimensions culturelles, sexuelles et socio-économiques de l'identité.

29 septembre	Examen partiel I
1 ^{er} -6-13 octobre	Marie Cardinal, <i>Les mots pour le dire</i>
15-20 octobre	Révélation de la folie ; collusion entre pouvoir patriarcal et colonial
29 octobre	Sujet et Plan de dissertations à remettre accompagnés d'une bibliographie (Term paper topic and outline are due with a bibliography of no less than ten scholarly sources)
20-22-27 octobre	Gisèle Pineau, <i>L'exil selon Julia</i>
29 oct.-3 novembre	Pouvoir des mots: reconstruction identitaire dans l'exil
5 novembre	Examen partiel II
10-12 novembre	Maryse Condé, <i>La traversée de la mangrove</i>
17-19 novembre	Maryse Condé, « Order, Disorder, Freedom, and the West Indian Writer » in <i>Yale French Studies</i>
24 novembre	Présentation orale des projets de dissertation
26 novembre	Thanksgiving Day (University closed)
1er décembre	Présentation orale des projets de dissertation
3 décembre	Conclusions

**LA DISSERTATION EST A REMETTRE LE VENDREDI 4 DECEMBRE
AVANT 15 HEURES.**

THE TERM PAPER IS DUE FRIDAY, DECEMBER 4, BEFORE 3:00 PM.