



FCS 292H1F
Love, Sex and Desire in French Literature and Cinema
(online course - asynchronous)



Course Instructor: Prof. Marie-Anne Visoi
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Course Description

This **online course** will explore the themes of love, sex and desire in French literature and cinema through close reading, analysis, and interpretation of three major novels from the eighteenth to the twentieth literature. A comparative approach based on various examples taken from literary, philosophical texts and from film adaptations will examine the concept of love and its many definitions. Selections from ancient and modern philosophical texts on love, sex, and desire will be the starting point of our discussions: Ovid, "The Art of Love", Plato, "The Symposium", Bataille, "Eroticism", Beauvoir, "The Woman in Love", and Foucault, "The History of Sexuality".

The course will be held in English. Students who are proficient in French and intend to complete their readings and major tests in French (Online Essay and Online Film Analysis only) in order to count this course towards a program in French (Major or Specialist only), should inform the Course Instructor of their decision **by September 28, 2022. N.B.**

Contributions to Forum Sessions will be submitted in English only.

Required texts:

Course Textbook: Marie-Anne Visoi, "A Thematic Approach to French Cultural Studies: Love, Sex and Desire in French Literature and Cinema", Student Guide, Universal Publishers, 2012; a revised ebook is posted in the course website. Please use the revised ebook for your course. A Writing Resources Module and a French Resources Module containing useful links are posted in the page Modules.

Novels: Pierre Choderlos de Laclos, *Dangerous Liaisons*; Emile Zola, *Nana*; Marguerite Duras, *The Lover*, available from **University of Toronto Libraries**.
Paperback or ebook copies are also available from: <https://www.chapters.indigo.ca>

Penguin Classics (recent editions) for *Dangerous Liaisons* and *Nana* are preferable, however, any edition/translation of the three novels in paperback or eBook format are acceptable.

Pierre Choderlos de Laclos, *Dangerous Liaisons*

<https://www.chapters.indigo.ca/en-ca/home/search/?keywords=de%20laclos#internal=1> **Emile Zola, *Nana***

[Nana, A NOVEL By: Zola Emile \(World's Classics\), Book by Zola Emile \(Paperback\) | www.chapters.indigo.ca](https://www.chapters.indigo.ca)

Marguerite Duras, *The Lover*

<https://www.chapters.indigo.ca/en-ca/home/search/?keywords=duras#internal=1>

Films (will be streamed in the course website):

Dangerous Liaisons (1988, Stephen Frears); *The Lover* (1992, Jean-Jacques Annaud), also available from University of Toronto Libraries or from Bay Street Video

<http://www.baystreetvideo.com/>

Prerequisite: None

Assignments and evaluation:	Due Dates	Weight
Online Essay	October 5	30%
Online Test	November 23	25%
Online Film Analysis	December 7	30%
Online Participation in Forum Sessions and Overall Assessment	Ongoing	15%

Course Information

This is a fully online course where assigned course materials are posted once a week, on Wednesdays. Once posted in Quercus, course documents can be accessed at all times. The asynchronous format of the course gives students the flexibility to watch short introductory videos and complete weekly readings, reflect on the material presented and communicate with other students about the theme and the concepts discussed at their own pace. All course assignments including the Essay, the Online Test, the Online Film Analysis and the Forum discussions will be completed online.

Online Course Format and Organization

The course consists of **ten** online course sessions or modules. The final class will be a review session in preparation for the Film Analysis. New course sessions will be posted on Wednesdays, by 5PM. **The first session will become available on Wednesday, September 14, when our course will start. Please ensure that you check your course website after 5PM on this day.**

Each course session will provide students with a socio-historical and cultural background for the required readings in order to help them reflect on the topics discussed. The regular use of the COURSE CALENDAR AND READING SCHEDULE posted in the Syllabus and in the course website will ensure that readings are completed on time. For continued success in this online course, students will need between 8-10 hours a week to complete the assigned readings, view the videos and PowerPoint presentations in each module, and prepare Reflection activities to be used for the Discussion forum sessions.

Discussion Forum Participation

- There will be **three** Discussion forum sessions in this course. You will receive an announcement each time the Discussion Forum is open.
- The first Discussion session starts **on September 21**. You may add your contributions (2-3 comments per forum session, of approximately 100-150 words each) at any time, once the Discussion forum sessions are open.
- Start by answering the question/s of the forum, and then add your own question or comment.

- The forum sessions will remain open until the last course session **on December 7 at 11:59 PM**. No contributions will be accepted after this date.
- Your regular participation in the Forum Sessions will be necessary for demonstrating your engagement with the course material and your ability to communicate with the other students enrolled in the course about your views, ideas, and opinions about the required readings. It will also count towards your assessment marks.
- **Avoid adding all your comments for the three discussion forum sessions during the last week of the course.** If you need additional support to participate in an online please contact me at marie.visoi@utoronto.ca.

Because this is an online credit course, regular participation in all online activities will be expected of all students. Please ensure that you read the announcements posted each week and make a note of the dates due for your online essays and test provided in the Syllabus.

Students with diverse learning styles and needs are welcome in this course. Please feel free to approach me or contact **Accessibility Services** at:

<https://www.studentlife.utoronto.ca/as/register-accommodation> so we can assist

you in achieving academic success in this course.

Course Sessions/Modules

SESSION I Course description and theme; Ancients about "love, sex and desire"
SESSION II Courtly Love
SESSION III de Laclos, "Dangerous Liaisons": Introduction
SESSION IV "Dangerous Liaisons": Passage Analysis
SESSION V View Film Adaptation "Dangerous Liaisons"(Stephen Frears)
SESSION VI 19th century French literature; Belle époque; Zola and naturalism
SESSION VII Zola, "Nana": Introduction and Passage Analysis
SESSION VIII 20th century French literature; Duras, "The Lover": Introduction
SESSION IX Duras, "The Lover": Passage Analysis
SESSION X "The Lover" (Jean-Jacques Annaud): Film Analysis
COURSE REVIEW SESSION

EVALUATION AND COURSE EXPECTATIONS

There will be **three** major assignments in this course: an **Online Essay**; an **Online Test** and an **Online Film Analysis**. **Overall Assessment** is also an important part of your Evaluation. It includes online activity: reading, reviewing documents weekly and participation in three Forum Discussions measured by *Quercus Analytics*. Detailed instructions about online submission of assignments in this course and about participation in online Forum Discussions will be posted in the **Assignments** section of your course menu. Please ensure that you check this section at least ONE WEEK before the due date of your essay or test. If you need support in order to submit an online assignment or to participate in an online forum, contact me at marie.visoi@utoronto.ca.

Online Essay (30%) Due Date: October 5, 2022

The essay will be completed at home and submitted online. It will be written on a topic selected by the instructor related to the readings to date (**Course Sessions I-III**). Students will be asked to choose *one* of three topics and write a 600 word essay. Essays should demonstrate evidence of original thinking, capacity to analyze and synthesize, good organization and good knowledge of literary and cultural terminology used in Course Sessions I-III only. Essays will be submitted in a Word document. Additional information about essay format, examples of topics and submission instructions will be provided one week in advance. Aids are allowed.

Online Test (25%) Due Date: November 23, 2022

The Online Test will quiz knowledge of detail and significance as well as your understanding of the course material studied in **SESSIONS I-IX**. Students will have **60 minutes** to answer **TRUE or FALSE and MULTIPLE CHOICE** questions any time between 10AM-11:59PM on November 23. Examples of questions will be provided two weeks before the test. **Aids are not allowed**. The Online Test Student Logs will be checked during and after the test by the course instructor in collaboration with the Quercus team to ensure that the University of Toronto Academic Integrity Guidelines are followed. Please read the following information before starting your Online Test:

<https://www.artsci.utoronto.ca/current/academic-advising-and-support/student-academic-integrity/academic-misconduct>.

Online Film Analysis (30%) Due Date: December 7, 2022

This 500 word assignment will be completed at home and submitted online. It will be based on students' viewing of **one** of the two film adaptations: "Dangerous Liaisons" **or** "The

Lover”, to be streamed in the course website. Students will select a scene of their choice, analyze it and interpret it according to the guidelines presented on Film Analysis in the course. This written assignment should demonstrate evidence of students’ ability to analyze their own reactions to the selected scene, express themselves with clarity, and discuss the film’s cultural context and *mise-en-scène* by using the cultural concepts and the cultural and film terminology discussed in the course. Students may include comments on the novels “Dangerous Liaisons” or “The Lover” in their discussion of the film adaptation. Additional information about assignment format will be provided two weeks in advance. Aids are allowed.

Overall Assessment (15%) on-going

Course material preparation and online participation in the **three** Discussion Forum Sessions are necessary for achieving course goals and objectives. Overall Assessment marks will be based on your ability to read the online course documents regularly and attentively, understand the assigned readings and related French cultural concepts, use literary and cultural terminology, and demonstrate critical capacity and analytic skills when completing all your course assignments. Your participation in the Discussion sessions throughout the semester will also count towards your overall assessment mark.

TESTS AND ASSIGNMENTS - IMPORTANT NOTES

Your final mark will be based solely on the assigned tests and overall assessment mentioned above – no additional assignments are possible under any circumstances. Should you miss any of the tests due to illness or major circumstances beyond your control, you must contact your instructor as soon as possible to arrange a retake. For missed tests due to illness or any other major circumstance, you must provide a letter from your registrar. Any test missed and not made up will be assigned a grade of ‘0’. For details regarding marking criteria, please consult the attached University of Toronto Grading regulations.

LATE ASSIGNMENTS

You must make every effort to complete work on time in order to avoid late submission penalties. Check the due dates of your tests and give yourself as much time as possible just in case unexpected problems occur. A deduction of 5% will be imposed upon expiry of the deadline. A further deduction of 10% will be imposed if the test is submitted 2 days late. After this time, your submission will be assigned a mark of zero.

FCS 292H1S LOVE, SEX, AND DESIRE IN FRENCH LITERATURE AND CINEMA

COURSE CALENDAR AND READING SCHEDULE

New course sessions will be posted each Wednesday, by 5PM.

Try to complete the reading/viewing of documents in each module in one week.
If you need help with time management or you are not familiar with asynchronous courses, please contact me during the first week of classes for an appointment.

September 14 SESSION I	Course Introduction Course description and theme Ancients: the concepts of "love", "sex" and "desire" Read: <i>Course textbook, Chapter 1</i>
September 21 SESSION II	Courtly Love 18th century French literature; the epistolary novel; woman as manipulator of desire Read: <i>de Laclos, "Dangerous Liaisons", Part I</i> Preparation for the Online Essay Forum Session I starts
September 28 SESSION III	"Dangerous Liaisons" by de Laclos: Introduction Read: <i>de Laclos, "Dangerous Liaisons", Part II;</i> <i>Course Textbook, Chapter 2</i> Preparation for the Online Essay Topics for the Online Essay
October 5 SESSION IV	"Dangerous Liaisons": Passage Analysis <i>Read: "Dangerous Liaisons", Part III</i> ONLINE ESSAY DUE
October 12 SESSION V	View Film Adaptation (Stephen Frears) "Dangerous Liaisons" Read: <i>de Laclos, "Dangerous Liaisons", Part IV</i>

October 19 SESSION VI	19th century French literature; Belle époque; Zola and naturalism Read : <i>Course Textbook, Chapter 3</i> ; <i>Zola, "Nana" Chapters 1-8</i> Forum Session II starts
October 26 SESSION VII	Zola, "Nana": Introduction and Passage Analysis Read : <i>Zola, "Nana" Chapters 9-14</i>
November 2 SESSION VIII	20th century French literature; Duras and "the new novel" Duras, "The Lover": Introduction Read : <i>Course Textbook, Chapter 4</i> ; <i>Duras, "The Lover", pages 1-35</i> Forum Session III starts Preparation for the ONLINE TEST
November 7-11	Reading Week – No classes
November 16 SESSION IX	Duras, "The Lover": Passage Analysis Read : <i>Duras, "The Lover", pages 36-75</i> Preparation and submission of the ONLINE TEST
November 23	*ONLINE TEST DUE Preparation for the ONLINE FILM ANALYSIS COURSE REVIEW: ONLINE FILM ANALYSIS Review: Course textbook, ch.1-4
November 30 SESSION X	View Film adaptation "The Lover" (Jean-Jacques Annaud) Film Analysis Read : <i>Duras, "The Lover", pages 76-117</i> COURSE REVIEW: ONLINE FILM ANALYSIS Review Review: all course materials
December 7	*ONLINE FILM ANALYSIS DUE All three forum sessions will be closed at 11:59PM.

Course ends on December 7.

FCS292H

Preparing for tests

- Make a note of the **due dates** for all tests. Use the information posted in your Syllabus. The Online Essay and the Online Film Analysis are take-home assignments. This will give you ample time to complete them and submit them online. Avoid late submission penalties.
- Review all assigned materials before each test. Ensure that you check your course website: read the announcement/s posted and the information regarding the submission of each test.
- Use the resources posted in the Writing Resources Module or in the French Resources Module if you complete your tests in French in order to improve your writing. Consider reviewing all course terminology (culture, literary and film terms) regularly by taking notes and looking up the new vocabulary.
- Review concepts discussed in the course by answering the Study and Reflection Questions. Use some of your answers to interact with your classmates and practise writing by participating in the three forum sessions: post 2-3 comments of approximately 100-150 words each in the three forum sessions. Ensure that you use clear, unbiased language and correct spelling, grammar, and punctuation. Review specific passages from the texts studied, if necessary. Respond promptly to my feedback by editing your posts, if necessary.
- If you need support, please contact me at: marie.visoi@utoronto.ca to make an appointment.

REFERENCES CITED

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- Bataille, George. *Erotism*. City Lights Publishers, 1986.
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- Davies, Simon. *Pierre Choderlos de Laclos*. The Literary Encyclopedia, 2002.
- de Beauvoir, Simone. *The Second Sex*. Vintage, 1989.
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- Ovid. *The Art of Love*. Penguin Classics, 1983.
- Plato. *The Symposium*. Penguin Classics, 2003.
- Zola, Emile. *Nana*. Penguin Classics, 1972.

Additional Resources and Useful Links

- Abrams, M. H. *A Glossary of Literary Terms*. 5th ed. New York: Holt, 1988.
- Bowers, Toni. *Epistolary Fiction*. The Literary Encyclopedia, 2009.
- Cuddon, J. A. *The Penguin Dictionary of Literary Terms and Literary Theory*. London: Penguin Books, 1991.
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- Gianetti, Louis. *Understanding Movies*. 3rd ed., Englewood Cliffs, NJ: Prentice-Hall, 1982.
- Martin, Wallace. *Recent Theories of Narrative*. Ithaca: Cornell University Press, 1986.
- Visoi, Marie-Anne. *The Lover*. The Literary Encyclopedia, 2011.
- Zola, Émile. *From The Experimental Novel*. Critical Theory Since Plato. Ed. Hazard Adams. New York: Harcourt Brace Jovanovich, 1971. 645-655.
- Andreas Capellanus, The Art of Courtly Love, (btw. 1174-1186) Internet Medieval Sourcebook <http://www.fordham.edu/halsall/source/capellanus.html>
- The Bible, The Song of Songs, King James Version
http://www.online-literature.com/bible/The_Song_of_Songs/
- Zola Collections: <http://www.chass.utoronto.ca/french/sable/collections/zola/index.html> **Writing resources:**
<https://writing.utoronto.ca/>