



FCS197H1F Pleasure, Pain and Nostalgia in Belle Époque



Class Meeting Time: Wednesdays 11AM-1PM

Course Format: 2 hours/week

Course Instructor: Prof. Marie-Anne Visoi

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Course Description:

The delightfully simple “joie de vivre” of Parisian music-halls and cabarets fascinated the Western world and art took new forms with Impressionism and Art Nouveau during “La belle époque”, a period in European history that began during the late 19th century and lasted until World War I. This course will explore ideas and cultural representations through examples of French art, philosophy, and literature with an emphasis on the critical discussion of two literary narratives that challenged tradition and authority: Gustave Flaubert, “Madame Bovary”; Guy de Maupassant, “Bel-ami”. The literary themes of “guilt” and “self-quest” as well as the inherent philosophical tension between “pleasure” and “guilt” will be discussed and analyzed in the context of the bohemian culture of “La belle époque”. Multimedia presentations and selections from Fernando Trueba’s 1992 film “Belle

époque” will supplement the reading material in the course. The course will be held in English. Students who would like to complete their readings and major assignments in French and would like to be considered for a French credit need to contact the Course Instructor at marie.visoi@utoronto.ca no later than September 28, 2022.

Required texts:

Flaubert, “Madame Bovary”
Maupassant, “Bel-ami”

Students may purchase the print versions of the novels online: <https://www.chapters.indigo.ca/en-ca/> (Penguin Classics or Oxford University Press editions are preferable, but other editions are also acceptable) or borrow them from the University of Toronto Libraries: <https://oneseach.library.utoronto.ca/>

Online versions of the two novels are available at:

Flaubert, “Madame Bovary” <http://www.gutenberg.org/files/2413/2413-h/2413-h.htm>

Maupassant, “Bel-ami” <http://www.gutenberg.org/files/3733/3733-h/3733-h.htm>

Film: “Belle époque” (Fernando Trueba, 1992)

The film will be streamed in the course website with the support of Kelly Library Streaming Video Service.

Assignments and evaluation: In-class Essay (30%); In-class Oral Presentation (25%) Take-home Final Essay (30%); Overall Assessment (15%).

Prerequisite: None

Course Information

Classes start on Wednesday, September 14, 2022 at 11:10AM with a course orientation and an introduction to *La Belle Époque*. Please be on time. The two-hour in-class sessions will provide background for the required readings in order to help students develop an appreciation of the 19th century French culture. Weekly lecture notes and course-related resources incorporating cultural, historical and social perspectives on *Belle Époque* will be posted each Thursday, by 5PM (one day after the in-class session). After your first week of classes, please review attentively the information in the Course Syllabus posted in Quercus. **Students should consult regularly the Announcements page in their course website for important reminders and helpful suggestions.** Classes end on Wednesday, December 7, 2022.

Online Course Organization

This is an in-person course consisting of 2 hours weekly sessions. Course materials for each new session will be posted in the page Modules one day after each in-class session. Once the materials for each module are posted, they will remain open for the rest of the course so that you can access them at any time. Please keep in mind that in order to be prepared for our 2 hour weekly session held on Wednesdays, you will need to complete your weekly readings and materials by the end of each week, as specified in your course schedule.

Course Goals:

Students will:

- gain a deeper understanding of the cultural implications of various art forms in *Belle Époque*
- explore literary themes related to *Belle Époque* in two 19th century French novels
- develop an awareness and appreciation of 19th French culture
- read critically, interpret analytically, present orally and write coherently about the texts and multimedia documents presented in the course.

Course Expectations

Regular attendance is necessary in this course. The course sessions provide the essential information for achieving course goals and objectives by allowing students to ask questions for clarification, communicate with the course instructor and with the other students, and ensure that the weekly readings are completed on time. Preparation for each seminar including reading/viewing assigned material and active participation in class discussions will be expected of all students and will count towards the overall assessment mark. **Please ensure that you check the Course Calendar of our class meetings and the information/documents provided in your course website regularly.** Bring the assigned texts/readings to class and be prepared to take part in class discussions each week.

Absences due to illness should be recorded through the Absence and Declaration tool on ACORN available from the ACORN Profile and Settings menu and reported also to the Course instructor. For emergencies, students are required to contact their registrar. Students are responsible for making up missed work.

Assignments and Evaluation	Date	% Weight
In-class Essay	October 5	30%
In-class Oral Presentation	October 26 - November 16	25%
Take-home Final Essay (to be submitted in Quercus)	December 7	30%
Overall Assessment	On-going	15%

In-class Essay 30% (110 min.)

The essay (approximately 500 words) will be written on a topic related to the course lectures and readings during weeks 1-3. Three topics will be provided by the instructor in class on October 5. Students can choose one topic for their essay. Optional materials are not included. Knowledge of appropriate terminology used in the course is expected. Essays should be double-spaced. Please consult the Writing Resources Module for resources on essay writing. Essay topics (examples only) and writing suggestions will be provided **one week** in advance. *Aids will not be allowed.*

In-class Oral Presentation 25% (3-5 min per person)

Students will prepare a 3-5 minute In-class Presentation related to the cultural theme/modules already studied in the course (weeks 1-6). Optional materials are not included. Please respect the guidelines: longer presentations will not be marked. Assignment details will be provided two weeks before this assignment is due. Students may select **one** of two choices for their oral presentation:

- a) present a cultural analysis of a topic from a list provided by the course instructor;
- b) present a short oral passage analysis based on their close reading of Flaubert's *Madame Bovary, Part I*.

The evaluation will be based on the **content** provided as well as on the **quality of expression** (expressivity and clarity, grammar, sentence complexity, appropriate terminology). Please ensure that you are not reading the text you will be presenting orally; instead, speak clearly and expressively. It is important to record yourself *after* practising several times and listen to your recording in preparation for your In-class Presentation. Notes will be allowed.

Take-home Final Essay 30%

The essay (approximately 500 words) will be written at home on a topic provided by the instructor two weeks in advance of the deadline and related to **all** the material presented in the course; optional materials are not included. Knowledge of appropriate terminology used in the course is expected. Essays should be double-spaced. Please consult the Writing Resources Module for resources on essay writing. Submit your Final Essay **on December 7, any time between 10AM-11:59PM** by clicking on the link **Take-home Final Essay** available in the Assignments page of the course menu on December 7 at 10AM. The link will not be available after December 7, 11:59 PM. Essay topics and detailed submission instructions will be provided **two weeks** in advance.

Overall Assessment (on-going) 15%

The overall assessment marks will be based on:

- regular class attendance, completion of course readings, submission of all three major assignments on time – 7.5%
- active class participation: ability to use related course concepts and terminology; ability to use a respectful, unbiased language in all class activities and discussions–7.5%

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.

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Course Calendar

Weekly lecture notes and course-related resources incorporating cultural, historical and social perspectives on *Belle Époque* will be posted one day after the in-class session, by 5PM. Please ensure that you consult your course website regularly and prepare assigned readings for each class.

<p>Week 1 September 14</p>	<p>Course Orientation and Introduction to the course <i>La Belle Époque</i>: historical and cultural overview Characteristics of European life during <i>La Belle Époque</i> Tensions between the individual and society “pain” and “pleasure”</p>
<p>Week 2 September 21</p>	<p>Paris and Montmartre at the end of the 19th century Popular entertainment: cabarets and music-halls Course themes: “guilt” and “self-quest” across a range of artistic, philosophical and literary contexts. <i>Review for the In-class Essay</i></p>
<p>Week 3 September 28</p>	<p>Forms of art and literature: Art nouveau and Impressionism; Realism and Naturalism The French Novel: Flaubert, Zola, Maupassant <i>Madame Bovary</i>: introduction Read: <i>Madame Bovary</i>, Part 1 <i>Essay Questions(examples only)</i></p>
<p>Week 4 October 5</p>	<p>In-class Essay Due (to be written in AH 306)</p>
<p>Week 5 October 12</p>	<p><i>Madame Bovary</i> Provincial life: description and mood in the novel Read: <i>Madame Bovary</i>, Part II Panel Presentations I</p>

<p>Week 6 October 19</p>	<p><i>Madame Bovary</i> and the Modern Reader Cultural and social norms "Bovarysme" Read: <i>Madame Bovary</i>, Part III "Guilt" and "self-quest"</p>
<p>Week 7 October 26</p>	<p>Contrasting viewpoints: "Immorality" in the novel <i>Review for Online Oral Presentation (video or audio recording)</i> Oral Presentations</p>
<p>Week 8 November 2</p>	<p>Maupassant, <i>Bel-ami</i>: introduction Shifting norms in 19th century Paris Maupassant's ironic storytelling Characterization and naturalist style Parisian society and "bohemian life" The role of women; family relationships; adultery Read: <i>Bel-ami</i>, Ch.1-10 Oral Presentations</p>
<p>November 7-11</p>	<p>Reading Week – no classes</p>
<p>Week 9 November 16</p>	<p>Subversive narration and readers' expectations in <i>Madame Bovary</i> and <i>Bel-ami</i> <i>La Belle Époque</i>: historical and cultural overview as illustrated in the two novels Read: <i>Bel-ami</i>, Ch.11-18 Oral Presentations</p>
<p>Week 10 November 23</p>	<p>Fernando Trueba's film <i>Belle époque</i> (1992) - Introduction Film Discussion and Analysis "Carnavalesque" and "Nostalgia" in Trueba's <i>Belle époque</i> <i>Final Essay Review Session</i></p>
<p>Week 11 November 30</p>	<p>Panel Presentations II <i>Final Essay Review Session Essay</i> <i>Questions (examples only)</i></p>
<p>Week 12 December 7</p>	<p>Take-home Final Essay Due (to be submitted in Quercus) (There will be no class session on this day)</p>