

OHIO UNIVERSITY
DEPARTMENT OF MODERN LANGUAGES
READING LIST FOR M.A. CANDIDATES IN FRENCH
(June 2012)

The following is a list of works on which all students taking the M.A. in French will be examined. Students are expected to have a specific, first-hand knowledge of all works on the list. When “Selected Poetry” is indicated, followed by names of poems, students are expected to read additional poems as well but are to pay special attention to the specified poems.

Students should know the literary history of each period and be able to explain terms and concepts such as *la sensibilité*, *les trois unités*, *le mal du siècle*, *le naturalisme*, etc.

Students are to prepare to write on six areas: Renaissance (16th century), 17th century, 18th century, 19th century, 20th century, and Francophone literature. The questions for the written exams will be presented as themes that are not limited to specific centuries. Works not included on the list but covered in courses can also be discussed on the written exams. The Middle Ages are not required for the written exams, but if the student chooses, s/he may include discussion of works from the Middle Ages when relevant.

The oral exam will include the six areas listed above plus works from the Middle Ages as indicated below.

CL = Classiques Larousse

* = Selections in anthologies

MIDDLE AGES

La Chanson de Roland

Marie de France, *Lais*

La Farce de Maître Pathelin

Villon, from *Le Testament*: stanzas XXII-XXIX, “Regrets”;

“Ballade des dames du temps jadis,” “Ballade pour prier Notre-Dame”;

from *Poésies diverses*: “Ballade des pendus”

RENAISSANCE

Marot, Selected Poetry*

Rabelais, *Gargantua**, *Pantagruel**, *Le Tiers Livre**, *Le Quart Livre**

Louise Labé, *Oeuvres**

Du Bellay, *Défense et Illustration de la langue française (CL)*, *Les Antiquités de Rome**,

*Les Regrets**

Ronsard, *Les Amours**, *Les Discours**

Montaigne, *Essais* (selections from all three books)

SEVENTEENTH CENTURY

Corneille, *Le Cid*, *L'Illusion comique*
 Descartes, *Discours de la méthode*
 Molière, *L'École des femmes*, *Tartuffe*, *Le Misanthrope*
 Racine, *Andromaque*, *Phèdre*
 Pascal, *Pensées**
 La Rochefoucauld, *Maximes**
 La Fontaine, *Fables**
 La Fayette, *La Princesse de Clèves* (CL)
 La Bruyère, *Les Caractères*

EIGHTEENTH CENTURY

Le Sage, *Gil Blas**
 Marivaux, *Le Jeu de l'amour et du hasard*
 Prévost, *Manon Lescaut* (CL)
 Montesquieu, *Lettres persanes* (CL), *L'Esprit des lois**
 Voltaire, *Lettres philosophiques* (*Lettres anglaises*), *Candide*
 La Mettrie, *L'Homme machine*
L'Encyclopédie ("Discours préliminaire," "Philosophe," "Encyclopédie")
 Diderot, "Entretien entre d'Alembert et Diderot," *Le Neveu de Rameau*
 Rousseau, *Discours sur l'origine de l'inégalité*, *La Nouvelle Héloïse* (CL), *Les Confessions* (first volume only; CL)
 Laclos, *Les Liaisons dangereuses*
 Beaumarchais, *Le Mariage de Figaro*
 Chénier, Selected Poetry, including "La Jeune Tarentine," "La Jeune Captive," "Iambes"

NINETEENTH CENTURY

Chateaubriand, *Atala*, *René*
 Constant, *Adolphe*
 Lamartine, Selected Poetry, including "Le Lac," "L'Isolement," "L'Automne"
 Vigny, Selected Poetry, including "Moïse," "La mort du loup," "Le Mont des Oliviers"
 Hugo, Selected Poetry, including "Clair de lune," "Oceano Nox," "À Albert Dürer,"
 "Tristesse d'Olympio," "À Villequier," "Demain, dès l'aube...," "Booz endormi"
 Musset, *Lorenzaccio*
 Stendhal, *Le Rouge et le noir*
 Balzac, *Le Père Goriot*
 Nerval, *Les Chimères*
 Baudelaire, Selected Poems

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Flaubert, *Madame Bovary*
 Zola, *L'Assommoir* or *Germinal*
 Verlaine, Selected Poems
 Rimbaud, Selected Poems
 Mallarmé, Selected Poems

TWENTIETH CENTURY

Gide, *L'Immoraliste*
 Valéry, poems from *Charmes*, including "Le Cimetière marin," "Au platane," "Poésie,"
 "Le Rameur," "Les Pas"
 Apollinaire, Selected Poems, including "Zone," "Le Pont Mirabeau," "La Jolie Rousse"
 Proust, *Du côté de chez Swann*
 Mauriac, *Thérèse Desqueyroux*
 Malraux, *La Condition humaine*
 Anouilh, *Antigone*
 Camus, *L'Étranger*, *La Peste*
 Sartre, *La Nausée*, one play
 Beckett, *En attendant Godot*
 Saurraute, *Le Planétarium*
 Robbe-Grillet, *La Jalousie* or Butor, *La Modification*
 Ionesco, one play
 Duras, one novel

FRANCOPHONE LITERATURE

Quebec and Haiti

Hébert, Anne, *Kamouraska* (Quebec, novel)
 Carrier, Roch, *La Guerre, Yes Sir!* (Quebec, novel)
 Tremblay, Michel, *Les Héros de mon enfance* (Quebec, play)
 Etienne, Gérard, *Lettre à Montréal* (Haiti, novel, excerpts)
 Dany, Laferrière, *L'Enigme du Retour* (Haiti, novel)
 Phelps, Anthony, *Femme Amérique* (Haiti, poetry)

Maghreb, Sub-Saharan Africa, the Caribbean

Mokeddem, Malika, *Les Hommes qui marchent* (Algeria, novel)
 Senghor, Léopold, *Ethiopiennes* ("Teddungal") (Senegal, poetry)
 Césaire, Aimé, *Cahier d'un retour au pays natal* (Martinique, poetry)
 Oyono, Ferdinand, *Une Vie de boy* (Cameroon, novel)
 Condé, Maryse, *Célanire cou-coupé* (Guadeloupe, novel)
 Schwarz-Bart, Simone, *Ton beau Capitaine* (Guadeloupe, play)

References:

*Selections are found in anthologies such as:

Lagarde et Michard, *Les Grands Auteurs du programme* (Volumes 1-VI)

Weinberg, *French Poetry of the Renaissance*

Peyre and Grand, *Seventeenth-Century French Prose and Poetry*

Fellows and Torrey, *The Age of Enlightenment*

Galland and Cros, *Nineteenth-Century French Verse*

Recommended reference works:

Adam, *Histoire de la littérature française au XVIIe siècle*

Adam, *Littérature française*

Beaumarchais, J.-P, D. Couty and A. Rey, *Dictionnaire des littératures de langue française*

Havens, *The Age of Ideas*

Kay, Cave and Bowie, *A Short History of French Literature*

Morçay and Muller, *La Renaissance*

Morier, *Dictionnaire de poésie et de rhétorique*. 3rd ed.

Peyre, *French Novelists of Today*

Thibaudet, *Histoire de la littérature française depuis 1789*