

# The Evolution of Modern French Literature: From The Renaissance To The Present Day

*During this course, we will look at a selection of extracts from the works listed below. We do not expect students to read the full texts nor to purchase any of the books included in this document, as all necessary reading materials will be provided on the course.*

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## Week 1: Renaissance Writing (1520-89)

**Michel de Montaigne**

**Text:** *The Complete Essays*

**François Rabelais**

**Text:** *Five Books of the Lives, Heroic Deeds and Sayings of Gargantua and his son Pantagruel*

## Week 2: Classicism (1589-1700)

**Madame De La Fayette**

**Text:** *La Princesse de Clèves*

**Pierre Corneille**

**Text:** *The Cid*

## Week 3: The Enlightenment (1700-89)

**Montesquieu**

**Text:** *Lettres persanes*

**Voltaire**

**Text:** *Candide*

## Week 4: Romanticism (1789-1840)

**Victor Hugo**

**Text:** *Preface to Cromwell (From: The Victor Hugo Reader); Les Contemplations*

**George Sand**

**Text:** *Indiana*



## Week 5: Realism (1820-80)

**Gustave Flaubert**

**Text:** *Madame Bovary*

**Honoré de Balzac**

**Text:** *Father Goriot*

**Text:** Author's Introduction to the *Comédie Humaine*

## Week 6: Modernism (1880-1939)

**Marcel Proust**

**Text:** *Swann's Way*

**Rachilde**

**Text:** *La Marquise de Sade*

## Week 7: Post-Colonialism (1940-70)

**Aimé Césaire**

**Text:** *Discourse on Colonialism*

**Albert Camus**

**Text:** *L'étranger*

## Week 8: Contemporary Writing (1970-present)

**Annie Ernaux**

**Text:** *Simple Passion*

**Marie Ndiaye**

**Text:** *Three Strong Women*