



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 -
ALL NECESSARY READING MATERIALS WILL BE PROVIDED ON THE COURSE.

Week 1: Renaissance Writing (1520-89)

Michel de Montaigne

Text: *The Complete Essays / Les Essais*

François Rabelais

Text: *Five Books of the Lives, Heroic Deeds and Sayings of Gargantua and his son Pantagruel / Les Cinq Livres des faits et dits de Gargantua et Pantagruel*

Week 2: Classicism (1589-1700)

Madame De La Fayette

Text: *The Princess of Cleves / La Princesse de Clèves*

Mme de Sévigné

Text: *Lettres de Madame de Sévigné / Selected Letters*

Week 3: The Enlightenment (1700-89)

Jean-Jacques Rousseau

Text: *Discourse on Inequality / Discours sur l'inégalité*

Voltaire

Text: *Candide*

Week 4: Romanticism (1789-1840)

Victor Hugo

Text: *Contemplations / Les Contemplations*

George Sand

Text: *Indiana*



Week 5: Realism (1820-80)

Stendhal

Text: *The Red and the Black / Le Rouge et le Noir*

Honoré de Balzac

Text: *Father Goriot / Père Goriot*

Text: Author's Introduction to *the Human Comedy / La Comédie Humaine*

Week 6: Modernism (1880-1939)

André Gide

Text: *The Fruits of the Earth / Nourritures terrestres*

Anna de Noailles

Text: *The Dazzlings / Les Éblouissements*

Marcel Proust

Text: *Swann's Way / Du côté de chez Swann*

Week 7: Post-Colonialism (1940-70)

Aimé Césaire

Text: *Discourse on Colonialism / Discours sur le colonialisme*

Albert Camus

Text: *The Stranger / L'étranger*

Week 8: Contemporary Writing (1970-present)

Annie Ernaux

Text: *Simple Passion / Passion Simple*

Marie Ndiaye

Text: *Three Strong Women / Trois femmes puissantes*

Virginie Despentes

Text: *King Kong Theory / King Kong théorie*