



Course details

Course title

Literature: French Literature Post 1945

Course code

Q00017921

Course date

Start: 16/01/25

End: 27/03/25

Number of classes

10 sessions

Timetable

Thu 16th Jan, 19:00 to 21:00

Thu 23rd Jan, 19:00 to 21:00

Thu 30th Jan, 19:00 to 21:00

Thu 6th Feb, 19:00 to 21:00

Thu 13th Feb, 19:00 to 21:00

Thu 27th Feb, 19:00 to 21:00

Thu 6th Mar, 19:00 to 21:00

Thu 13th Mar, 19:00 to 21:00

Thu 20th Mar, 19:00 to 21:00

Thu 27th Mar, 19:00 to 21:00

Tutor

Stephen Smith

Fee range

Free to £74.00

How you'll learn

You'll join a small group of fellow learners for classes online in video meetings and materials will be provided in our virtual learning environment.

Got it!

Online

Venue

Online

Level of study

Beginners

Course overview

This ten week course ranges widely across postwar French literature and its themes and concerns. Stephen has discussed French literature before, but these texts are all previously untaught. The texts are: *The Plague* - Albert Camus. *Memoirs of Hadrian* - Marguerite Yourcenar. *Missing Person* - Patrick Modiano. *Street of Thieves* - Mathias Enard. *Simple Passion* - Annie Ernaux. These very different books will introduce us to disparate elements of the French psyche, and explore themes of identity, memory and displacement. The course will feature lectures, group discussions, close-reading and contextualisation of the historical moments pertinent to each writer and text. It will be provoking intellectually and imaginatively, and lively participation is encouraged.

Course description

The course will begin with Camus' classic Absurdist text, *The Plague*, a novel which remains an urgent communication today. Discover or rediscover this seminal work.

Our second text, *Memoirs of Hadrian* by Marguerite Yourcenar is a historical novel, describing the life of the Emperor Hadrian. It has a delicacy of expression and continues themes first initiated by Flaubert.

The third text is *Missing Person* by the second Nobel Prize winner among our authors, Patrick Modiano. Camus, is of course, the first. Modiano, underappreciated in Britain, explores issues of memory and the maintenance of identity under individual and societal pressures. He is a writer one should read, as his aesthetic and concerns arise from his experience of the postwar years.

Our fourth text is *Street of Thieves* by Mathias Enard, one of France's leading contemporary novelists. Again this tackles issues of identity in a world where borders are flexed and redefined.

Our final text is by the third Nobel laureate, Annie Ernaux and is a fascinating example of auto-fiction.

As a whole the course will forge links between the politics of postwar France and the arts, between conformity and subversion and will beyond these themes inspire you to read more deeply into modern French literature.

What financial support is available?

We don't want anything to stand in your way when it comes to bringing Adult learning within reach so if you need anything to support you to achieve your goals then speak to one of our education experts during your enrolment journey. Most of our courses are government funded but if you don't qualify or need alternative financial help to access them then let us know.

What other support is available?

All of our digital content, teaching and learning activities and assessments are designed to be accessible so if you need any additional support you can discuss this with the education experts during your enrolment journey and we will do all we can to make sure you have optimal access.

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