

Tennessee Tech University
Department of Foreign Languages
FREN 4810, Issues in Contemporary French Literature Section 001
MWF 9-9:50, Oakley Hall 012

3 credit hours; pre-requisite: FREN 3010 or permission of the instructor

Instructor Information

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Office Hours : MW 12-1, 2:30-3:30, and by appointment

COVID-19 University Protocols

1. Each student must take personal responsibility for knowing and following the university's COVID-19 protocols. Students are expected to follow all COVID-19 directives published by Tennessee Tech on its official COVID-19 webpage: www.tntech.edu/covid19.
2. As conditions related to the pandemic change, the university's COVID-19 protocols are also likely to change. Students are expected to monitor the university's official COVID-19 webpage to stay up to date on all university COVID-19 protocols.
3. If the university's COVID-19 protocols include the wearing of face coverings inside campus facilities, then face coverings must be worn covering the mouth and nose. Protocols will apply to all vaccinated and unvaccinated individuals.
4. Students who refuse to comply with university protocols will be reported to the Tennessee Tech Dean of Students.
5. Students should direct all requests for excused class absences related to COVID-19 to Tennessee Tech's Health Services by following the student link at the following website: www.tntech.edu/covid19/report.php . The Office of Student Affairs will provide notifications to faculty members of student absences and the expected length of the absence.
6. Students can get a COVID-19 vaccine on campus at Tech Health Services. Call ahead to schedule at (931) 372-3320. COVID-19 vaccines are given free of charge daily, as well as testing.
7. Per CDC guidelines, you are considered fully vaccinated:
 - 2 weeks after your second dose in a 2-dose series, such as the Pfizer or Moderna vaccines, OR
 - 2 weeks after a single-dose vaccine, such as Johnson & Johnson's Janssen vaccine

Course objectives: This course is a study of contemporary French literature, and will examine a modest selection of its works through the lens of alterity. We will establish a working definition of alterity, then consider how three forms of it—culturelle, religious and sexual—relate back to norms imposed by French society; we will also examine how these forms of alterity present themselves in the works we read. By the end of the course students will be able to 1) establish a definition of alterity and show examples of it, 2)

show how alterity presents itself in contemporary French literature, 3) describe alterity's function in modern French society, 4) cite certain contemporary French authors and discuss their works. Moreover, class discussions and written assignments will offer students the chance to improve their written and spoken French.

Required texts:

Soumission by Michel Houellebecq

L'Art de perdre by Alice Zeniter

« *Arrête avec tes mensonges* » by Philippe Besson

Short readings on alterity

Methodology : Reading, discussion and analysis of texts will be the primary activities in this course. There will be a short quiz over the reading at the beginning of each class, and three research papers to complete, one on each of the three novels we'll read, during the course of the semester; each study will be an examination of some form of alterity in each novel. Your research papers must be between 1,000 and 1,200 words (1-inch margins all around, Calibri 12-point font), must include a bibliography, and must cite at least 2 other sources besides the novel.

Course grade will be computed as follows

40% Homework and quizzes

30% Papers

30% In-class discussion

Grading scale :

A=90-100 ; B=80-89 ; C=70-79 ; D=60-69 ; F=0-59

Due dates for homework and research papers : The deadlines for all assignments are part of the calendar that you'll receive for each part of the course; you will be aware of them well in advance. **No assignment will be accepted after the published due date. If you fail to turn in an assignment on time, please be prepared to receive a grade of zero on that assignment, without exception.** Should you need to be absent from class, you are required to inform the instructor of your absence **by the beginning of class on that same day.** Informing the instructor of your absence improves your chances that any assignment due that day will still be accepted.

Student Academic Misconduct Policy

Maintaining high standards of academic integrity in every class at Tennessee Tech is critical to the reputation of Tennessee Tech, its students, alumni, and the employers of Tennessee Tech graduates. The Student Academic Misconduct Policy describes the definitions of academic misconduct and policies and procedures for addressing Academic Misconduct at Tennessee Tech. For details, view the Tennessee Tech's Policy 217 – Student Academic Misconduct at [Policy Central](#).

In addition to all provisions in Policy 217, it is strictly prohibited to use any unauthorized outside sources to produce coursework, including—but not limited to:

- online translators
- fellow students
- native French speakers
- family members who have studied French
- other professors
- any other outside source not previously authorized by the professor

Students may consult these sources for simple phrases, or for words, but any information gained beyond the extent of information one would normally get from referring to a traditional dictionary or grammar reference is strictly prohibited.

Should the course instructor suspect that this policy has been violated, the student will be charged with academic misconduct, subject to the procedures outlined in Policy 217.

Disability Accommodation

Students with a disability requiring accommodations should contact the Office of Disability Services (ODS). An Accommodation Request (AR) should be completed as soon as possible, preferably by the end of the first week of the course. The ODS is located in the Roaden University Center, Room 112; phone 372-6119. For details, view the Tennessee Tech's Policy 340 – Services for Students with Disabilities at [Policy Central](#).

Notice to French majors

If you are a French major you must select a few examples of your work in this class to place in your portfolio. Please see the professor for more information.

Course Dates

For all information on homework and exams please consult the calendar for each section.