

Fren 315 – La littérature française tout courte
TTh 14h00-15h15
Steve Bishop (323C Ortega - sbishop@unm.edu)



This course is a survey of French literature from the Revolution to the present. The selections do not have a common theme, but rather a common genre – the short story. We will look at a wide selection of authors who contributed to this relatively new literary form. In considering these short stories, we will ask such questions as: Why did writers choose to express their ideas in this form? What are the characteristics of the genre? What are its advantages and disadvantages? When is a short story not a short story? Aside from these genre-centered questions, we will also discuss what the texts are trying to say, what relation they have to dominant literary movements, and how they are representative of various historical and social contexts. This list is by no means exhaustive, since student interests will partially determine discussion topics.

Authors and works to be studied include Baudelaire's *poèmes en prose* (*Le Spleen*), *Le femme cachée* de Colette, *Contes cruels* de Villiers de l'Isle d'Adam, *Les diaboliques* de Barbey D'Aurevilly, *Chroniques italiennes* de Stendahl, *Carmen et d'autres nouvelles* de Prosper Mérimée, *Outside* de Marguerite Duras, *Contes du jour et de la nuit* de Maupassant, *Le mur* de Sartre, *L'Exil et le Royaume* de Camus, *Printemps et autres saisons* de Le Clézio, *Mythologies* de Barthes, and *Le coq de bruyère* de Tournier. The books are NOT available at the UNM bookstore. I will provide electronic copies of several of the excerpts we are reading, there are copies of the complete texts in the library and, for many, online, and the class can order of books directly from France (I will show you how).

Students are required to write 6 response papers which, in keeping with the spirit of the genre, will be very short and concise, do a longer final research project, participate in class, and give one presentation. Contact Steve Bishop at 323C Ortega or sbishop@unm.edu with questions.