Fr4: Rethinking the Human: French Literature, Thought, and Culture, 1500-1700

Reading list

General and introductory


Technical and rhetorical terms

France, P., Rhetoric and truth in France: Descartes to Diderot (Oxford, 1972). [Read chapter 1 for an introduction to rhetoric.]


Sixteenth-century French


History


Intellectual and cultural history


Goodman, Anthony and MacKay, Angus, eds., The Impact of Humanism in Western Europe (London: Longman, 1990). [See especially chapter 1 ('The spread of Italian humanism'), chapter 6 ('Humanism in Italy'), and chapter 8 ('Humanism in France').]


**Religious history**


**Prescribed texts**

**Rabelais**

**Primary reading**

Rabelais, François, *Pantagruel* (Classiques de Poche edition)

**Secondary reading**


Gray, Floyd, *Gender, Rhetoric and Print Culture in French Renaissance Writing* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2000). [See chapter 1 on the *Tiers livre*.]


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**Labé**

**Primary reading**

Labé, Louise, *Oeuvres complètes*, ed. by François Rigolot (Paris: Garnier-Flammarion, 1986). [This is the best edition to buy. Aim to read the Débat as well as Labé’s poetry.]

**Secondary reading**


Bridenthal, Renate and Koonz, Claudia, eds., *Becoming Visible: Women in European History*, (Boston: Houghton Mifflin, 1977). [See the essay by Joan Kelly-Gadol ‘Did women have a Renaissance?’ Again, very interesting context/ concepts.]


**Ronsard**

**Primary reading**


[To purchase these texts, you may need to look on Abe books as well as on amazon.fr and amazon.co.uk.]

**Secondary reading**

**GENERAL**


**RONSARD**


**Montaigne**

**Primary reading**

*Essais*, Book I, chapter 31, book III, chapters 6 and 11

M. Magnien (Paris: Gallimard, 2007). Be careful not to use other editions, which may give you a misleading version of the text.

You will also find two internet sites very useful:

*The Montaigne Project* [http://montaignestudies.uchicago.edu](http://montaignestudies.uchicago.edu)

This presents the 1580, 1582 and 1588 editions of the *Essais*, the *exemplaire de Bordeaux*, and a searchable version of the P. Villey edition (with layers). This is the edition to which secondary texts often refer.

*MONLOE: Montaigne à l'oeuvre* [http://montaigne.univ-tours.fr](http://montaigne.univ-tours.fr)

This presents various editions of the text, documents written by Montaigne such as his letters and his annotations to the books in his library, as well as a virtual tour of his tower.

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**Secondary reading**

**General**


Desan, Philippe, *The Oxford Handbook of Montaigne* (Oxford: OUP, 2016). Also available on line via IDiscover. [Excellent, comprehensive, very recent coverage]


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**Secondary reading relating to I, 31, III, 6 and III, 11**

**Philosophy, scepticism**


‘Montaigne on Curiosity’, in *The Oxford Handbook of Montaigne*, chapter 36

**Ethics**


**The New World, the Cannibal ...**


Conley, Tom, ‘Montaigne on Alterity’, in *The Oxford Handbook of Montaigne*, chapter 38


Smith, Paul J., 'Naked Indians, Trousered Gauls: Montaigne on Barbarism', in Maria Boletsi and Christian Moser (eds), *Barbarism Revisited: New Perspectives on an Old Concept* (Leiden: Brill, 2015), 105-12

**Molière**

**Primary reading**


**Secondary reading**

**General works**


**Theory of comedy**

Bakhtin, Mikhail, *Rabelais and his World*: see above, under 'Rabelais' [important for its general theory of laughter and the comic, very different from Bergson's].


**General works on Molière**


See also the special edition of *Nottingham French Studies* (1994, ed. by S. Bamforth) on Molière.

**Individual plays**


**Racine**

**Primary reading**


**General works on theatre and tragedy**


**General works on Racine**


**Individual plays**


**Pascal**

Pascal, Blaise, *Pensées*, ed. Gérard Ferreyrolles and Philippe Sellier, Le Livre de poche classique (Paris: Libraire Générale Française, 2000). [In this case, it makes a good deal of difference which edition you get, because the fragments have different numbers in different editions. The best editions are based on the original copies of Pascal's manuscript. The recommended edition uses the numbering introduced by Philippe Sellier. It has excellent notes.]
An older edition, ed. Louis Lafuma (Paris: Seuil, 1962) has a different numbering, and no notes. However, you will still find references to Lafuma numbers in some works of secondary literature. The Folio edition by Michel Le Guern has yet another numbering, which has not really caught on among scholars; it is therefore more difficult to use with secondary literature. All these editions are based on the original copies. Avoid using editions with the yet older Brunschvicg numbering (e.g. Garnier-Flammarion): here the arrangement and numbering are the work of the editor himself.]

**Secondary reading**


Norman, Buford, *Portraits of Thought: Knowledge, Methods and Styles in Pascal* (Columbus: Ohio State University Press, 1988).


[See also [http://www.penseesdepascal.fr](http://www.penseesdepascal.fr)]

**Jansenists and Jesuits**


Kostroun, Daniella, *Feminism, Absolutism, and Jansenism: Louis XIV and the Port-Royal Nuns* (New York: CUP, 2011)


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**Madame de Lafayette**

**Primary reading**


[An edition of the text including Madame de Lafayette’s other fiction is *Romans et nouvelles*, ed. by Émile Magne and Alain Niderst, Classiques Garnier (Paris: Garnier, 1970).]

**Secondary reading**


