

RENAISSANCE FRENCH STUDIES

Assessment scheme: 1981

Five pieces of work are to be done in the course of the year, of which three are to be essays, and two commentaries.

1. There will be an essay on each of these topics (normally 1200-1500 words in French, absolute maximum length 2000 words):

- (a) Rabelais
- (b) Lyric poetry
- (c) Montaigne.

2. The two commentaries will be chosen by each student from among the following possible topics (length approximately 800-1000 words in English or in French):

- (a) Rabelais
- (b) Montaigne
- (c), (d) Lyric poetry (two exercises, of which one will be compulsory, unless the student chooses option (3) below)
- (e) Tragedy.

3. The poetry essay may be replaced by two poetry commentaries, to be written in French.

4. In place of the essay on Montaigne, students may choose to take an examination in November (3 hours).

Due dates

1st commentary:	end of Term I (24 April)
Rabelais essay:	end of 3rd week of Term II (29 May)
2nd commentary:	end of 2nd week of 2nd sem. (24 July)
Lyric poetry essay (or 3rd optional commentary):	end of Term II (21 August)
4th (optional) commentary:	end of 2nd week of Term III (18 Sept.)
Montaigne essay:	mid-November

1 April 1981

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Essay topics:

Analysez, dans le livre III des *Essais*, l'un des chapitres suivants:

v "Sur des vers de Virgile"

ix "De la vanité"

xiii "De l'expérience"

Vous commenterez sur les thèmes du chapitre, sur les détours, les transitions et la structure de la discussion et sur le style, l'attitude et les allures de l'auteur.

Date limite: *vendredi 13 novembre*



James Grieve

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In the second half of the year, on Wednesdays at 2 o'clock, the text will be the *Essais* of Montaigne (Garnier-Flammarion edition, three volumes). Classes will consist from time to time of a) a lecture; b) discussion and/or summing-up; c) reading of a chapter.

Week 1: an introductory lecture

NB all references below are to the Garnier-Flammarion edition. Some of them are page references (e.g. I, 384 = vol I, p 384); others are essay numbers (e.g. III, *xiii* = Book 3, essay no.13). Students who have the Classiques Garnier edition in two volumes can get page references from me.

Week 2: The Early Essays

I, *ii*; *iii*; *iv*; *v*; *vi*; *vii*; *viii*; *ix*; *xvi*; *xxi*; *xxii*; *xxxiv*; *xxvii*; *l*;
II, *iii*; also I, 304 & III, 90

see too Villey: *Les sources & l'évolution des Essais*, vol II, 3-86
Frame: *Montaigne, a biography*, chapter IX, pp.142-161

Week 3: reading of *De la force de l'imagination* (I, *xxi*)

Week 4: Montaigne on Death

I, 91-96; *xix*; *xx*;
II, 423-5; *iii*; *vi*;
III, 114, 300, 302-3, 313-4, 323; *xii*

Week 5: Montaigne's Scepticism - I: the 'crisis'

I, 95-6; parts of II, *xii* (e.g. II, 107ff, 128-9, 168-172, 205ff, 225 ff, 252-268);
III, 122-3, 248-250, 275 ff

see too Brush, C.B. *Montaigne & Bayle, variations on a theme of Skepticism*,
and articles by Frame, Genz and Dréano

Week 6: Montaigne the Autobiographer

I, *xxvi*; 43-48;
II, *x*; *xvii*;
III, *ii*; *xiii*; etc

see too Bowman, F.P. *Montaigne: essays*
Frame, D *Montaigne, a biography*

Week 7: reading of *Des coches* (III, *vi*)

Week 8: Montaigne's Religion

I, 107-111, 137, 165-6, 178-191, 198, 244-5, 268; *lvi*;
II, 330 *ff*; *xix*;
III, *xi*

see also Busson, H *Le rationalisme dans la littérature française de
la Renaissance*,
and articles by Guiton and Busson

Week 9: Montaigne's Conservatism

I, 242, 322-3, 380-1; *xxiii*; *xxvii*; *xliii*;
II, 235, 244-5, 248, 317-8;
III, 26, 170-175, 280-282

see also Brown, F: *Religious & Political Conservatism in the Essais of
Montaigne*

Week 10: Montaigne's Scepticism - II: Miracles, monsters & mumbo-jumbo

I, 158; *xi*; *xxi*; *xxvii*;

II, 136; *xxx*;

III, 138, 272; *xi*

Journal de voyage, (Garnier edition), pp. 44-5, 48, 52, 82, 124-7
141-145

see also Busson, chapters 13 & 14

Week 11: reading of *Du repentir* (III, *ii*)

Weeks 12 & 13: Style in Montaigne

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