



French (FREN) 421

Le roman français du 19e siècle (Revision 1)

Status: Replaced with new revision, see the **course listing** [↗](#) for the current revision **✖**

Delivery mode: Individualized study online [↗](#)

Credits: 3

Areas of study: Arts or Humanities

Prerequisites: **FREN 358** or other 3rd Year French Literature courses and professor approval.

Precluded: None

Challenge: FREN 421 is not available for challenge.

Faculty: Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences [↗](#)

Notes: This course is given entirely in **FRENCH**.

Overview

FREN 421 is designed for students who intend to major in French or to graduate in Education with French as a teaching subject. This course is also vital to those who intend to pursue translation as a profession and those aspiring towards a higher degree (MA) in French Studies. It introduces students to the 19th-Century French novel through the study of *Eugénie Grandet* (Honoré de Balzac), *François le champi* (George Sand) and *Madame Bovary* (Gustave Flaubert). What is innovative and of contemporary appeal is the inclusion of George Sand (the only woman novelist) in this course on the French novel as students need to know of the existence of feminine (perhaps 'feminist') literature in France nearly a century before the word 'feminism' found a place in the French dictionary. The more enthusiastic student will nonetheless be able to explore references made to other contemporary novelists and writers such as Chateaubriand, Stendhal, Hugo, Maupassant and Zola. **FREN 358** [↗](#) is the normal pre-requisite for FREN 421.

Outline

FREN 421 consists of 16 lessons divided into 5 Modules, namely:

- Module I : Introduction
- Module II: George Sand – *François le Champi*
- Module III: Honoré de Balzac – *Eugénie Grandet*
- Module IV: Gustave Flaubert – *Madame Bovary*
- Module V: Conclusion
- Appendice

Objectives

When you have completed FREN 421, you should be able to accomplish the following major course objectives.

- Demonstrate sufficient knowledge and appreciation of the development of the French novel between approximately 1820 and 1860.
- Acquire the basic terminology of French literary criticism as applicable to the novel (e.g., *personnage*, *protagoniste*, *antagoniste*, *intrigue*, *apogée*, *péripétie*, *dénouement*, etc.) and demonstrate a capacity to integrate them in literary discussion through assignments and in the final examination.
- Define the literary theories of each of the authors and the application (or otherwise) of theory to practice in each of the novels.
- Be able to describe and to distinguish between "romanticism," "realism" and "naturalism" as "schools" or "movements" in the history of French literature.
- Identify the distinctive literary techniques and literary devices of each of the authors studied in the course.
- Distinguish the peculiarities of Balzac's and Flaubert's "realism," and the communalities between the latter's form of "realism" and the "naturalism" of Zola and Maupassant.
- Recognise the autobiographical, feminist and socialistic undertones of George Sand's *François le Champi*, as well as its particular appeal as a "*roman champêtre*" (country novel).
- Understand the importance of "romanticism" in Flaubert's reputedly "realistic" novel and be able to comprehend the full import of the term "*bovarysme*"—a neologism introduced into the French language through Flaubert's characterization of Emma Bovary.
- Develop sufficient mastery of the "*lecture méthodique*," a rigorous, structural approach to literary analysis and commentary, as distinct from the more traditional "*commentaire de texte*."
- Acquire a satisfactory level of competence in written French appropriate to the final years of an Honours or a four-year degree in French.

Evaluation


To **receive credit** [↗](#) for FREN 421, you must achieve a course composite grade of at least a **D (50 percent)** [📄](#). You must achieve a minimum grade of 50 percent on the Final examination. The weighting of the composite grade is as follows:


Activity	Weight
Assignment 1	10%
Assignment 2	10%
Assignment 3	20%
Assignment 4	20%
Online Final Exam	40%
Total	100%


The **final examination** for this course must be requested in advance and written under the supervision of an AU-approved exam invigilator. Invigilators include either ProctorU or an approved in-person invigilation centre that can accommodate online exams. Students are responsible for payment of any invigilation fees. Students are responsible for payment of any invigilation fees. Information on exam request deadlines, invigilators, and other exam-related questions, can be found at the **Exams and grades** [↗](#) section of the Calendar.

To learn more about assignments and examinations, please refer to Athabasca University's **online Calendar** [↗](#).


Materials

Balzac, Honoré de. *Eugénie Grandet*. Paris: les Classiques Hachette, 2008.  (Print)





Flaubert, Gustave. *Madame Bovary*. Paris: Les Classiques de Poche, 1999.  (Print)

Sand, George. *François le Champi*. Paris: Librairie Générale Française, 1999.  (Print)

Pilote, Carole. *Guide littéraire*. Montréal : Beauchemin 2007.  (Print)

Appendice II: Termes littéraires (taken from *Anthologie littéraire* by Michel Laurin, Laval (Québec) : Beauchemin, 2007, pages 216-233).  (Print)

Important links

- › **Academic advising** 
- › **Program planning** 
- › **Request assistance** 
- › **Support services** 

Athabasca University reserves the right to amend course outlines occasionally and without notice. Courses offered by other delivery methods may vary from their individualized study counterparts.

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