

- Faculté des lettres et sciences humaines
- www.unine.ch/lettres

Sém. Ang. I.III/TC/TG : Early Modern Conduct Literature (2AN2117)

Filières concernées	Nombre d'heures	Validation	Crédits ECTS
Pilier principal M A - littératures	Séminaire: 2 ph	Voir ci-dessous	5
Pilier secondaire M A - littératures	Séminaire: 2 ph	Voir ci-dessous	5

ph=période hebdomadaire, pg=période globale, j=jour, dj=demi-jour, h=heure, min=minute

Période d'enseignement:

- Semestre Automne

Equipe enseignante

Dr Anne-Claire Michoux

Contenu

This course will provide an introduction to seventeenth- and eighteenth-century courtesy literature. While courtesy literature includes etiquette manuals and guides to manners, it is also concerned with establishing a philosophy of life and providing an ethical code of conduct. We will examine a wide range of texts, from conduct manuals to plays and novels that disseminate these principles, as well as private letters and journals, which a lived experience and response to the codes that governed individual behaviour in the early modern period. We will also consider the reactions to courtesy literature, which raised concerns regarding its performative and therefore artificial nature as well as its impact on the individual, including a strict policing of the body. What does it mean to be a polite person in the early modern period? What does it mean to be on one's best behaviour? When is it acceptable to laugh or sneeze? Are there gender differences? Can learning these codes help you transform yourself into a gentleman or a lady? These are some of the many questions we will explore during the course of the semester. A focus will be placed on gender and class, as well as nationalism. We will also take advantage of the archival resources of the BPU, introducing students to hands-on archival research.

Forme de l'évaluation

A 6,000-word essay to be submitted during the semester break following the seminar – precise date and topic to be agreed with Dr. Michoux (80%). Active participation is required (10%). Portfolio task (10%).

Documentation

Extracts from courtesy manuals will be provided on Moodle. We will consider, among others, Lord Chesterfield's scandalous letters to his son, etiquette manuals, and so-called novels of manners. Students are required to purchase the following edition: Frances Burney, *Evelina* (1778), ed. Vivien Jones and Edward A. Bloom (OUP, 2008). Please bring to class the material copies of the texts posted on Moodle and of the novel.

Forme de l'enseignement

Seminar (participation is required). Regular attendance and active participation are expected.

Objectifs d'apprentissage

Au terme de la formation l'étudiant-e doit être capable de :

- Demonstrate an ability to formulate questions for discussion and defend arguments about literary texts from different perspectives and using different methodologies, orally in the seminars and in writing in the essay.
- Discuss seventeenth- and eighteenth-century courtesy literature from several perspectives such as gender, philosophy, culture, and social theory.
- Demonstrate a clear understanding of the nature of seventeenth- and eighteenth-century courtesy literature and its role in literary developments of the period.
- Synthesise the main developments in early modern courtesy literature.
- Develop close reading and essay writing skills.

Compétences transférables

- Work in a team
- Manage a project
- Generate new ideas (creativity)
- Carry out a critical analysis
- Manage priorities
- Discuss complex issues

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- Apply knowledge to new situations