



**FRENCH 430**  
ABSOLUTISM & SOCIETY

**SPRING QUARTER 2022**  
**PROFESSOR DUPAS**  
Th 3:30–6:30pm

*The course is an introduction to 17th century French literature. We will read mostly primary texts—written by Cyrano, Corneille, Racine, Corneille, Molière, La Fayette, Pascal, La Rochefoucauld, La Fontaine—so as to highlight the richness and the diversity of the literary production of the classical age as well as the profound transformation brought about by the consolidation of the absolute monarchy at the time, which includes the definition of the public and the private, the domestication of nobility, the institution and the intensification of the intellectual life, the renewal of the mechanisms of domination, the transformation of gender identities, and the growing interest in psychology.*

**Northwestern**

Department of  
French and Italian

**FRENCH 492 / CLS 486**

**THE POLITICS OF SEDUCTION  
AND CONSENT: LITERATURE,  
PSYCHOANALYSIS AND PHILOSOPHY**

**SPRING QUARTER 2022**

**PROFESSOR ALFANDARY**

**PROFESSOR RICCIARDI**

**MTh 2:00-3:30pm**

*In the era of #MeToo and #TimesUp, what is left of seduction? As its etymological derivation from the Latin seducere makes evident, seduction signifies the threat of being led astray, suggesting a problematic reorganization of boundaries, activity and passivity, power, and vulnerability. How have literature, psychoanalysis and philosophy responded to the drama of dissymmetry and otherness? To what extent does seduction affirm an inequitable logic when it comes to age, gender, and race? Does seduction always imply violence? How can we define the notion of consent, and can it offer not only legal redress but ethical care? To what extent can justice regulate sex, fantasies, and desires? To what extent has psychoanalysis problematically altered our notions of guilt and innocence when it comes to seduction? Throughout this seminar, we aim to confront these questions by revisiting primal scenes of seduction and consent in a broad range of literary, psychoanalytical, legal, and philosophical texts from Europe and the USA. Works covered will include Srinivasan, Hartman, Butler, Nussbaum, Alcoff, Kukla, and Dougherty.*

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**FRENCH 494**  
THEORIES OF EMBODIMENT  
IN THE 20th AND 21st CENTURIES:  
TRANSFORMATIONS, CONTENTIONS, APORIAS

SPRING QUARTER 2022  
PROFESSOR BERGER  
T 2:00–5:00pm

*From life sciences to cultural theory, from philosophy to politics, the human body has been the focus, object or target of unprecedented attention in the 20th- and 21st-centuries. Psychoanalysis, phenomenology, cultural anthropology, gender theory, neurosciences, ecocriticism, have all provoked important shifts in the epistemology of the body. They have enriched our understanding and experience of embodiment, while upsetting traditional Western dualisms and partitions, to begin with the nature/culture and the body/mind divides. From the so-called natural body to the trans or cyborgian body, from the speaking body of psychoanalysis to the joyful body of second wave feminism, from biopolitics to body art, from the human organism to the ecology of the living, this course will revisit some chapters in the history of these shifts. Special attention will be paid to the ways in which they have affected gender theory or have been compounded by it, in an attempt to ascertain their stakes for both feminist and postfeminist thought as well as politics.*

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