

This course will explore French and Francophone literature and culture of the 20th century, a period when “hexagonal” French hegemony disintegrated and new models of communication reached new audiences with new messages. The course starts with works from the first half of the twentieth century, ones that reflect the traditional model of cultural dissemination: male artists, from France, communicating to an educated public. With the end of the second world war and the disassembly of the French empire, that model quickly changed, and women writers and citizens of former colonies forged new tools with which to reach a previously discounted public.

The course will contrast male and female, French and Francophone, writers and other artists. Typically the course includes such artists as André Gide, Jean Giraudoux, Jean-Paul Sartre, Simone de Beauvoir, Samuel Beckett, Maryse Condé, Miriama Bâ, Ousmane Sembene, Agnès Varda, Jean-Luc Godard, François Truffaut and even Hergé, writer of the “Tintin” comics.

Students will be required to write two short papers in French, to take a mid-term and a final exam, and to attend class regularly where they will discuss their experience of these works.