Université BORDEAUX MONTAIGNE

Course Syllabus

International Winter School - 2027



Haude Morvan

Tombs of knights in medieval and early modern western France (13th-16th centuries)



Men who fought on horseback are called knights. In medieval society, they formed a group that developed a real ideology, chivalry, from the second half of the 12th century. This phenomenon was especially noticeable in the Plantagenet dominions (British Isles and Western France). It manifested itself in the spread of chivalric literature and the commissioning of specific funerary monuments, in which the deceased is depicted in armour. Although the methods of warfare evolved during the Renaissance, armour remained an important symbol of social status, as shown by the funerary effigy of Michel de Montaigne.

Clément Puget

Cinema in Bordeaux (France) city and area from 1912 to 1919

Thinking about cinema during WWI leads us to several questions about the (supposed?) major changes the war imposed on film production, exhibition and distribution. This course will reflect on questions of change and continuity in distribution and exhibition in South West France between 1912 and 1919. Alike other countries struck by the Great War, France and its world leading cinema industry were obviously affected by conflict. Therefore, we will focus on the “spectacles cinématographiques” presented in theatres in the Bordeaux area. This area – already well-known for its wine (!) – is also especially interesting because the “Port de la Lune” temporarily became the capital of France, from September to December 1914. As soon as war was declared theatres shut their doors only to reopen at the end of 1914 and in the early 1915. We will present a study on cinema theatres and films seen/censored in Bordeaux area. Although the impact of film censorship, linked to moral prerogatives in suburban theatres is difficult to state on, this study, based on files from the local Police/War and Theaters archives, questions the national/local censorship imposed by State/city authorities in war and peacetime.

the second point will focus on the presence of American Expeditionary Forces in Bordeaux (Bassens harbour) from 1917 to 1919 and how their residence affected (or not) film programs and movie-going – films were shown at the "American Park" (Caudéran) and the French military camp of Souge among others. But the chaotic situation in WWI France mustn't blind us from comparing such a period with the peacetime 1910's, maybe different but as we will see mostly similar.



Richard Davis

Anglo-French 'food wars

Relations between Britain and France, one of the oldest and most fraught of international relations, have taken many different forms, ranging across the fields of diplomacy, military conflict, trade, culture in all its various forms, and many others.



This course will consider Anglo-French relations in the area of food studies which, as I will show, brings in many of the afore mentioned fields. Food, taken broadly, includes questions of how the two countries have identified one another, and at the same time how they have identified themselves. It also has important commercial, social and political elements. Their respective gastronomic cultures have frequently been pointed to as markers of their differences. Their conflicts over the EU's Common Agricultural Policy were an ongoing strain in their relations and displayed their fundamentally divergent approaches towards farming, international trade relations (both within Europe and with the wider world) and, equally importantly, their divergent socio-economic models. At times, as for example during the 'mad cow' crisis, their disagreements were often regarded as a form of warfare. The media, most notably in the UK, have often delighted in their accounts of 'lamb wars', 'beef wars' and, more recently in the post-Brexit era, of 'fish wars'.

Julia Roumier

Eating, Serving, Appearing: Food, Diet, Banquets and Table Manners in Spain in the Late Middle Ages and the Early 16th Century



Between the late 14th century and the 16th century, the Iberian Peninsula offers a prime area of study for understanding how the table brought together medical knowledge, the urban economy and the assertion of monarchical power. This course explores four interrelated dimensions of European and Hispanic food culture: dietetics based on the Galenic tradition, the gastronomic pleasure through the recipes preserved in manuscripts, the gradual codification of table manners, and the splendour of the great court banquets, which blended Castilian heritage with the Burgundian model introduced by the Habsburgs.

Medieval and humanist Spanish dietetics was based on the theory of humours, but was distinguished by its own original contributions: the royal physician Alfonso de Chirino, author of Menor daño de la medicina (15th century), sought to organise the court's food supply; Robert de Nola's Libro de guisados (printed in Toledo in 1525, but written in Catalan as early as the late 15th century) remains the definitive collection of recipes, widely circulated well into the following century. Spain is characterised by the coexistence of the three monotheistic religions, and its culinary culture reflects its Arab heritage, with seven centuries of Arab presence on the peninsula.

In Spain, table manners are set out in a seminal text that is unique in Europe: Enrique de Villena's Arte cisoria (1423), a technical treatise devoted to the art of carving meat in the king's presence, which codifies the gestures, instruments and etiquette of the royal "carver" — a text that is both gastronomic and political, as it concerns serving the sovereign with dignity. The splendour of banquets will finally be examined through two key periods. On the one hand, the Burgundian tradition: introduced by Philip the Fair upon his arrival in Castile, then officially established by Philip II in 1548, the Burgundian etiquette (etiqueta borgoñona) imposes a rigid ceremonial code (oficios de la boca, table service, hierarchy of the nobility) which has its emblematic origins in the 'Vow of the Pheasant' banquet (Lille, 1454) — a model directly inherited by the Spanish Habsburg court.

Secondly, the distinctly Spanish festive culture of the Golden Age, analysed by María de los Ángeles Pérez Samper (Fiesta y alimentación en la España Moderna), who describes the sequence of 'servicios' at the table, the theatrical interludes between courses.

Elisabeth Hofmann

Intercultural challenges of integrating gender in development projects



Like most actors of international corporation, France's government, French NGOs and other development actors claim that gender is nowadays "mainstreamed" in their projects. But what is the meaning of integrating gender into projects? How can the gender approach be adapted to each cultural context? And how does decolonial thinking influence the way intercultural challenges are dealt within French NGOs and public actors?

To address this question, the session will highlight mainly partnerships with actors in francophone African countries, which also happen to be France's former colonies. These issues raise complex questions, without simple answers...

Apostolos Lampropoulos

Thinking gender, now @ Bordeaux

This lecture aims to introduce participants in the International Winter School to some of the ways in which gender—and, along with it, sexuality and queerness—can be conceptualized. The central assumption underpinning the lecture is that gender is a lens rather than a topic, and that our understanding of it needs to be historicized, contextualized, and continually renewed. Among the key ideas to be explored are that gender is everywhere and is fundamentally relational, and that gender studies examine power, institutions, bodies, and knowledge. The discussion will then turn to the main areas of gender-related research currently being pursued at Université Bordeaux Montaigne, namely: Archives, Creations, and Collectives; North/South, Risk, and Intersectionality; and Gender, Epistemologies, and Theories. Participants will be encouraged to engage actively in the discussion, drawing on their own experiences and sharing their perspectives on the issues addressed.



Bernard CALAS

The French political landscape

Next spring 2027, after 10 years of Macron presidency the French will vote for their general elections (presidential election and most probably parliamentary elections). These elections are of tremendous importance for France and therefore Europe since two of the major competitors namely RN and LFI have non-proeuropean positions. On the eve of this crucial juncture, and after outlining the French political system of the Fifth Republic, the course will map out the national electoral landscape —and its regional variations—through an analysis of the results of the 2017, 2022, and 2024 presidential and legislative elections. It will end focusing on some of the major issues of the campaign.



Field-trip to Arcachon

The Arcachon Bay as a conflictual space

The excursion to the Arcachon Basin will provide an opportunity to look beyond the beauty and uniqueness of its diverse landscapes and examine the conflicts over uses and the eco-political issues of burning, universal relevance that lie beneath the surface. Through an on-site exploration of oyster farms, the coastline, the sandy islets, the famous Dune du Pilat, seaside developments, and the coniferous forest, we will observe an environmental battleground shaped by the competing strategies and actions of numerous stakeholders.

