



Spring 2021
Mon / Wed. 2:00-3:20 pm

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FRENCH 404

MARGUERITE YOURCENAR,

A WOMAN WRITING IN THE 20TH CENTURY

Marguerite Yourcenar (1903-1987) was the first woman ever elected at the Académie Française, an honor that came after a long life of writing. Her works challenged many of the assumptions critics and readers had about “feminine writing”, about what and how women *could* or *should* write. A European at heart, she lived more than half of her life in the United States, where she became involved in civil rights battles and fought ardently for the protection of the environment, while integrating elements of both cultural worlds in her writing. We will have the opportunity to look closely at her writing process, examining archives, including video and audio materials.

In this class we will read several of her works along with works by Marguerite Duras (1914-1996) and Nathalie Sarraute (1900-1999), who formed with Yourcenar a triumvirate of writers that transformed the way women writings are seen today.

Readings:

Marguerite Yourcenar : *Mémoires d'Hadrien*, *Denier du rêve* & *Alexis ou le Traité du vain combat*

Marguerite Duras : *Ecrire*

Nathalie Sarraute : extraits de *Tropismes* et essais « Roman et réalité », « Ce que je cherche à faire », « Le Gant retourné »

pre-requisite: French 330.