FREN 383 French Women Writers

T/Th, 11-12:20 Prof. Antonia Szabari DMC 157 Fall 2025

In this course, we will read and discuss short works by French and Francophone women authors from the late middle ages to today. We will ask if there is such thing as writing in a female voice or female writing (i.e., "écriture feminine") in different historical periods.

The class will also provide students with critical tools to analyze why women wrote and why they wrote in a particular way what choices were available to them, and why their voices were able to sound powerful in different ages. Readings will include a range of authors (Christine de Pisan, Louise Labé, Madame de Lafayette, Madame de Stael, Colette, Marguarite Duras, Simone de Beauvoir, Ann Richter, Nina Bouraoui, Julie Maroh) and several genres (poetry, short story, fantastic tale, novel, autobiographic writing, autofiction, and comic book). This course is taught in French.

