From its earliest origins, the modern French novel has been shaped not only by the active interplay of author, narrator, and reader, but by the socio-political setting in which each work was created. In this course, we will trace the evolution of two enduring themes—race and gender—and explore the manner in which narrative has both reflected and attempted to influence contemporary reality.

Week 1  Introduction  
*Aucassin and Nicolette* (c. 1175-1250), anonymous

Week 2  
*Aucassin and Nicolette*

Week 3  
*The Heptameron* (1558), Marguerite de Navarre (1492-1559):  Women and Religion in the Age of Reform

Week 4  
*The Heptameron*

Week 5  
*Ourika* (1823), Claire de Duras (1777-1828):  Women, Slavery, and the French Revolution

Week 6  
*Ourika*  
Essay #1

Week 7  
*Thérèse Raquin* (1867), Emile Zola (1840-1902):  Literature Meets Art

Week 8  
*Thérèse Raquin*

Week 9  
*The Immoralist* (1902), André Gide (1869-1951)

Week 10  
*The Immoralist*  
Essay #2

Week 11  
*I, Tituba, Black Witch of Salem* (1986), Maryse Condé (b. 1937)

Week 12  
*I, Tituba, Black Witch of Salem*

Week 13  
Literature, History, and Film:  Tituba Today  
Presentations

Week 14  
Presentations  
Final Exam  
Conclusions

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