M. Pasco - Offices: 2044M Wescoe
Office phone: 864-9068
Home phone: 913-796-9936
e-mail: apasco@ku.edu

French 900
Fall 2013

Seminar in French Short Fiction

**COURSE OBJECTIVE**
An advanced course dealing with major French short stories from the beginning, though concentrating on examples from the 19th and 20th centuries. While the emphasis will be on the meaning(s) which can be elicited from the works through intensive analysis making use of appropriate methodologies, students will be encouraged to develop their own skills and to relate the results of their analyses to the concepts of generic evolution (or change) and to genre proper, as well as to history (culture), literary movements, currents of 19th- and 20th-century thought, and to the impact of such insights, interpretations, and traditions on a theory of the short story. What elements of a given short story are important to a valid interpretation? What elements are common to all short stories? How do short stories mean? How do they elicit aesthetic appreciation from readers? In what ways are short stories related to each other? and to other genres? Should the short story be considered a minor art form? Such questions of a general nature will guide our discussions of particular examples. Works by Marguerite de Navarre, Mérimée, Flaubert, Maupassant, Zola, Gide, Camus, Robbe-Grillet, Michel Tournier, and others.

**REQUIREMENTS**
One 15 minute oral report, regular seminar participation, and a substantial paper.

**TEXTS:**
1. “Fabliaux et nouvelles”—Xerox copies (X) that you may check out from Jane and take to your favorite copy shop.
4. Guy de Maupassant. *Boule de suif*—Xerox copy that you may check out from Jane and take to your favorite copy shop.
5. Albert Camus. *L'exil et le royaume.* Folio, no. 78. At bookstore.
6. Robbe-Grillet. "La plage." *Instantannées.* Xerox copies (X) that you may check out from Jane and take to your favorite copy shop.
7. Boris Vian. "Le rappel." Xerox copies (X) that you may check out from Jane and take to your favorite copy shop.