Versailles: Art, Power, Resistance and the Sun King’s Palace (Spring 2019)
SYLLABUS: SIGN 26043, FREN 26043
Professor Larry Norman: lnorman@uchicago.edu (Office hours T 1:30-3)
TA: Amine Bouhayat: aminebouhayat@uchicago.edu.

I. Inaugurating Versailles: A Theatrical Event
April 2 
Introduction
April 4 
Molière, Tartuffe (1664-9): Preface & Petition to King (Canvas), Acts I-III
Colin Jones, Versailles (Introduction, chapter 1)
Consult sites:
http://en.chateauversailles.fr/discover/history/key-dates/party-delights-enchanted-island
https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p03w3y8m

April 9 
Molière, Tartuffe (1664-69)

April 11 
Molière, The Would-Be Gentleman (1668, English text on canvas)

April 16 
Racine, Iphigenia and preface (1674)
Colin Jones, Versailles (chapter 2)

April 18 
Racine, Iphigenia

II. Visualizing Versailles
April 23 
La Fontaine, The Loves of Cupid and Psyche (1669)
English text (Canvas) p. 107-157
French [éd. Jeanneret] p.53-96 (also read footnotes in English text)

April 25 
La Fontaine, The Loves of Cupid and Psyche
English pp. 184-222;
French pp. 117-133 (also read footnotes in English text)
Voltaire, English Letters, “On Tragedy” (1733)
Guest Presentation: Esther Van Dyke

April 30: 
Versailles and the arts, guest lecture, Prof. Richard Neer (Art History)
(readings TBD)

MID-TERM PAPER PROPOSAL (1 PAGE DUE)

May 2: 
Peter Burke, The Fabrication of Louis XIV (1992, selections on canvas)
Study of Hall of Mirror images and documents (readings TBD)
FRENCH-LANGUAGE MID-TERM PAPER [5 p.] DRAFT DUE

May 7 
Guest lecture: “Contemporary sculpture: Queering Versailles”
Jennifer Row, University of Minnesota
Perrault (Charles), “Donkey Skin” (Peau d’âne), 1695
MAY 8       MID-TERM PAPER [5 PAGES] DUE

III. Ancien Régime and Revolution
May 9       Diplomacy and International Exchange (readings TBD)

May 14:     Critiques of Court Society
            Film: *Ridicule* (1995, Patrice Leconte)
            La Bruyère, *Characters* (1693), selections
            Saint Simon, *Memoirs* (1711-21), selections
            Mme de Sévigné (letters, selection)
            Jones, *Versailles*, chapter 3-4

May 16:     French discussion session led by Amine Bouhayat
            FINAL PAPER/PROJECT PROPOSAL DUE [1-2 PAGES]

May 21:     Versailles and Slavery
            Royal Edict issued at Versailles 1685, “The Black Code”
            Article “Slavery” in 1751 *Encyclopédie*
            Montesquieu, *Persians Letters* (selections)

May 23:     Revolution
            *Declaration of the Rights of Man* (drafted at Versailles, 1789)
            *Declaration of the Rights of Women* (Olympe de Gouges, 1791)
            Depositions from the Women’s March on Versailles (1789), selections
            Jacques-Louis David, painting: *The Tennis Court Oath at Versailles*
            Guest lecture: Colin Jones, History

IV. Versailles Today
May 28:     Study of selected contemporary art installations at Versailles: Jeff Koons,
            Anish Kapoor, and Olafur Eliasson
            Film: *Marie-Antoinette* (2006, Sophia Coppola)
            Jones, *Versailles*, chap. 5, 6, conclusion
            Student presentations on a film, work of art, or text excerpt

May 30       contemporary art installations (cont.)
            Student presentations on a film, work of art, or text excerpt

June 4:     Conclusion and student presentations
June 4       GRADUATING SENIOR FINAL PROJECT/PAPER DUE
            FRENCH-LANGUAGE DRAFT DUE for final paper/project

JUNE 10     FINAL PROJECT/PAPER DUE [5 pages new subject; 9 pages if
            continuation of mid-term paper]
EVALUATION:
Mid-Term Paper 30%
Class Presentation 15%
Class Participation 25%
Final Paper 30%

BOOKS: University of Chicago Bookstore
Required for all students
Colin Jones, Versailles, Basic Books, 9781541673380

English Books (required for SIGN registrees)
Molière, Tartuffe (trans. Richard Wilbur), Harvest, 9780156881807
Racine, Iphigenia, Phaedra, Athalia (trans. J. Cairncross), Penguin, 9780140441222

French books (required for FREN registrees)
Molière, Tartuffe, ed. B. Louvat-Molozay, GF Flammarion, ISBN 9782081415966
Molière, Le Bourgeois gentilhomme, GF Flammarion, ISBN 9782081238732
Racine, Iphigénie, ed. M. Escola, GF-Flammarion, 9782081450790 or 9782080710222
La Fontaine, Les amours de Psyché, ed. M. Jeanneret, Livre de poche, 9782253051916
APPENDIX
Suggested material for student presentations (in addition to below, students may select another choice upon approval by instructor)

A. Film
*The Royal Exchange* [*L’échange des princesses*] (Marc Dugain, 2017)
*The Death of Louis XIV* (2016, Albert Serra)
*Versailles*, Television series (2015-present)
*Farewell, My Queen* [*Les Adieux à la Reine*] (2012, Benoît Jacquot)
*Marie-Antoinette* (2006, Sophia Coppola)
*Molière* (2006, Laurent Tirard)
*The King is Dancing* [*Le Roi danse*] (2000, Gérard Corbiau)
*Ridicule* (1995, Patrice Leconte)
*Dangerous Liaisons* (1988, Stephen Frears)
*The Taking of Power by Louis XIV* (1966, Roberto Rossellini)
*La Marseillaise* (1938, Jean Renoir)

B. Painters

C. Sculptors
François Girodet, Pierre Puget, Nicolas Coustou, Marsy brothers, Antoine Coysevox

D. 21st century contemporary art installations at Versailles
Olafur Eliasson, Anish Kapoor, Jeff Koons, Takashi Murakami, Jean-Michel Othoniel, Giuseppe Penone, Hiroshi Sugimoto, Lee Ufan, Bernar Venet, Joana Vasconcelos