

North Park University
Cornerstone (NPD1000-20)
Memory & Memoir

MW 9:15-10:20 a.m. and F 10:30-11:35 a.m.

Professor: Dr. Morrissey
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(please use email if possible)

Office: CARL-46 (Modern Language Dept.)
Office Hours: T 10:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m.
or by appointment

Writing Prompts for Montaigne & Descartes Papers:

Our second essay will demonstrate students' skills in analyzing their readings of a text.

Please follow these instructions:

- Essays will be no less than and no greater than 4 pages long.
- Format for Essays: 12 pt font, Times New Roman, double-spaced, 1" margins
- Students will read "Understanding Writing Assignments" (<https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/688/01/>) before selecting a prompt from the three prompts below.
- Students will read "Introductions, Body Paragraphs, and Conclusions for an Argument Paper" (<https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/724/01/>) before writing the outline for their paper.
- Students will staple a one-page outline of their paper to their paper when they hand in the first draft.

(1) **CHALLENGE QUESTION:** Montaigne, who had studied law, attended the trial of Martin Guerre and makes reference to it in his *Essays*.

(a) Why does Montaigne relate the story of Martin Guerre in his *Essays*? What argument does this example support?

(b) Montaigne struggled to insert his own judgment into the literary and philosophical canon, apart from his father's or La Boétie's influence. How does Montaigne disentangle himself from the identity he gleans from a legitimating but figurative community in order to assert his identity as he experiences it?

(c) Throughout the film *Le Retour de Martin Guerre*, the lead character struggles to prove his identity to the community in which he lives. What does the trial reveal about the power of the community to assign an identity to an individual? What does the trial say about the power of the individual to create his own identity?

(d) What proof do you have that your community gives you an identity? What proves that you create your own unique identity? What might disprove the evidence you give?

(2) How were truth and justice served in sentencing Martin Guerre? How were truth and justice not served? Was the verdict fair or unfair? In your explanations, define and refer to predominant 16th century religious and philosophical principles.

Sidenotes:

(a) The life story of Jean de Coras, who presided over the trial of Martin Guerre in 1560, was emblematic of the times. In 1562, Coras converted to Protestantism. In 1568, he was convicted to death for having served the Prince of Condé. In 1572, he was murdered in prison in the aftermath of the St. Bartholomew's Day Massacre.

(b) Roman Catholic Canon Law did not allow Martin Guerre's abandoned wife to remarry, but Protestant Huguenots, greatly influenced by Humanism, would have allowed such a remarriage.

(3) How do Descartes' *Meditations on First Philosophy* foster scientific inquiry and freedom of thought? Does Descartes effectively reconcile theology and science? Why or why not?

Resources that will help you in your re-reading of the *Meditations*:

(a) outline: <http://www.anselm.edu/homepage/dbanach/medol.htm>

(b) central arguments: <http://www.anselm.edu/homepage/dbanach/dcarg.htm>

Office Hours

I will be in my office on the 4th floor of Carlson Tower (CARL-46) from 10:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m. on Tuesdays and by appointment. I see students on a “drop-in” basis or with regular appointments. To arrange an appointment, please email me: jmorrissey@northpark.edu.

Grading

Your grade will be based on the following components:

Formal Writing Assignments (50%)		
Essay #1 (Summary)		
	First draft	
	Final draft	15%
Essay #2 (Analysis)		
	First draft	
	Final draft	15%
Essay #3 (Comparison & Contrast)		
	First draft	
	Final draft	20%
Other Assignments (50%)		
Reading Quizzes	(5 - One per author)	20%
Voyage Participation		10%
Field Trips		10%
Memoir		10%

Paper Format/Policies for Turning in Essays

Late Papers: As a general rule, late papers will not be accepted. Always check with the professor if you feel an emergency or illness warrants an extension. If you do not have permission to turn in work late, you risk the penalty of a lowered grade or failure on the assignment. Do not email me an assignment without my express permission. Generally, assignments are due as hard copies (typed, double spaced, Times New Roman font) at class time.

E-mail Submissions: I do not accept e-mail submissions unless you receive specific permission beforehand. Unless otherwise noted in class, E-mail or Moodle submissions will be considered late and will receive a zero.

Paper Format: All assignments must be typed and double-spaced in 12-point font with 1-inch margins and Times New Roman font. If you use sources (some papers will require this, some will not), you must use the MLA style to cite these sources.