In very broad terms, this course will follow the evolution of the French novel from Balzac to the New Novel; or, to paraphrase Jean Ricardou's often-cited formula, from the “narration of adventure” to the “adventure of narration.” Balzac serves as an appropriate point of departure, since it was the stereotypical image of the Balzacian novel that the New Novelists of the 1950s rejected. But well before the narrative “adventures” of Nathalie Sarraute, Alain Robbe-Grillet, or Michel Butor attracted notoriety, earlier writers had already been probing the boundaries of conventional storytelling and exploring new narrative models. From the period from Balzac to the New Novel, we will read a modest sample of such works. **Texts**

- Balzac: *Eugénie Grandet* (Garnier-Flammarion; ISBN 9782081213173)
- Flaubert: *L’éducation sentimentale* (Garnier-Flammarion; ISBN 2080711032)
- Malraux: *La condition humaine* (Folio plus classique; ISBN 2070346102)
- Sarraute: *Portrait d’un inconnu* (Folio; ISBN 2070369420)
- Camus: *La chute* (Folio; ISBN 2070360105)
- Butor: *La modification* (Minuit double; ISBN 2707303127)
- Robbe-Grillet: *La Jalousie* (Minuit)

The typical class period will be devoted to discussion of the reading assigned for that day. Students are expected to have read carefully and to come to class prepared to participate actively. While I will give some attention to literary history, and may assign selected critical writings from time to time, the primary emphasis will be on the individual novels themselves.