

**Osher Lifelong Learning Institute
Instructor Information and Course Proposal**

Instructor Name:	Caroline Smadja
Home Address:	2354 27 th Avenue
City/State/Zip:	San Francisco CA 94116
Home Phone:	
Cell phone:	(415) 676-8634
Email:	Smad9168@pacificu.edu

Course Title and Description: French Short Stories Encore

This course focuses on six French authors of the late 19th, 20th and 21st centuries. This course revolves around class discussion rather than traditional lecture style. As a French-born instructor, I seek to convey an insider's perspective on French culture and literature; through an ongoing dialogue with participants, I hope to share my knowledge of the topic(s) at hand.

Each week will center on a specific author, starting with the prolific and beloved Colette. Week II will be devoted to Guy de Maupassant, seen as one of the “founding fathers” of the modern short story. Albert Camus needs no introduction, but his short stories are little-known in the US. Romain Gary, one of the most mysterious and prolific French writers of the 20th century, will be the focus of Week IV. Week V, we’ll read Françoise Sagan, who became a literary sensation at the age of eighteen. Finally, we’ll read a story from the short-story collection that put author Anna Gavalda on France’s literary map. Each story will be available either online for free or posted ahead of time in the OLLI Berkeley folder.

Participants will be asked to analyze each story based on a list of study questions available in advance. This is meant to be a “reading appreciation” course. For this reason, though the author’s style, use of language etc. may figure into our weekly exchange, our primary focus will be on content rather than on the mechanics of writing. This exchange typically takes over an hour.

In the second part of each session, additional information on each authors' life and body of work will be provided through video clips and/or documentaries so that participants get to see and hear the author directly. When audiovisual material in English is not available, I might introduce him/her with a PPT presentation using photographs, quotes and/or through some lecture style.

Week by Week Outline:

- I. Colette, “The Képi”
- II. Guy de Maupassant “A Day in the Country” *La Maison Tellier*
- III. Albert Camus, “The Adulterous Woman” <https://www.scribd.com/doc/2934167/THE-ADULTEROUS-WOMAN> *The Exile & The Kingdom*
- IV. Romain Gary, “The Lute” *Hissing Tales*
- V. Françoise Sagan, “Separation Roman Style,” *Silken Eyes*
- VI. Anna Gavalda, “Epilogue” *I Wish Someone Were Waiting for Me Somewhere*

Objectives of the Course: One of my objectives is to have students discover six French authors, some of whom they've most probably heard about but may never have read. As always, I like to provide a wide range of voices and to present both men and women writers.

Another major objective is to share with you my passion for literature and foster a greater appreciation for the short story, a genre often overshadowed by the novel and non-fiction forms.

Audio/Visual Needs: will need computer/audio hookups & internet connection for each session.

Instructor Bio – Caroline Smadja has been a teacher for 30 + years, including 10 years as a lecturer at Golden Gate University in San Francisco. She specialized in adult education long ago and has taught literature at OLLI SF since 2015, and at OLLI Berkeley since early 2018. She has an M.A. in English from Paris University VII, an M.A. in History from UC Davis as well as an MFA in Creative Writing from Pacific University. A French native, she is a published author of fiction, poetry and non-fiction.