

**UNIVERSITY COLLEGE LONDON**

**DEPARTMENT OF FRENCH**

**2005-2006**

**FREN4100 *LE ROMAN DE LA ROSE***

*Write TWO essays, ONE from each Section.*

*You may answer in English or in French, but no special credit will be given for writing in French rather than in English.*

*Please note that AT LEAST ONE option paper MUST be written in English.*

*DO NOT BASE BOTH ESSAYS IN THIS COURSE, OR AN ANSWER IN THIS COURSE AND ONE IN ANOTHER OPTION, ON THE SAME TEXT OR ON SUBSTANTIALLY THE SAME MATERIAL.*

**You must refer to paragraphs 1 to 8 of the French Department's 'BA courses: Assessed Essays Booklet' for further information on the length of essays, how they are assessed, submission procedures and penalties for late submission, as well as for essay writing guidelines. Your attention is also drawn to the statement on 'Plagiarism and Non-originality' in that booklet and in the French Department Student Handbook.**

**Titles may be selected only from the following list: rewording of titles is not permitted.**

**SECTION A**

1. 'The sense of sight in the *Roman de la Rose* is associated less with clear and true perception than with distortion and misunderstanding of the truth.' Discuss, with reference to BOTH parts of the *Roman de la Rose*.
2. 'In their handling of the Narcissus and Pygmalion myths respectively, we see Guillaume's and Jean's distinctive concerns as writers of the *Rose*.' In the light of this comment, discuss the treatment of Narcissus and Pygmalion in BOTH parts of the *Roman de la Rose*.
3. 'Although it is generally Jean de Meun rather than Guillaume de Lorris who is accused of anti-feminism, Jean's text is dominated by feminine figures of authority, whereas Guillaume's renders the female a mute vegetable.' In the light of this comment, discuss gender in BOTH parts of the *Roman de la Rose*.

**CONTINUED**

4. How far would you agree with C. S. Lewis's claim that Jean de Meun is 'an incompetent allegorist'? Your answer may refer to Jean de Meun's section of the *Roman de la Rose* only.
5. 'Jean de Meun's attempt to kill Guillaume de Lorris off as author of the *Rose* in fact gave him life.' In the light of this comment, discuss the relationship between the two parts of the *Roman de la Rose*.

## SECTION B

6. What is at stake in editing the *Roman de la Rose*? Your answer should be amply illustrated with practical examples, and should involve detailed comparison of AT LEAST THREE medieval manuscripts of the *Roman de la Rose*.
7. Compare and contrast pictorial representations of a significant episode or character in AT LEAST TWO medieval manuscripts of the *Roman de la Rose*.
8. 'In her response to the *Roman de la Rose*, Christine de Pizan is inconsistent, impertinent and incapable of appreciating irony. In short, she responds as a typical woman.' Discuss. You may refer in your answer to other contributors to the Querelle de la Rose.
9. Guillaume claims that in his work 'l'ars d'amours est tout enclose', while in Jean's section the God of Love describes the work as 'le miroer aus amoureux'. What do you understand by these different descriptions of the work? Your answer should refer BOTH to the *Roman de la Rose* AND to wider medieval literary contexts.
10. Compare and contrast the treatment of the first-person lover-poet in the *Roman de la Rose* and EITHER earlier lyric poetry in French OR a later French *dit amoureux*.
11. Si ne vous tieng pas a cortoise  
Quant vous m'avez coilles nommées,  
Qui ne sont pas bien renommées  
En bouche a cortoise pucele.  
Vous, qui tant estes sage et bele,  
Ne sai com nommer les osastes,  
Au mains quant le mot ne glosastes  
Par quelque cortoise parole  
Si com preudefame en parole. (ll. 6924-32)

In the light of Amant's objection to Raison, discuss the philosophies of language in the *Roman de la Rose*. Your answer should refer BOTH to the *Roman de la Rose* AND to other philosophical material current in the Middle Ages.

**END OF PAPER**