

**UNIVERSITY COLLEGE LONDON**

**DEPARTMENT OF FRENCH**

**2004-2005**

**FREN4101 THE ART OF LITERARY PORTRAITURE IN THE 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> CENTURIES**

*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. 'In Brantôme's biographies of women, his portrayal of his subjects is first and foremost visual, and, at times, voyeuristic; his taste for the depiction of splendid garments and rich ornamentation frequently overwhelms the narrative.' Discuss this assessment of Brantôme in the light of his *Vie de Marie Stuart*.
2. Discuss the confrontation between poet and painter in Ronsard's 'Elegie à Janet, peintre du roy'.
3. 'The discussion of the nature of nobility in the *Essais* becomes an exercise in narcissistic self-justification; Montaigne never misses a chance to reassert his dubious claim to membership of the *ancienne noblesse*.' Discuss with reference to Montaigne's self-portrait in 'De la présomption' AND/OR 'De la phisionomie'.

**CONTINUED**

4. 'Un homme qui sait la cour est maître de son geste, de ses yeux et de son visage' (La Bruyère). Discuss the importance of self-control in La Bruyère's portraits of courtiers in *Les Caractères*.
5. 'Sight (seeing and being seen) and insight or interpretation play a crucial role both in the plot of Lafayette's *La Princesse de Clèves* and in her portraiture of court life.' Discuss.

## **SECTION B**

6. Analyse and discuss the role and function of theatricality and performance in TWO or MORE texts you have studied on this course.
7. 'Le Portrait est une description grave, enjouée, ou satirique de quelque personne. [...] Les choses s'y tournent d'une manière à inspirer de l'estime, de l'amour, ou de la haine' (*Dictionnaire de la langue française*, 1680). In the light of Richelet's definition, analyse and discuss the role of persuasive techniques in TWO or MORE of the texts you have studied on this course.
8. 'Il n'est rien plus vray-semblable que la conformité et relation du corps à l'esprit.' In the light of Montaigne's comment, discuss the interaction between physical and moral portraiture in TWO or MORE texts you have studied on this course.
9. Analyse and discuss the use of satire in TWO or MORE texts you have studied on this course.
10. Compare and contrast the role of judgement (self-judgement and the judgement of others) in the literary self-portraits by La Rochefoucauld and Montaigne.

**END OF PAPER**