

SWANN'S WAY: BEGINNING THE SEARCH FOR LOST TIME

In Search of Lost Time (1912-1928) by Marcel Proust (1871-1922) is generally acknowledged to be one of the lasting artistic achievements of the twentieth century. Although we can't read all 3,000 pages of the seven-volume novel, we can begin. *Swann's Way*, the first volume, sets out many of the characters, ideas, and subtle templates of human behavior that make the *Search* so rewarding. *Swann's Way* contains the desperate need for Mama's kiss, the famous madeleine scene, the cautionary tale of Swann's love for Odette de Crecy, and some delicious social comedy. This course should equip you to scale a Mount Everest of twentieth century literature.

Note on the text: There is only one required text. We will be using the new translation of *Swann's Way* by Lydia Davis (Penguin Classics Deluxe, ISBN 978-0-14-243796-4). It is important that we all have the same edition, with the same words and page numbers.

Class/Date	Topics	Reading
Class 1	Introduction; the shape of RTP; ideas and techniques	none required
Class 2	Combray; the family; memory; magic lantern; Mama's kiss ("Marcel's Complaint"); habit; the madeleine	3-48
Class 3	Aunt Leonie; the church; art; Uncle Adolphe; Odette; Swann; Vinteuil	49-bottom of 117
Class 4	Francoise; Legrandin; the two "ways"; Gilberte; Swann's marriage; Mlle. Vinteuil; sadism; the steeples	118-191
Class 5	Time of story; the "little group"; Odette; Cottard; Swann; art; the "little phrase"; deprivation and desire ("Marcel's Complaint"); de Forcheville	195-bottom of 294
Class 6	Lies; love and death; the "little phrase"; Swann's defeat	294-396
Class 7	Time of story; Balbec; names; Gilberte; M. and Mme. Swann; memory	416-468
Class 8	Final discussions; on to RTP	none required

Leader: Lee Harrod taught Joyce and modern literature at The College of New Jersey for many years.

Wednesdays: 10:00 a.m. to noon, 8 weeks: September 23 through November 11

Maximum: 30