*In Search of Lost Time*: Proust, Paris, and the Art of the Self

English 487/587: Major World Authors

Spring 2017: Monday/Wednesday, 9:30-10:45

Dr. Tom Fick



Marcel Proust’s semi-autobiographical novel, *In Search of Lost Time* (*A la recherche du temps perdu*) has been called the greatest novel ever written. Set mostly in Paris and the fictional seaside town of Balbec (the real-life Cabourg) in the late 19th and early 20th centuries, *La recherche* documents the narrator’s search for his vocation as a writer as he makes his way through the brilliant but deceptive world of the French aristocracy. A work of great comic genius, *La recherche* is also a profound investigation of art, aesthetics, and hetero/homosexual desire.

In addition to reading selections from *La recherche,* we will view recent film adaptations, and explore the art, music, politics, and philosophy that shaped the novel.