**Rabelais, *Gargantua*, SEMINAR 3: War and Peace**

1. **WAR**
2. **Chs 28 – 29: Grangousier the statesman**

**These chapters deal with the outbreak of hostilities and Grangousier’s reaction to them**

* What particularly shocks Grangousier about Picrochole’s behaviour?
* What grounds does Grangousier give for considering going to war against his ‘ancien amy de tout temps’?
* What strategies for dealing with Picrochole’s threat does Grangousier discuss in his letter to Gargantua?
* Reflect on the tone and style of these two chapters: how does this style enhance the content?
1. **Chs 30 – 31: negotiations**

**Here Grangousier sends an emissary, Ulrich Gallet, to negotiate with Picrochole**

* Pinpoint the logical steps in Gallet’s argument. Which values does he appeal to?
* What rhetorical strategies does he use to press his point home?
1. **Ch 33: Foolish advisors**
* How does Rabelais represent the absurdity of Picrochole’s universalist ambitions? Think about:
	+ Use of vocabulary and imagery
	+ Use of dialogue
	+ Name dropping - to whom is Picrochole likened?
	+ The strategy developed by Picrochole’s advisors – where are its weaknesses?
1. **Chs 44 & 48: a band of brave Christian knights**
* Examine the presentation of male friendship in these chapters.
* Can the behaviour of Gargantua and his men be contrasted with that of Picrochole and his advisors?
* What picture do we gain here of Renaissance battle tactics?
1. **PEACE**
2. **ch 52: the founding of the Abbaye de Thélème**
* Pinpoint the ways in which this ‘abbey’ is different from a conventional abbey, and think about why these differences are proposed.
1. **ch 53: the abbey’s architectural features**

To be read quickly. You won’t understand everything here, but try to get a sense of the architectural scope of the new abbey.

1. **ch 54: the inscription over the abbey door**

You’ll find this ch difficult to understand, but it has important connections with the Affaire des Placards, so take a quick look. I’ll take you through this in the online lecture.

1. **chs 55 – 56: the lifestyle of the abbey inhabitants**
* List the features of the abbey provided for the pursuit of sport and leisure, and think about their associations with notions of luxury
* Analyse the abbey’s social rituals and routines (think particularly about gender here)
* Can you find any links here with the earlier chapters on Gargantua’s education?
1. **ch 57: the abbey’s philosophy**
* What is the founding principle of the abbey and what picture does it give of free will?

**Broader questions:**

The Abbaye de Thélème has been described as ‘an evangelical and courtly utopia’. Do you agree? Justify your answer.