Adultery, a long-term theme in western literature

*Tristan et Iseut* (king Marc’s wife), several versions from XIIth century on

*Lancelot et Guenièvre* (king Arthur’s wife), end XIIth century

Paolo et Francesca episode in the *Divine Comedy* by Dante, beginning of XIVth century

Boccaccio, *Decameron*, days VII and VIII, 1349-1353

Shakespeare, *Hamlet*, 1598, Claudius et Gertrude killed Hamlet’s father

Shakespeare, *Othello*, 1604

Cervantes, episode of the « Curioso impertinente » in *Don Quijote*, 1605. Tragic ending. Guillén de Castro made a play of it in 1606.

Molière, *George Dandin ou le Mari confondu*, “comédie-ballet”, performed in Versailles, 1668.

Mme de La Fayette, *La Princesse de Clèves*, 1678, failed adultery.

Laclos, *Les Liaisons dangereuses*, 1782, Mme de Tourvel seduced par Valmont.

Balzac, *Le Lys dans la vallée*, 1836, failed adultery.

Dostoïevski, *La Femme d’un autre et le mari sous le lit*, 1848, strictly comic.

Flaubert, *Madame Bovary*, 1857.

Zola, *Thérèse Raquin*, 1867, the adultery couple murders the husband.

Dostoïevski, *L'Éternel Mari*, 1870, serious

Zola, *L’Assommoir*, 1877, the triangle Gervaise, Coupeau, Lantier.

Tostoï, *Anna Karenina*, 1878, Anna leaves Karenin and her children.

Henri Céard, *Une belle journée*, 1881, failed adultery.

Maupassant, *Bel-Ami*, 1885

Maupassant, *Pierre et Jean*, 1887, the two brothers discover their mother adultery.

Theodor Fontane, *Effi Briest*, 1896. Very tragic ending.

Machado de Assis, *Dom Casmurro*, 1900.