

## French

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### Program Description

Foreign language study not only teaches students much about their native tongue, but also introduces them to another people's language, literature, and customs. **This awareness of cultural and linguistic relativity is one of the hallmarks of a liberal arts education.**

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Introductory and Intermediate French courses develop students' skills in spoken and written French and acquaint them with the literature and culture of the French-speaking world. Advanced language study allows the student to reach the higher level of mastery in French required in more specialized study and usage.

In the more advanced literature, film and civilization courses, students study French writing and culture in greater depth, thereby gaining considerable knowledge of and insight into France's past and present achievements in all fields of endeavor. Students at all levels of French are encouraged to study abroad, either in the College-sponsored program at the Institute of IES in Nantes or Paris, or in another approved program, as an inestimable enhancement to their understanding of the country, its people, and its language. When students choose the College-sponsored course of study in Nantes or Paris, both credits and grades are transferred and financial aid may be applied to participation in the program.

Students specializing in French will find that their major studies, in addition to their humanistic value, afford sound preparation for graduate study and for careers in teaching or interpreting. A knowledge of French will also be invaluable to them in the fields of international business and government, as well as social work. All courses offered in the department are conducted in French.

#### Goals for Introductory through Advanced-Level Language Courses

- Students will be able to understand and produce written and spoken French at an appropriate degree of proficiency.
- Students will be able to appreciate French and Francophone literary and cultural production within the context of an increasingly interconnected world.

#### Goals for Literature and Film Courses

- Students will be able to understand with depth and nuance the literary and aesthetic concepts of French and Francophone texts and films from a variety of genres.

- Students will be able to grasp the specificities of targeted Francophone cultures.
- Students will be able to think critically and creatively when faced with an abstract question.

#### Goals for Culture and Society Courses

- Students will be able to understand with depth and nuance French history, culture, society, and politics.
- Students will be able to grasp the specificities of targeted Francophone cultures.
- Students will be able to think critically and creatively when faced with an abstract question.

## Program Requirements

### Major Requirements

The French major, which includes a minimum of ten courses at or above the 300 level, is made up of two sequences:

- 1) A group of four required courses, three of which-300 first, then 305 and 310-should be taken before further progress in the major program unless there is a valid reason for exception. (305 or 310 may be taken simultaneously with 300 with permission of the department chair.) French 400 must be taken in the spring semester of the senior year.
- 2) A set of six electives chosen from the other departmental offerings at the 300 level.

All French majors are required to spend at least one semester studying abroad in a program approved by the department. The number of courses taken abroad for credit toward the major is limited to three.

Students planning on certification in secondary education must include both a history/geography/civilization course, a phonetics course and a linguistic component in their program of study. These requirements can be met by completing French 351 and Education 304 or by taking the equivalent courses in a program of study abroad.

Individualized study may be taken only once as part of the minimum requirements for the major. All majors must take at least one course within the department during their senior year. These requirements may be waived in special cases at the discretion of the department.

### Minor Requirements

Six courses are required for a minor in French. For students who begin in the 101-102 or 201-202 sequences, 202 will count toward the minor. In addition, students must take 300 and 305 and three additional courses above 305.

Students who begin on the 300 level must take 300 and 305 and four additional courses above 305. As with the major, courses taken abroad may be counted toward a minor, subject to the approval of the department chair. The number of courses taken abroad for credit toward the minor is limited to two. Courses taken S/U may not count toward the minor.

Students contemplating a minor in French should register with the department chairperson.

French 305 is a prerequisite for majors and minors for all literature courses. Students who have completed the language requirement and who wish to continue in French, but do not contemplate either a major or minor, may take 300 or 305. Permission of the department chairperson is required for entry into all other courses.

### **Study Abroad for Majors**

Juniors and first-semester seniors who have completed French 300 or its equivalent may study for one or two semesters at the College's affiliated program in Paris or Nantes, France. Both credits and grades from this program will be transferred, and Financial Aid may be applied to participation. Students live with French families.

### **Study Abroad for Minors**

Students pursuing a minor in French may study for a semester at the College's affiliated program in Paris or Nantes. Both credits and grades from these programs will be transferred, and Financial Aid may be applied to participation. Students live with French families.

### **Beginning and Intermediate Program Abroad**

Students may complete the second language requirement in French by studying for a semester in Aix-en-Provence. The department's Beginning and Intermediate Program is offered every semester and includes two required courses in French language, plus three elective courses from areas such as political science, history, art, psychology, etc., which may satisfy other major or minor requirements. Students live with French families.

## **Course Listing**

Course level:

[100](#) | [200](#) | [300](#) | [400](#)

### ***FREN-101* French for Beginners**

Elements of speaking, reading, and writing French. Enrollment limited to those who have not studied French previously. A student may not receive credit for both 101 and 103.

### ***FREN-102* French for Beginners**

Elements of speaking, reading, and writing French. Enrollment limited to those who have not studied French previously. Successful completion of 101 is a prerequisite for entry into 102. A student may not receive credit for both 102 and 104.

### ***FREN-103* Elementary French**

Fundamentals of French grammar, composition and pronunciation. Emphasis on oral comprehension, verbal communication, reading and writing in the broader context of French and Francophone culture. Classroom interaction stresses oral-aural method of language learning. Enrollment limited to those with

previous study of French or according to achievement on the Departmental Placement Examination. A student may not receive credit for both 101 and 103.

### ***FREN-104 Elementary French***

Fundamentals of French grammar, composition and pronunciation. Emphasis on oral comprehension, verbal communication, reading and writing in the broader context of French and Francophone culture. Classroom interaction stresses oral-aural method of language learning. Enrollment limited to those with previous study of French. Successful completion of 103 is a prerequisite for entry into 104 unless a student is placed in 104 according to the Departmental Placement Examination. A student may not receive credit for both 102 and 104.

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### ***FREN-201 Intermediate French***

Grammar review and practice in oral French, with stress on reading and written expression in the spring. Contact with French culture is maintained throughout. Enrollment limited to those who have previously studied French and who have completed 101-102, or who are enrolled according to achievement on the Departmental Placement Examination. Successful completion of 201 is a prerequisite for entry into 202, unless student is placed there according to the placement examination.

### ***FREN-202 Intermediate French***

Grammar review and practice in oral French in the fall semester, with stress on reading and written expression in the spring. Contact with French culture is maintained throughout. Enrollment limited to those who have previously studied French and who have completed 101-102, or who are enrolled according to achievement on the Departmental Placement Examination. Successful completion of 201 is a prerequisite for entry into 202, unless student is placed there according to the placement examination.

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### ***FREN-300 Practice in Communication***

Oral, aural, and written practices of French structures. Collaborative writing, group discussions, individual compositions, and presentations. Recent French films serve as text. Course is a prerequisite for all 300-level courses. Offered every semester.

### ***FREN-305 Approach to Literary Analysis***

Reading and analysis, in their entirety, of representative selections of prose, poetry, and theatre. Course

aims to introduce students to interpretive strategies, and to make them more aware of and competent in the art of reading. Prerequisite: French 202 or equivalent. Required of all majors and minors. Course is a prerequisite for all literature courses at the 300-level for both majors and minors. Offered every semester.

***FREN-310 French Revolutions: Political, Social & Cultural Upheaval Since 1789***

Overview of the various literal and figurative revolutions in France following the Revolution of 1789. Course examines the many political changes from the rise of the French Republic to the political, social, demographic, economic, intellectual and artistic developments in the multicultural France of the 21st century, including its place and role in the expanding European Union. Required of all majors. Offered every semester.

***FREN-315 Exploring French Foodways***

Study of foodways in France through an anthropological lens, incorporating theories of taste, consumption, and gifts. Topics covered include French producers of food, from royal cooks and modern chefs to bakers and confectionery artists, as well as the shifting meanings attached to the production, consumption, and exchange of emblematic French foods (bread, wine, cheese, champagne, chocolate). Recent debates on fast food, genetically modified foods, childhood obesity, and the certification of regionally “authentic” foods are also explored. Prerequisite: French 310.

***FREN-326 19th Century Prose Fiction***

Reading and analysis, through lecture and discussion, of nineteenth-century novels and short stories of such major authors as Constant, Hugo, Sand, Stendhal, Balzac, Flaubert, Maupassant, and Zola. Prerequisite: French 305 or equivalent.

***FREN-331 Francophone Identities***

Study of literary texts from the Francophone world (French-speaking countries in North Africa, Sub-Saharan Africa, the Caribbean, Quebec, and Vietnam). In addition to their intrinsic literary worth, the selections bring to light the changing identities of formerly colonized people in a post-colonial world. Major emphasis placed on the study of the literary texts, but the historical and cultural context is also covered. Prerequisite: French 305 or equivalent.

***FREN-332 Image, Sound, Theory in French Film***

Study of selected major French films from the New Wave movement to recent cinema. Course is an introduction to the study of the techniques, theory, and semiotics of film as an art form. It includes a

reflection on the relationships between image production, social landscapes, and lifestyles in changing contemporary France. Students learn to distinguish between the production and reception of cinematic language.

***FREN-334 Diversity in French Cinema Since the 1980's***

Study of French films that present the perspectives and situations of groups or individuals who are marginalized or who find themselves excluded from the mainstream society. Since the 1980's, in France and in Europe, an increasing number of film directors have developed specific artistic techniques in order to emphasize social issues. In this course, techniques and language systems pertaining to each artistic expression are identified and debated. Concepts of exile, exclusion, identity, and questions of languages and cultures are examined as perceived in the films and also against today's French socio-political backdrop. The old debate about the role of art in society and in its relationship with reality is revisited.

***FREN-335 Women on Women in French Literature***

Study of the female experience through the words of women themselves. As Annie Leclerc pointed out in *Parole de femme*, for too long men have coopted language and assumed the task of telling women who they are. Course addresses such a presumption and examines, in both fiction and nonfiction, firsthand experience from childhood through aging. Prerequisite: French 305 or equivalent.

***FREN-336 Immigrants and Young Ethnics: The French Paradox***

Study of an emerging body of literature in France written by Beur authors as well as first generation of French African authors. The focus is on the experience of the protagonists who, when trying to mix their cultural heritage to the French culture, encounter a myriad of reactions. Major emphasis is placed on the study of literary texts, but the historical and cultural context is also covered as well as themes such as racism, post/colonialism, women, and religion. Prerequisite: French 305 or equivalent.

***FREN-337 Plural France***

Study of how social and cultural differences are understood, used, and managed in contemporary France. Through close readings of historical, anthropological, and sociological works, as well as analysis of literary, philosophical, and political texts, this course aims to shed light on recent polemics concerning headscarves, the banlieue, gay marriage, affirmative action, and the new Paris museums of immigration and "primitive" art. In the process, it invites reflection on the relativity of such notions as race, ethnicity, gender, and national identity. Prerequisite: French 310.

### ***FREN-340 Masterpieces of French Literature***

Reading and discussion of masterworks of French poetry, prose, and theater in their historical, artistic and social contexts. Works by such authors as Villon, Montaigne, Moliere, Mme de Lafayette, Voltaire, Balzac, Flaubert, Colette and Beckett are read in their entirety. Prerequisite: French 305 or equivalent.

### ***FREN-341 French Heroes and Mythologies***

Study of the concept of heroism and its place in the French culture and national ideal. This course explores various French heroic figures that have attained mythical status in the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. A small and accessible body of theoretical texts written by prominent French thinkers and historians who reflected on the question of heroes and nationalism supplements the texts of fiction.

### ***FREN-342 Classical Greek Heroes on the French Stage***

Reading and analysis of plays based on Greek myths by such authors as Corneille, Racine, Cocteau, Anouilh and Sartre. Comparison and contrast with the original myth and/or play helps elucidate "modern" responses to the eternal questions posed by classical Greece and its literary masters. Prerequisite: French 305 or equivalent.

### ***FREN-343 Gender Perspectives in the Contemporary French Novel***

Study of the conflicting male/female perspective in representative works by major twentieth-century French writers from Colette and Butor to Proust and Beauvoir. Prerequisite: French 305 or equivalent.

### ***FREN-344 Moralists & Immoralists in French Literature***

Study of topics in French literature over the centuries, examining works of prose whose thematics revolve around the question of morality. Course presents a survey of novels, short fiction, maxims, and fragments that either advance or reject the conventional moral system. Authors studied include La Bruyere, La Rochefoucauld, Pascal, Mme de Lafayette, de Bergerac, Sade, Diderot, Balzac, Flaubert, Huysmans, Gide, Duhamel, and Camus. Prerequisite: French 305 or equivalent.

### ***FREN-345 Turmoil and Loss in Quebecois Literature by Women***

Study of Quebecois identity through careful reading of major literary works by women authors from French Canada. Course focuses not only on the literal periods of unrest as well as on the losses suffered by the Quebecois people but also on the metaphorical turmoil and loss experienced by the characters in the chosen novels. Various aspects of the cultural background are presented (language, religion, music, and art) in an effort to understand the evolution of Quebec's literary tradition and its impact in today's

society. A small and accessible body of theory supplements the works of fiction. Prerequisite: French 305 or equivalent.

### ***FREN-346 The French Stage***

Study of topics in French theater over the centuries, examining works of the stage whose thematics and use of the theatrical dynamic illustrate the tradition of the genre. The course presents a survey of plays which exploit the medium of the stage and display a broad thematic horizon. Authors to be studied include Rotrou, Corneille, Racine, Molière, Voltaire, Beaumarchais, Hugo, Musset, Giraudoux, Camus, Sartre, and Ionesco. Prerequisite: French 305 or equivalent.

### ***FREN-350 Advanced Stylistics***

Intensive practice in the refinement of writing skills directed toward a sophisticated and idiomatic use of the language. Coursework includes composition, translation, comparative stylistics, French for use in commercial and other correspondence, and work in the spoken language.

### ***FREN-351 Phonetics and Diction***

Phonetic theory, practice, and transcription. Intensive training in pronunciation and diction. Intended for majors/minors prior to foreign study.

### ***FREN-352 Translation***

Study and practice in translating from French to English and from English to French. Course develops the ability to render idiomatic French into idiomatic English, and vice-versa.

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### ***FREN-400 Seminar***

Intensive study of a particular aspect of French literature, civilization, or culture to be determined by the instructor. Past offerings include The Art of Emile Zola, The Image of Women in French Literature: A Feminist Perspective, The Gaze and Self-Image in French Film, 1959-89 and Postcolonial Immigrations in France. Course is for seniors (in the final semester) to complete undergraduate work in French. Prerequisites: Limited to seniors, except with permission of instructor and approval of department chairperson. Offered every spring.

### ***FREN-450 Individualized Study-Tutorial***

Individualized tutorial counting toward the minimum requirements in a major or minor, graded A-F

***FREN-451 Individualized Study-Tutorial***

Individualized tutorial counting toward the minimum requirements in a major or minor, graded S/U

***FREN-452 Individualized Study-Tutorial***

Individualized tutorial not counting in the minimum requirements in a major or minor, graded A-F

***FREN-453 Individualized Study-Tutorial***

Individualized tutorial not counting in the minimum requirements in a major or minor, graded S/U

***FREN-460 Individualized Study-Research***

Individualized research counting toward the minimum requirements in a major or minor, graded A-F

***FREN-461 Individualized Study-Research***

Individualized research counting toward the minimum requirements in a major or minor, graded S/U

***FREN-462 Individualized Study-Research***

Individualized research not counting in the minimum requirements in a major or minor, graded A-F

***FREN-463 Individualized Study-Research***

Individualized research not counting in the minimum requirements in a major or minor graded S/U

***FREN-470 Individualized Study-Intern***

Internship counting toward the minimum requirements in a major or minor, graded A-F

***FREN-471 Individualized Study-Intern***

Internship counting toward the minimum requirements in a major or minor, graded S/U

### ***FREN-472 Individualized Study-Internship***

Internship not counting in the minimum requirements in a major or minor, graded A-F

### ***FREN-473 Individualized Study-Internship***

Internship not counting in the minimum requirements in a major or minor, graded S/U

### ***FREN-474 Summer Internship***

Summer Internship graded A-F, counting in the minimum requirements for a major or minor only with written permission filed in the Registrar's Office.

### ***FREN-475 Summer Internship***

Summer Internship graded S/U, counting in the minimum requirements for a major or minor only with written permission filed in the Registrar's Office

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