FRENCH AND FRANCOPHONE STUDIES (BI-CO)

Department Website:
https://www.haverford.edu/french

The Bi-College (Bi-Co) French and Francophone Studies program at Haverford and Bryn Mawr is recognized as one of the top undergraduate French programs in the country. The major in French lays the foundation for an understanding and appreciation of French language and of French and Francophone cultures through their literatures and the history of their arts, thought, and institutions.

Course offerings serve those with interest in French and Francophone literature, literary theory, and criticism, as well as those with interest in studying France and French-speaking countries from an interdisciplinary perspective. As the faculty teaches exclusively in French, a thorough knowledge of the language is required. Our courses adopt a variety of approaches, including literary studies, film and media studies, social history of ideas, and the study of politics and popular culture.

Our program is known for its rigor. Unlike at universities and Ivy League institutions, faculty rather than graduate students teach our undergraduates in French. Study abroad in France or in another Francophone country is an integral part of our students’ training. Virtually all majors spend one semester abroad (see below).

Often our graduates have chosen to double major, in political science, economics, anthropology, comparative literature, or in the natural sciences; some opt to minor or concentrate in a related field, such as art history or international economic relations.

Learning Goals

We wish to empower our students to:

a. Speak, read, and write in French with near-native proficiency.

b. Engage the French and Francophone world and achieve cultural literacy.

c. Become aware of cultural and linguistic diversity as global citizens who may someday work in the Francophone world.

d. Communicate, with logic and empathy, among different perspectives and values especially in cross-cultural contexts.

e. Think critically about texts, films, music, and fine arts as objects of inquiry.


g. Prepare for and pursue graduate studies, if they wish, in a variety of fields.

Haverford’s Institutional Learning Goals are available on the President’s website, at http://hav.to/learninggoals.

Curriculum

Unless they have not previously studied French, all entering students (first-year and transfers) who wish to pursue their study of French must take a placement examination upon entrance to Haverford. Those students who begin French have two options. They may study the language:

- In the intensive sections (the sequence FREN 001IN–002IN of Intensive Elementary French, only at Bryn Mawr); or
- In the non-intensive sections (the sequence FREN H001–FREN H002 of Non-Intensive Elementary French, on both campuses).

At the intermediate level students also have the choice to study the language non-intensively (the sequence FREN H003–FREN H004), or intensively (FREN 005):

- FREN H003–FREN H004 (Non-Intensive Intermediate French) is a year-long course, requiring both semesters for credit. It is open to students who have taken FREN H001–FREN H002 or been placed by departmental examination.
- FREN 005 (Intensive Intermediate French):
  - Is open only to students who have been specially placed by the departmental placement exam or to students who have taken the year-long Intensive Elementary course (at Bryn Mawr only).
  - Requires its graduates to take FREN H102 (Introduction à l’analyse littéraire et culturelle II), or FREN H105 (Directions de la France contemporaine) in semester II for credit.
  - FREN H003 and FREN 005 are only offered in the fall semester.

Although it is possible to minor or major in French using either of the two sequences, we encourage students placed at the 001 level who are considering doing so to take the intensive option.

The 100-level courses introduce students to the study of French and Francophone literatures and cultures, and give special attention to the speaking and writing of French.

Courses at the 200-level are devoted to advanced language training (FREN H212 and FREN 260; you may not take both) and French and Francophone literatures and civilizations from the beginning to the present day.

Advanced (300-level) courses offer detailed study either of individual authors, genres, and movements or of particular periods, themes, and problems in French and Francophone cultures. For both options, the departments admit students to advanced courses after satisfactory completion of two semesters of 200-level courses in French.

The Department of French and Francophone Studies also cooperates with the departments of Italian (only at Bryn Mawr) and Spanish in the Romance Languages Major at Bryn Mawr.
Major Requirements
Starting with the class of 2023

Majors must acquire fluency in the French language, both written and oral. Taking 212 or 260, or their equivalent when studying abroad, could help them to do so.

- FREN 005–102 or 005–105; or FREN 101–102 or 101–105 (2 credits)
- 200-level sequence: three courses, two of which (maximum) may be taken outside the department, and the Junior Seminar (JSEM). Courses taken outside the department should contribute to your independent program of study and have to be preapproved by your major advisor and entered in your major work plan. JSEM is offered each semester (4 credits)
- 300-level sequence: two courses, one of which may be taken outside the department, pending pre-approval of your major advisor (2 credits)
- Senior Experience: it consists of a thesis development workshop (Senior Seminar = FREN H398) in the fall semester and either a Senior Thesis (FREN H399) or a third 300-level course culminating in the Senior Essay during the spring semester. In either case, the work of the spring semester is capped by an oral defense (for details see The Senior Project section; 2 credits).

Senior Project

After taking Senior Conference in semester I of the senior year, students have the choice in semester II of writing a thesis in French (40-50 pp.) under the direction of a faculty member or taking a 300-level course in which they write a Senior Essay in French (15-25 pp.) The first choice offers self-selected students who already have developed a clearly defined subject in semester I the opportunity to pursue independent research and writing of the thesis with a faculty advisor. The second choice allows students, often double majors with another thesis, the opportunity to produce a substantial, but shorter, piece of work within the structure of their 300-level course in semester II.

Ideally, students willing to write a Senior Thesis define their subject, identify their advisors and start discussing the project with them by the end of the Junior Seminar. Discussion continues in the fall of senior year with the expectation that the student submit a thesis proposal in the context of the Senior Seminar. Depending on the transdisciplinary nature of the subject, the student may be advised to select a second reader in another department. The choice of the language (French or English) is made in consultation with the primary thesis advisor.

Senior Project Assessment

Both Senior Thesis and Senior Essay include a final oral defense lasting thirty minutes. At this time, the student is expected to speak with authority about the research, the writing process, and some of the intellectual ramifications of the work accomplished.

Senior Project Learning Goals

At the end of their career at Haverford, we expect our students to have achieved an extensive appreciation of French and Francophone literatures and cultures as well as an advanced level of linguistic and cultural fluency in French. We also require that they demonstrate the capacity to analyze a text and critically engage it in a sustained fashion, formulate an argument and present it intelligibly in both oral and written form. Whether writing a thesis or a senior paper they must show that they can conduct research efficiently.

Requirements for Honors

Students with a GPA of 3.7 or above are usually recommended for departmental honors.

Minor Requirements

- FREN 005–102 or 005–105; or FREN 101–102 or 101–105 (2 credits).
- Four courses at the 200 and 300 levels. At least one course must be at the 300 level (4 credits).

Related Programs

French Teacher Certification

The Department of French and Francophone Studies offers a certification program in secondary teacher education. For more information, see the description of the Education Program.

French A.B./M.A. Program

Particularly well-qualified students may undertake work toward the joint A.B./M.A. degree in French. Students may complete such a program in four or five years and undertake it with the approval of the department and of the dean of Bryn Mawr’s Graduate School of Arts and Sciences.

Study Abroad

Study abroad in France is an integral part of our departmental training. We expect, among other things, students majoring or minoring in our department to achieve an advanced linguistic and cultural fluency in French. Therefore, we highly recommend that they participate in a study abroad program in France, preferably for one semester during the junior year with one of the programs recommended by the College. Other valuable options do exist, including the Institut d’Avignon program offered by Bryn Mawr College during the summer intersession.

Before going abroad for a semester-long program during junior year, students must have:
- declared their major or minor by the end of sophomore year;
- completed the 100-level series of French courses or one course at the 200-level during the semester prior to departure.

Affiliated Faculty

Koffi Anyinefa
Professor and Chair of French and Francophone Studies

Kathryne Corbin
Assistant Professor of French and Francophone Studies
The speaking and understanding of French are emphasized particularly during the first semester. The work includes regular use of the Language Learning Center and is supplemented by intensive oral practice sessions. The course meets in intensive (nine hours each week) and non-intensive (five hours each week) sections. This is a year-long course; both semesters (001 and 002) are required for credit.

(Offered: Spring 2023)

FREN H003 INTERMEDIATE FRENCH NON INTENSIVE (1.0 Credit)
David Sedley, Kathryne Corbin
Division: Humanities
Domain(s): A: Meaning, Interpretation (Texts)
The emphasis on speaking and understanding French is continued, texts from French literature and cultural media are read, and short papers are written in French. Students use the Language Learning Center regularly and attend supplementary oral practice sessions. The course meets in non-intensive (three hours each week) sections which are supplemented by an extra hour per week with an assistant. This is a year-long course; both semesters (003 and 004) are required for credit. Prerequisite(s): FREN 001 and 002, or French placement exam.

(Offered: Fall 2022)

FREN H004 INTERMEDIATE FRENCH (1.0 Credit)
Christophe Corbin, Kathryne Corbin
Division: Humanities
Domain(s): A: Meaning, Interpretation (Texts)
The emphasis on speaking and understanding French is continued, texts from French literature and cultural media are read, and short papers are written in French. Students use the Language Learning Center regularly and attend supplementary oral practice sessions. The course meets in non-intensive (three hours each week) sections which are supplemented by an extra hour per week with an assistant. This is a year-long course; both semesters (003 and 004) are required for credit. Prerequisite(s): FREN 001 and 002, or French placement exam

(Offered: Spring 2023)

FREN H101 INTRODUCTION À L'ANALYSE LITTÉRAIRE ET CULTURELLE I (1.0 Credit)
David Sedley, Koffi Anyinefa
Division: Humanities
Domain(s): A: Meaning, Interpretation (Texts)
Presentation of essential problems in literary and cultural analysis by close reading of works selected from various periods and genres and by analysis of voice and image in French writing and film. Participation in discussion and practice in written and oral expression are emphasized, as are grammar review and laboratory exercises. Prerequisite(s): FREN 003 and 004, or French placement exam

(Offered: Fall 2022)

FREN H102 INTRODUCTION À L'ANALYSE LITTÉRAIRE ET CULTURELLE II (1.0 Credit)
David Sedley
Division: Humanities
Domain(s): A: Meaning, Interpretation (Texts)
The goal of this course, the sequel to French 101, is to continue to develop your powers of expression and analysis in French. A difference between French 102 and 105 (the other sequel to 101) is that here the objects of study will be literary, and that through them we will consider what the value of studying literature is. In French and Francophone cultures, literature has an important and volatile relation to the question of civilization. The relation is important because literature has been used to define and to instill a sense of civility, that is, what it takes for people to live peacefully with one another. On the other hand, the relation is volatile because people disagree about literature’s role in defining civility as well as about how to define civility (and therefore civilization) itself. We will explore these fundamental issues in French and Francophone cultures through texts and films of diverse periods, genres, and origins. Authors and artists will include Marivaux, Abbé de Chénier, Jean de La Fontaine, Victor Hugo, François de Graffigny, Michel de Montaigne, and Patrick Chamoiseau.
Prerequisite(s): FREN 005 or 101 (Offered: Spring 2023)

FREN H105 DIRECTIONS DE LA FRANCE CONTEMPORAINE (1.0 Credit)
Kathryne Corbin
Division: Humanities
Domain(s): A: Meaning, Interpretation (Texts)
An examination of contemporary society in France and Francophone cultures as portrayed in recent documents and film. Emphasizing the tension in contemporary French-speaking societies between tradition and change, the course focuses on subjects such as family structures and the changing role of women, cultural and linguistic identity, an increasingly multiracial society, the individual and institutions (religious, political, educational), and les loisirs. In addition to the basic text and review of grammar, readings are chosen from newspapers, contemporary literary texts, magazines, and they are complemented by video materials. Offered in the second semester. Prerequisite(s): FREN 101 and 102/105, or 005 and 102/105 (Offered: Spring 2023)

FREN H202 RÊVES D'EMPIRE ET RENAISSANCE FRANÇAISE (1.0 Credit)
David Sedley
Division: Humanities
Domain(s): A: Meaning, Interpretation (Texts)
Pendant sa Renaissance (d'environ 1500 à 1600) la France n'avait pas l'empire qu'elle aurait plus tard. Néanmoins, cette période représente un point tournant dans l'histoire de la vision impériale française—ainsi que de la critique de cette vision. Ce cours juxtapose le rêve de fonder un empire géo-politique et le programme culturel de la Renaissance. Nous verrons deux ambitions comme étroitement liées: 1) celle de transformer la France d'une ancienne colonie (de l'Empire romain) en le centre de son propre empire; et 2) celle de transmettre la Renaissance d'Italie en France. Nous étudierons une série de projets littéraires, artistiques et architecturaux qui manifestent non seulement cette fusion de culture et d'impérialisme, mais aussi sa mise en question. (Les auteurs de ces projets sont François Rabelais, Geoffroy Tory, Joachim Du Bellay, Marguerite de Navarre, Michel de Montaigne, et Léonard da Vinci, entre autres). Cette expérience nous permettra de mettre en perspective historique la pratique du colonialisme et post-colonialisme français des siècles suivants. In French. Prerequisite(s): FREN 101 and 102/105, or 005 and 102/105 (Offered: Spring 2023)

FREN H203 THÉÂTRE ET RAISON D’ÉTAT EN FRANCE AU GRAND SIÈCLE (1.0 Credit)
David Sedley
Division: Humanities
Domain(s): A: Meaning, Interpretation (Texts)
What makes a culture "great"? A good place to explore this question is 17th-century France. It is often thought that during this century, French culture became great—hence the century's nickname, le grand siècle. In this course we will consider the hypothesis of French grandeur, but not to assess it as true or false. Rather, we will approach it as a notion that gets constructed, applied, and interrogated in the 1600s through a series of theatrical, political, architectural, theological, and scientific œuvres. These works—mainly by Molière, Madame de Lafayette, Racine, La Bruyère, Corneille, Descartes, Elisabeth de Bohême, and André Le Nôtre—differ radically in their ideas, forms, perspectives, and effects. Nevertheless, they are all regarded in France as "classics" in that they serve in the classroom as essential ingredients of an education. The significance of this class, therefore, extends beyond the specific period it covers to include French culture in general and the values that it may (or may not) have today. We will pay particular attention to theatrical plays as objects of individual passion and political appropriation, to the place of women with respect to ideologies of state and reason, to the establishment of a centralized—i.e., modern—state, as represented through the palace of Versailles and its gardens. In French. Prerequisite(s): FREN 101 and 102/105, or 005 and 102/105

FREN H212 GRAMMAIRE AVANCÉE: COMPOSITION ET CONVERSATION (1.0 Credit)
Christophe Corbin
Division: Humanities
Domain(s): A: Meaning, Interpretation (Texts)
The principal objective of this course is to allow its participants to master the techniques of composition and to write with a growing ease in order to express themselves with pertinent and original ideas. Students will contribute to the creation of an online news blog and will experiment with writing different genres of journalism, as well as editing a televised news segment. Assigned readings on current news and films will be the subject of discussion. The course will allow students to improve their written and oral French, to revise certain important aspects of French grammar, to develop their analytical and critical senses, and to develop their knowledge of French and francophone culture.
Prerequisite(s): FREN 101 and 102/105, or 005 and 102/105

FREN H225 POLITIQUE ET POÉTIQUE: LA FEMME ET LA PRESSE QUOTIDIENNE (1836-1918) (1.0 Credit)
Kathryne Corbin
Division: Humanities
Domain(s): A: Meaning, Interpretation (Texts)
In this course, we consider pivotal moments in French culture, society, and history from the perspectives of women witnesses. The first generation of women journalists modernized the image of the woman and gave new representation to women in the press. Crosslisted: Gender and Sexuality Studies, Visual Studies

Prerequisite(s): French 101-102 or French 101-105; or instructor permission

FREN H250 INTRODUCTION À LA LITTÉRATURE FRANCOPHONE: ECRIRETS/FICITONS DE SOI FRANCOPHONES (1.0 Credit)
Koffi Anyinefa
Division: Humanities
Domain(s): A: Meaning, Interpretation (Texts)
Writing, reflecting, about one’s life necessarily involves writing about others. How do contemporary Francophone writers and filmmakers understand and express the inter-relational nature of selfhood, identity, and community? In this course we will study a representative sample of Francophone literary and filmic texts in light of current perspectives on postcolonial autobiographical narratives. Possible writers and filmmakers may include Al Malik, Begag, Bouraoui, Bugul, Chamoiseau, Feraoun, Kane, Peck, Pineau and Rahmani. Prerequisite(s): FREN 101 and 102/105, or 005 and 102/105
(Offered: Fall 2022)

FREN H254 FRENCH IN ENGLISH: COLONIALISM THROUGH FRENCH AND FRANCOPHONE FILMS (1.0 Credit)
Koffi Anyinefa
Division: Humanities
Domain(s): A: Meaning, Interpretation (Texts)
This course is an introduction to the history of French colonization through some popular films released, most of them, in the 80s and 90s (Camp de Thiaroye, Chocolat, Fort Saganne, Indochine, La victoire en chantant, Outremer, to name a few). We will begin with an overview of the history and critique of French imperialism, talk about economic, political, ideological and psychological foundations of the colonial enterprise, and then study the films. These materials offer complex and sometimes divergent views on colonization but from their confrontation should arise not only a general but also a critical understanding of colonization and its repercussions. Crosslisted: COML. Pre-requisite(s): First-year writing course
(Offered: Spring 2023)

FREN H262 DÉBAT, DISCUSSION, DIALOGUE (1.0 Credit)
Kathryne Corbin
Division: Humanities
Domain(s): A: Meaning, Interpretation (Texts)
The art of conversation and debate has a long history in French culture. For the French, to engage in constructive public debate is often divisive, yet offers a way to negotiate solutions. Debate in more intimate situations fosters respect among colleagues, friends, and strangers. In this course, students will build oral and analytical skills by engaging in the discussion of topics ranging from philosophical to political as we consider current events of the Francophone world.
(Offered: Fall 2022)

FREN H298 JUNIOR SEMINAR: REPRÉSENTATIONS DE L’ALTÉRITÉ: CARMEN DE MÉRIMÉE ET SES ADAPTATIONS (1.0 Credit)
Koffi Anyinefa
Domain(s): A: Meaning, Interpretation (Texts)
Junior Seminar is designed to introduce the knowledge and skill-set expected of our rising seniors: a certain familiarity with the more broadly used critical references of our discipline; a capacity to read and interpret critically a “text” (whether literary, cinematographic, historical, social, etc.) in detail and in a sustained fashion; knowing how to formulate an argument and present it coherently (whether orally or in written form); knowing how to conduct research efficiently; and knowing how to cite this research effectively in an argument and in a manner that follows the rules of the discipline. Pre-requisite(s): One 200-level course in French. Open to non-majors a well

FREN H312 ADV TOPICS FRENCH LITERATURE: L’ÉDUCATION ET SES SUJETS CHEZ DESCARTES, LA FONTAINE ET ROUSSEAU (1.0 Credit)
David Sedley
Division: Humanities
Domain(s): A: Meaning, Interpretation (Texts)
The goal of this course is to put modern ideas about education into historical perspective by looking at some of their early-modern French counterparts. Will consider how certain subjects — inclusivity, civility, technology, poetry, reason, and passions, as well as persons of different social categories—developed into educational fixtures. The syllabus will centrally feature three authors whose works connect and collide with one another: Descartes, La Fontaine, and Rousseau. We will also read some recent pedagogical theories in order to see how they reflect, reform, or reject early-modern notions. Crosslisted: FREN and COML
(Offered: Fall 2022)

FREN H312B ADV TOPICS FRENCH LIT: MIGRATIONS: HOSPITALITÉS ET HOSTILITÉS (1.0 Credit)
Koffi Anyinefa
Division: Humanities
Domain(s): A: Meaning, Interpretation (Texts)
Christophe Corbin, Corine Ragueneau Wells

FREN B002  ELEMENTARY FRENCH  (1.0 Credit)

(offers: at least one 200-level course
(Offered: Spring 2023)

FREN H398 SENIOR CONFERENCE  (1.0 Credit)
David Sedley
Division: Humanities
A weekly seminar examining representative French and Francophone literary texts and cultural documents from all periods, and the interpretive problems they raise. Close reading and dissection of texts, complemented by extensive secondary readings from different schools of interpretation, prepare students to analyze others critical stances and to develop their own. In addition to short essays and oral presentations, students write a long paper each semester and end the year with Senior Comprehensives, which consist of an oral explication of a French literary text or cultural document and a four-hour written examination.

FREN H399 SENIOR THESIS  (1.0 Credit)
Division: Humanities
(Offered: Spring 2023)

Courses at Bryn Mawr

FREN B001  ELEMENTARY FRENCH  (1.0 Credit)
Christophe Corbin, Corine Ragueneau Wells, Julien Suaudeau
Division: Humanities
Domain(s): A: Meaning, Interpretation (Texts)
The emphasis on speaking, understanding, and writing French is continued; texts from French literature and cultural media are read; and short papers are written in French. Students regularly attend supplementary oral practice sessions. The course meets in non-intensive (three hours a week) sections. This is a year-long course. Prerequisite: FREN B002 or placement required.
(Offered: Fall 2022)

Courses at Bryn Mawr

FREN B001IN  INTENSIVE ELEMENTARY FRENCH  (1.5 Credits)
Agnès Peysson-Zeiss
Division: Humanities
The second half of a two-semester beginning sequence designed to help students attain a level of proficiency to function comfortably in a French-speaking environment. It is both speaking-intensive (through pair work, group work and drills) and writing-intensive (through blogs and essays). In drill sessions, students develop the ability to speak and understand increasingly well through songs, skits, debates, and a variety of activities. Class meets nine hours per week.
(Offered: Spring 2023)

FREN B003  INTERMEDIATE FRENCH  (1.0 Credit)
Julien Suaudeau
Division: Humanities
Domain(s): A: Meaning, Interpretation (Texts)
The emphasis on speaking and understanding of French are emphasized particularly during the first semester, and written competence is stressed as well in semester II. The work includes intensive oral practice sessions. The course meets in non-intensive (five hours a week) sections. This is a year-long course.
(Offered: Spring 2023)

FREN B004  INTERMEDIATE FRENCH  (1.0 Credit)
Agnès Peysson-Zeiss, Corine Ragueneau Wells
Division: Humanities
Domain(s): A: Meaning, Interpretation (Texts)
The emphasis on speaking, understanding, and writing French is continued; texts from French literature and cultural media are read; and short papers are written in French. Students regularly attend supplementary oral practice sessions. The course meets in non-intensive (three hours a week) sections that are supplemented by an extra hour per week with an assistant. This is a year-long course. Prerequisite: FREN B002 or placement required.
(Offered: Fall 2022)

FREN B005  INTENSIVE INTERMEDIATE FRENCH  (1.5 Credits)
Agnès Peysson-Zeiss, Corine Ragueneau Wells
Division: Humanities
Domain(s): A: Meaning, Interpretation (Texts)
The emphasis on speaking and understanding French is continued; literary and cultural texts are read and increasingly longer papers are written in French. In addition to three class meetings a week, students develop their skills in group sessions with the professors...
et priorité économique montre-t-il que le pouvoir politique est en crise aujourd'hui ? L'État de droit peut-il demeurer un État de droit si sa fonction première est de garantir une stricte application des valeurs universalistes de la France ? Pourquoi la laïcité est-elle en cause à l'heure actuelle ? Est ce "séparatisme" qui menacerait la cohésion nationale et les valeurs de la République ? Quel est le rôle des États de religion dans l'espace européen ?

Ce cours a pour objet les dynamiques et les tensions qui structurent ou déstructurent la France contemporaine. Dans quelle mesure la France a-t-elle profité de la colonisation et de l'esclavage pour devenir la France ? Le modèle républicain est-il mis à mal par ce qu'on appelle les "communautarismes", ou n'est-il lui même qu'un déguisement du communautarisme de la majorité ? Quel est ce "séparatisme" qui menacera la cohésion nationale et les valeurs universalistes de la France ? Pourquoi la laïcité est-elle en crise aujourd'hui ? L'État de droit peut-il demeurer un État de droit face au djihadisme ? L'arbitrage impossible entre priorité sanitaire et priorité économique montre-t-il que le pouvoir politique est devenu impuissant ? Les travaux à rendre vous permettront de vous exprimer dans des formats innovants (podcast, présentation vidéo, réalisation de pages Internet) et de perfectionner vos compétences à l'oral aussi bien qu’à l’écrit. Prerequisite: FREN 005 or 101.

(Offered: Spring 2023)

FREN B201 LE CHEVALIER, LA DAME, ET LE PRÊTRE: ÉTUDES DE FEMMES, DE CLASSES SOCIALES ET D’ETHNIES (1.0 Credit)
Grace Armstrong
Division: Humanities
Domain(s): A: Meaning, Interpretation (Texts)

Using literary texts, historical documents and letters as a mirror of the social classes that they address, this interdisciplinary course studies the principal preoccupations of secular and religious female and male authors in France and Norman England from the eleventh century through the fifteenth. Selected works from epic, lais, roman courtois, fabliaux, theater, letters, and contemporary biography are read in modern French translation. Prerequisite: FREN 102 or 105.

FREN B207 OUVIR LA VOIX: INTRODUCTION AUX ÉTUDES FRANCOPHONES (1.0 Credit)
Edwige Crucifix
Division: Humanities
Domain(s): A: Meaning, Interpretation (Texts)

This course provides students with an overview of foundational concepts, methods and texts relevant to Francophone Studies. We will engage with past and present debates relating to identity, diversity, nation and empire in the colonial and postcolonial contexts and explore the specificity of Francophone Studies with regards to the field of postcolonial studies. While focused on literature, the course will also explore other forms of cultural production (movies, graphic novels, political speeches, etc.) from sub-Saharan Africa, the Maghreb, the Caribbean and Vietnam. The course will train students in literary analysis and develop their ability to speak and write critically in French. Prerequisites: FREN 102 or 105.

FREN B208 LA DIVERSITÉ DANS LE CINÉMA FRANÇAIS CONTEMPORAIN (1.0 Credit)
Julien Suaudeau

Until the closing years of the 20th century, ethnic diversity was virtually absent from French cinema. While Francophone directors from Northern and Sub-Saharan Africa debunked colonialism and neocolonialism in their films, minorities hardly appeared on French screens. Movies were made by white filmmakers for a white audience. Since the 1980's and the 1990's, minorities have become more visible in French films. Are French Blacks and Arabs portrayed in French cinema beyond stereotypes, or are they still objects of a euro-centric gaze? Have minorities gained agency in storytelling, not just as actors, but as directors? What is the national narrative at play in the recent French films that focus on diversity? Is it still "us against them", or has the new generation of French filmmakers found a way to include the different components of French identity into a collective subject?
From Bouchareb to Gomis, from Kechiche to Benyamina and Jean-Baptiste, this course will map out the visual fault lines of the French self and examine the prospects for a post-republican sense of community. This course will be taught in French. Open to non-majors. There will be a weekly screening on Sunday, 7:00pm-9:00pm.

**FREN B211 THE ARTS AND HEALING: THE MANY FACETS OF WEST AFRICA** *(1.0 Credit)*
*Edwige Crucifix*

This course will borrow from Achille Mbembe’s views of Africa in which it is decolonization that ushered a temporal rupture which made possible a wide array of futures for the continent. After an introduction on the history of the region (background, French influence and gender relations), the 360 students will be able to examine local and global knowledge and their potentialities on the ground through a variety of approaches that include healing practices related to well-being in various areas of life, through the arts, literature, music and film. It is this exchange with both diasporic and local artists and thinkers, through lectures, readings and workshops at Bryn Mawr and in Senegal that students will be able to find some of the answers this cluster is raising. They will investigate the consequences of decolonization into the present through a series of modules and examine the differences, consequences and overlap of all the knowledge, creativity and futures that exist on and for the continent.

*(Offered: Spring 2023)*

**FREN B213 THEORY IN PRACTICE: CRITICAL DISCOURSES IN THE HUMANITIES** *(1.0 Credit)*
*Agnès Peysson-Zeiss*

By bringing together the study of major theoretical currents of the 20th century and the practice of analyzing literary works in the light of theory, this course aims at providing students with skills to use literary theory in their own scholarship. The selection of theoretical readings reflects the history of theory (psychoanalysis, structuralism, narratology), as well as the currents most relevant to the contemporary academic field: Post-structuralism, Post-colonialism, Gender Studies, and Ecocriticism. They are paired with a diverse range of short stories (Poe, Kafka, Camus, Borges, Calvino, Morrison, Djébar, Ngozi Adichie) that we discuss along with our study of theoretical texts. The class will be conducted in English with an additional hour in French for students wishing to take it for French credit.

*(Offered: Spring 2023)*

**FREN B219 DIASPORIC VOICES: VOYAGES AND IDENTITY NARRATIVES** *(1.0 Credit)*
*Erin Mouré*

Erin Mouré’s quote “once you cross a border, the border is not the same any longer” raises the question of identity and interrogates territorial integrity, wondering how people and communities morph after such life changing events. In this course, students will question the very notion of experience and being through travel; as well as its meaning in terms of identity, locus, and language. Through the works offered, we invite students to approach icons, visual and written texts with new theories and fresh eyes to interrogate the ethics of travel writing, filming and documenting, looking for ways to empower readers about history and migrations. Students will reflect on the types of travels: temporary or voluntary travels, migration under various forms of duress (violence, war, economic penury, persecution for reasons of religion, politics or sexual identity). The works read and seen will encourage discussions about reasons for leaving home and invite a scrutiny about how travel writers and filmmakers gaze and inscribe it on the page or the screen. We will then examine narratives dealing with the relationship of former colonies with its “métropole,” reading texts from various regions including France, raising the question of identity. There will be an extra hour for students taking it for credit towards French minor. Prerequisite: FREN B102 or B105 if counting towards French major or minor.

**FREN B223 THE FIRE EVERY TIME: CINEMATIC REBELS ACROSS THE ATLANTIC** *(1.0 Credit)*
*Julien Suaudeau*

Cinema, as an art form, can be seen as a rebellion against reality. Then again, cinema as mass entertainment with uber-industrial might can yield the most contagious legitimization of power and social norms. Can filmmakers be genuine agents of change and social justice? Do their creations have the power to disrupt the status quo? If so, how are some films designed to subvert systemic normalization and disseminated forms of domination? In this course, we will map out rebellious modern (post WW2) cinema from both sides of the Atlantic. Setting aside chronology and conventional delimitations, we will go back and forth across genres (war film, thriller, ghost story, social realism, drama…) between contemporary and older avatars of cinematic resistance, between documentary and fiction, and between France, the U.S., West Africa and Latin America. We will investigate a series of films that focus on non-compliance and individual resilience in the face of systemic adversity, while sharing a common oppositional ethos applied to different forms of domination/violence: anticolonialism, anti-capitalism, antiracism, as well as ecology, pacifism and a critique of carceral institutions. For each of them, we will study how the style of cinematography is designed not just to support a narrative, but as a counter-language aimed at subverting the conservative grammar codes of the mainstream. This course will be taught in English. Prerequisites: FREN 102 or 105 only for students taking this for French credit with additional hour.

**FREN B224 RACISME ET ANTIRACISME EN FRANCE** *(1.0 Credit)*
*Julien Suaudeau*

Co-constructed with students, this course considers the genealogy of French racism as a socio-political construct and as a system of domination. We will analyze how racism “made in France” was designed, theorized, and deployed, but we will also study how its legacy is deconstructed and questioned by contemporary artists whose work focuses on the French colonial history. Art will be examined as a response to the violence of racism and discrimination - a process by which creators find their agency, their voice, and their strength, emancipating the person from the
victimization framework. The class will be taught in French and will include interactions with the artists.

**FREN B260 ATELIER D'ÉCRITURE** *(1.0 Credit)*

*Julien Suaudeau*

**Division:** Humanities

**Domain(s):** A: Meaning, Interpretation (Texts)


**FREN B262 DÉBAT, DISCUSSION, DIALOGUE** *(1.0 Credit)*

*Agnès Peysson-Zeiss*

**Division:** Humanities

This advanced study of oral communication develops students’ linguistic skills in narration, hypothesizing, persuasion or counseling, debate, negotiation, etc. Such skills will be nurtured through enrichment of vocabulary, reinforcement of accuracy in manipulation of complex grammatical structures, and enhancement of discursive strategies. The authentic material (both print and film) which serves as the basis of analytical discussion will reflect issues of contemporary importance; for example, France and Third World francophone countries.

**FREN B298 JUNIOR SEMINAR** *(1.0 Credit)*

*Grace Armstrong*

**Division:** Humanities

Junior Seminar is designed to introduce the knowledge and skill-set expected of our rising seniors: a certain familiarity with the more broadly used critical references of our discipline; a capacity to read and interpret critically a “text” (whether literary, cinematographic, historical, social, etc.) in detail and in a sustained fashion; knowing how to formulate an argument and present it coherently to peers and professors (whether orally or in written form); knowing how to conduct research efficiently in a pre-determined amount of time; and knowing how to cite this research effectively in an argument and in a manner that follows the rules of the discipline. Prerequisites: 2 (200-level) courses, with exceptions for students who have had fewer courses.

(Offered: Fall 2022, Spring 2023)

**FREN B302 LE PRINTEMPS DE LA PAROLE FÉMININE: FEMMES ÉCRIVAINDES DES DÉBUTS** *(1.0 Credit)*

*Grace Armstrong*

**Division:** Humanities

This study of selected women authors from Latin CE-Carolingian period through the Middle Ages, Renaissance and 17th century — among them, Perpetua, Hrotswitha, Marie de France, the trobaritz, Christine de Pisan, Louise Labé, Marguerite de Navarre, and Madame de Lafayette — examines the way in which they appropriate and transform the male writing tradition and define themselves as self-conscious artists within or outside it. Particular attention will be paid to identifying recurring concerns and structures in their works, and to assessing their importance to women’s writing in general: among them, the poetics of silence, reproduction as a metaphor for artistic creation, and sociopolitical engagement. Prerequisite: two 200-level courses or permission of instructor.

(Offered: Fall 2022)

**FREN B306 LIBERTINAGE ET SUBVERSION** *(1.0 Credit)*

*Rudy Le Menthéour*

**Division:** Humanities

The libertine movement of the 18th century has long been condemned for moral reasons or considered of minor importance when compared to the Enlightenment. Yet, the right to happiness (‘droit au bonheur’) celebrated by the so-called ‘Philosophes’ implies a duty to experience pleasure (‘devoir de jouir’). This is what the libertine writers promoted. The libertine movement thus does not confine itself to literature, but also involves a dimension of social subversion. This course will allow you to understand Charles Baudelaire’s enigmatic comment: “the Revolution was made by voluptuaries.” Prerequisite: two 200-level courses or permission of instructor.

(Offered: Spring 2023)

**FREN B312 ADVANCED TOPICS IN LITERATURE** *(1.0 Credit)*

*Edwige Crucifix*

**Division:** Humanities

**Domain(s):** A: Meaning, Interpretation (Texts)

This is a topics course. Course content varies. Offered: Fall 2022, Spring 2023)

**FREN B316 TOPICS: ETUDES AVANCÉES** *(1.0 Credit)*

**Division:** Humanities

An in-depth study of a particular topic, event or historical figure in French civilization. This is a topics course. Course content varies.
The seminar topic rotates among many subjects: La Révolution française; Histoire, littérature et culture; L’environnement naturel dans la culture française; Mal et valeurs éthiques; Le Cinéma et la politique, 1940-1968; Le Nationalisme en France et dans les pays francophones; Étude socio-culturelle des arts du manger en France du Moyen Age à nos jours; Crimes et criminalité; Ecrire la Grande Guerre: 1914-10; Le "Rentrée Littéraire"; Proust/Baudelaire; L’Humain et l’environnement.

**FREN B326  ETUDES AVANCÉES (1.0 Credit)**
*Rudy Le Mentéhour*

**Division:** Humanities

**Domain(s):** A: Meaning, Interpretation (Texts)

An in-depth study of a particular topic, event or historical figure in French civilization. This is a topics course. Course content varies.

**FREN B350  VOIX MÉDIÉVALES ET ÉCHOS MODERNES (1.0 Credit)**
*Grace Armstrong*

**Division:** Humanities

A study of selected 19th- and 20th-century works inspired by medieval subjects, such as the Grail and Arthurian legends and the Tristan and Yseut stories, and by medieval genres, such as the roman, saints’ lives, or the miracle play. Among the texts and films studied are works by Bonnefoy, Cocteau, Flaubert, Genevoix, Giono, and Gracq.

**FREN B398  SENIOR SEMINAR (1.0 Credit)**
*Rudy Le Mentéhour*

**Division:** Humanities

This weekly thesis development workshop examines French and Francophone literary texts and cultural documents from all periods, and the interpretive problems they raise. Close reading, complemented by extensive secondary readings from different schools of interpretation, prepare students to analyze other critical stances and to develop their own.

*(Offered: Fall 2022)*

**FREN B400  THESIS ADVISING (1.0 Credit)**
*Edwige Crucifix, Rudy Le Mentéhour*

**Division:** Humanities

Weekly or bi-weekly meetings with your thesis advisor will allow you to write your senior thesis efficiently and to prepare for a successful defense.

*(Offered: Spring 2023)*

**FREN B403  SUPERVISED WORK (1.0 Credit)**
*Edwige Crucifix, Grace Armstrong*

*(Offered: Spring 2023)*

**FREN B701  SUPERVISED WORK (1.0 Credit)**
*Agnès Peysson-Zeiss, Grace Armstrong, Julien Suaudeau*