Courses

Fall 2016 – French Course Descriptions

Please note:
Under-enrolled sections (fewer than six students) of language classes (levels 1-22) may be cancelled during the first two weeks of the semester.

French 0001 – Elementary French 1

A – Block A – Brenna Heitzman
B – Block B – Anne-Christine Rice
C – Block C – Kerri Conditto Miller
D – Block F – Anne-Christine Rice
E – Block H – Anne Poncet-Montange

This course introduces the fundamental grammatical structures and vocabulary of French. Through the development of basic language skills of listening, speaking, reading, and writing, it promotes the practical use of language in a variety of social settings. Online lab work is required. Conducted in French. No prerequisites


French 0002 – Elementary French 2

B – Block F – Nancy Kelly
C – Block H – Carrie O’Connor
D – Block ImwHF – Marie Gillette

A continuation of French 001, the course advances the study of basic grammar structures, fosters the development of vocabulary, and broadens the range of situations in which the student can understand and impart information. Multimedia materials provide the cultural context for linguistic activities. Online lab work is required. Students are required to register for a recitation section that consists of a weekly 40-minute conversation group. Conducted in French. Prerequisite: French 001 or consent.


French 0003 – Intermediate French 1

A – Block A – Kerri Conditto Miller
B - Block C – Nancy Kelly
C – Block D – Kerri Conditto Miller
A review and extension of French grammar and vocabulary with attention to developing all four skills: reading, writing, listening, and speaking. The course aims to foster fluency and the functional use of language. Class discussions will be based on conversations and short literary texts and readings about French society. Regular listening work, lab assignments and frequent compositions are required. Conducted in French.

Prerequisite: French 002 or consent.


French 0004 – Intermediate French 2

The course continues the grammar review begun in French 003, introduces the use of more advanced structures, and promotes the acquisition of a large active vocabulary. It aims to develop language proficiency sufficient to converse about practical concerns and to narrate in past, present, and future time. Readings from several different types of prose develop sensitivity to tone and style. Course work consists of regular lab assignments, compositions and class discussion. Students are required to register for a recitation section that consists of a weekly 40-minute conversation group. Conducted in French.

Prerequisite: French 003 or consent.


French 0021 – Composition and Conversation 1

This course aims to develop the student's ability to speak and write French, with special emphasis on oral-aural skills and a focus on contemporary French culture. A review of more advanced grammar structures promotes correct expression. Lab assignments and readings, in the form of cultural texts and short fiction, serve to expand vocabulary and provide subjects for class discussions. Given the focus on oral expression, active participation in class is essential. Course work includes regular oral and written assignments, compositions, oral presentations, film discussions, and exams. Students are required to register for a recitation section that consists of a weekly 40-minute conversation group. Conducted in French.

Prerequisite: French 004 or consent.

**French 0022 – Composition and Conversation 2**

A – Block E – Anne Taieb  
B – Block F – Tracy Pearce  
C – Block H – Viola Thomas  
D – Block C – Pearce  

This course, like French 021, provides an advanced grammar review and work on oral/aural skills, but its focus shifts to written expression. Readings are drawn from contemporary French and Francophone texts. To prepare students for upper-level courses, increasing emphasis is placed on analytical skills and on the cogent presentation of ideas and points of view. Course work includes regular oral and written assignments, compositions, oral presentations or creative projects, film discussions, and exams. Students are required to register for a recitation section that consists of a weekly 40-minute conversation group. Conducted in French. Prerequisite: French 021 or consent.


**French 0031 – Readings in French Literature 1**

A – Block F+ - Mona El Khoury  
B – Block D+ - Claire Schub  
D – Block K+ - Zeina Hakim  

An in depth study of selected masterworks of French literature representing significant currents of thought and expression from the Middle Ages through the eighteenth century. The course will emphasize close textual analysis and the improvement of critical skills. Class discussions will be encouraged. Lectures, discussions, short papers, midterm exam, exposé(s), and final examination: Conducted in French. Not for senior majors or for students returning from programs abroad. Prerequisite: French 22 or instructor’s consent.

**Texts:** (available at Schoenhofs) *Tristan et Iseult*, ed. René Louis (Livre de Poche); poems by Labé, Ronsard, and Du Bellay (photocopy); Molière, *Tartuffe* (Classiques Larousse); Racine, *Phèdre* (Classiques Larousse); Voltaire, *Candide* (Bordas); Rousseau, *Rêveries du promeneur solitaire* (Nouveaux Classiques Larousse).

**Section D: Texts:** *Tristan et Iseult* (Livre de Poche, éd. René Louis), ISBN: 9782253004363; selected Renaissance Poems (photocopied handouts); Molière, *Tartuffe* (Classiques Larousse), ISBN: 9782035859174; Voltaire, *Candide* (Classiques Larousse), 9782030349663.

**French 0091 – Strategies of Identity in Francophone Caribbean Literature** (in English)
**French 0121 – Advanced French Language I**

Block D+ - Tracy Pearce

This course offers students an in-depth review of grammar with the goal of improving and perfecting oral and written expression. We will study contemporary language and place a particular emphasis on grammar usage, specificity of expression and vocabulary acquisition through analysis of written and spoken French. Readings include a contemporary novel, cultural materials, and two recent films. Active class participation is essential. Other coursework includes regular written and oral grammar assignments, 2 exams, short papers, and a creative project. Conducted in French. Not for native speakers or for majors who have studied in French-speaking countries.

**Prerequisite:** French 21 and 22, or consent.


**French 0122 – Advanced French Language II**

A – Block I+ – Isabelle Naginski

In-depth study of contemporary language with emphasis on idiomatic usage and different styles of expression through analysis of written and spoken French. Readings include both critical and primary historical documents and concentrate on the major theories, concepts and mythical constructs which helped shape France between 1789 and 1848, during its Age of Revolution. Topics include: myths of revolution, the Terror, the Third & Fourth Estates, the myth of Napoleon, Utopianism, the class struggle, myths of origin. Grammar review; frequent written assignments and papers; explications de textes; oral proficiency through exposés; mid-term and final exams. Active class participation is essential. Not for native speakers or for majors who have studied in French-speaking countries. Recommendations: French 21 and 22, or consent.

**Textbooks:** Balzac, *Le Colonel Chabert*, ISBN: 9782070411184
A study of French and Francophone cultural production since the end of the Second World War, with special focus on the evolution of national identity in a context of decolonization, European dynamics, globalization, and economic crisis. Issues include political tensions related to multiculturalism and immigration; ethical dilemmas concerning minorities (gender, social, ethnic, religious); history and memory; education; racism; violence. Course materials encompass essays, novels, a graphic novel, plays, films, articles from the press, and chapters from the textbook (La France contemporaine). Group discussion, a short oral presentation, four response papers (1-2 pages), a mid-term exam, and a final paper (10-12 pages). Prerequisites: French 21 and 22, or French 31 and 32, or consent.


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**French 0191-A – Business French**

Block F+ – Claire Schub

This course provides a fundamental knowledge of French as used in the business world, as well as background and information to enable students to communicate effectively in a business context in France and other Francophone countries. We will study technical terminology and practices in such fields as banking, government, industry, and advertising, and broaden our understanding of French political, financial, economic, and educational institutions. There will be practical training in writing business letters, job application letters, and résumés. We will discuss the impacts of recent and current developments such as the environmental movement, the anti-globalization movement, and the European Union. There will be several invited speakers who are involved in the French business world. At the end of the semester, students may opt to take the Paris Chamber of Commerce exam for the "diplôme de français des affaires". There will be a midterm exam, a final exam, frequent quizzes, résumés of articles, and a final research project. **Prerequisite:** French 31 and 32 or consent

**Texts:** A. Bloomfield and B. Tauzin, *Affaires à suivre* (Hachette, 2001); Journal and newspaper articles.

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**French 0191-B – Sartre and Beauvoir: Writers, Philosophers, Lovers**

Block E+ – Claire Schub

Beauvoir's "on ne naît pas femme, on le devient," and Sartre's "l'existence précède l'essence" have become clichéd formulas, but what do they really mean? This course examines the literary and philosophical works of Simone de Beauvoir and Jean-Paul Sartre, two legendary 20th century French intellectuals who together defined French Existentialism and the notion of the "écrivain engagé," while Beauvoir provided the foundation for 20th and 21st century feminist theory. They also sought to redefine the concept of the "couple" as it evolved in Western bourgeois society to create a relationship based (in theory) on freedom and equality. We will read short stories, plays, novels, essays, and memoirs. Course work includes 2 oral exposés, one 5-7 page paper, and one 8-10 page final paper.

**Prerequisites:** FR 31 and 32, or permission.

**Textbooks (all are Folio):** Simone de Beauvoir: Pour une morale de l'ambiguïté, La femme rompue, Une mort très douce, Mémoires d'une jeune fille rangée. Excerpts from Le deuxième sex (I and II). Jean-Paul
French 0191-D – The French Arthurian Novel

Block – H+ - Vincent Pollina

The legend of King Arthur arose in the British isles but soon became an international phenomenon. France's greatest medieval novelist, Chrétien de Troyes, deepened and transformed the legend: Lancelot first appeared as the adulterous lover of Queen Guinevere in Chrétien's Chevalier de la charrette, and, in his Perceval, Chrétien infused the Arthurian material with the Celtic myth of the Grail. We shall compare these novels with Yvain, whose hero represents another type of amorous and chivalric ideal. Two anonymous thirteenth-century works will follow: La Quête du Saint Graal, in which earthly knighthood leads the way to the divine, and La Mort du roi Arthur, which portrays the disintegration of the Arthurian world. All novels will be read in modern French translation. Two films – Bresson's Lancelot and Rohmer's Perceval – will be viewed and discussed. Class discussions, two 5-to-6-page papers, and a final exam. Counts toward the Interdisciplinary Minor in Medieval Studies. Prerequisite: French 31 and 32, or consent.


French 0191-E – Versailles and the Age of Louis XIV

Block – G+ - Zeina Hakim

Variously described as "le grand siècle" (the great century), "l'âge classique" (the classical age), and the century of the "Roi Soleil" (the Sun King), the 17th century represents a major turning point in the history of France, during which France led Europe in political and cultural development, and its authors expounded classical ideas of order, clarity, proportion, and reason. In this seminar, we shall examine the thematic and stylistic innovations of selected 17th-century literary works by exploring the chief literary forms of the time: drama, maxims, and the novel. Readings will include texts by Molière, Racine, La Bruyère, and Madame de La Fayette. Class discussions, two five-to-six-page papers, and a final exam. Prerequisite: French 31 and 32, or consent.


FR-0191-F – George Sand and Her Sisters

Block – J+ - Isabelle Naginski

While George Sand and Madame de Genlis have in recent years been "rediscovered," many women writers of the first half of the nineteenth century remain in relative obscurity. This course attempts to retrieve their lost voices and to study them alongside their more famous sisters. Often braving prejudice and ridicule, these writers were reviled by critics of the day as pedantic femmes-auteurs. But they would not be silenced.
Adopting the novel genre, but also producing short stories, memoirs, plays, political and historical treatises, George Sand and her sisters played a major role in feminizing the literary arena. Some theoretical materials will be read (Cixous, Kristeva, B. Didier). One short paper (5-6 pages); one long paper (10-12 pages); one exposé or take-home final exam. Active class participation is essential. Conducted in French. Counts toward the Interdisciplinary Major in Women's Studies. Pre-requisite: French 31 and 32 or consent.


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**FR-0191-G – Autobiography, History and Identity in the French Caribbean**

Block – G+ - H. Adlai Murdoch

Autobiography has long been a favored form in Caribbean writing. It is a multifaceted genre that has served historical, cultural, and discursive ends. But autobiography itself is an inherently fluid form, one in which a range of possible strategies can promote false impressions of continuity and causality even as it incorporates patterns of play, commentary, and misdirection to subvert the conventions of the genre. In this course, particular attention will be paid to the multiple ways in which autobiography has been staged in recent times in the contemporary French Caribbean territories of Guadeloupe, Martinique and Haiti.

Class discussions, two five-to-six-page papers, an oral presentation, and a final 10-page paper. Prerequisites: French 31 and 32, or consent.