



BROWN

DEPARTMENT OF FRENCH STUDIES
UNDERGRADUATE COURSES

SPRING 2020

NOTE: All courses offered by the department (starting at the 600- level) are writing-intensive, designated WRIT, which means that they satisfy the University's Writing Requirement. In our courses students have the opportunity to write at least two papers, and receive substantive feedback and advice as they develop their writing. All Brown undergraduates must complete at least one approved WRIT course by the end of their 4th semester, and a second WRIT course during their 5th-7th semesters.

FREN0200 – Basic French

Multiple Sections

Georgy Khabarovskiy

This is the second half of a two-semester course. Four meetings a week for oral practice plus one conversation hour. One hour of work outside of class is expected every day (grammar/writing, oral practice, reading). An accelerated track enables qualified students to go directly to FREN 0500 after FREN 0200. Enrollment limited to 15.

FREN0400 – Intermediate French II

Multiple Sections

Christopher Robison

Continuation of FREN 0300 but may be taken separately. A four-skill language course that stresses oral interaction in class (three meetings per week plus one 50-minute conversation section). Materials include audio activities, film, and a novel. Short compositions with systematic grammar practice. Prerequisite: FREN 0300, FREN 0200 with permission, or placement.

FREN0500 – Writing and Speaking French I

Multiple Sections

Instructor TBD

A four-skill language course that stresses oral interaction in class. Thematic units will focus on songs, poems, a short novel, a graphic novel, films and a longer novel. Activities include a creative project using Comic Life, and a systematic grammar review.

Prerequisite: FREN 0400, FREN 0200 with written permission, or placement.

FREN0600 – Writing and Speaking French II

Multiple Sections

Stéphanie Ravillon

Prerequisite for study in French-speaking countries. Class time is devoted mainly to conversation and discussion practice. Writing instruction and assignments focus on essays, commentaries, and to a lesser degree, on story writing. Apart from reading assignments for discussion (press articles and literary excerpts), students select two novels to read. Enrollment limited to 15.

Prerequisite: FREN 0500 or placement.

FREN0620 - Writing and Speaking French II: Literature - L'inquiétant étranger

MWF 12pm – 12:50pm

Christopher Robison

Same level as FREN 0600. The other, whether it is the immigrant, the transgendered, the new neighbor, has always inspired curiosity, mistrust and often fear. This course will examine the different representations of the stranger in contemporary Francophone literature and film, cultural theory and media representations. Topics include race, sexuality, tourism, immigration, identity, mental illness and exclusion. Readings will feature contemporary works (Ananda Devi, Edouard Louis, Amélie Nothomb, Laferrrière, Diome). Discussions and writing assignments are based on those sources and introduce students to the analysis of literature. Enrollment limited to 15. Taught in French. Prerequisite: FREN 0500.

FREN1020A - Histoire de la langue française: usages, politiques et enjeux du français

TTh 10:30am – 11:50am

Ourida Mostefai

A study of the evolution of the French language from the Middle Ages to the present. We will trace the main periods of this linguistic, social, historical and political development. Among topics to be explored: France's encounter with English from the Norman conquest to the current so-called English "invasion," the French Revolution's destruction of dialects (patois), and the status of French in France's former colonial empire. Through a variety of French and francophone texts we will investigate the transformations brought about by Feminists and by youth from the banlieues and examine the status of French outside of France. In French.

Prerequisite: a course at the 600- or 700-level or equivalent proficiency. Contact the instructor to verify your proficiency if you have not taken French at Brown.

FREN1040C - Le Grand Siècle à l'écran

MWF 10am – 10:50am

Lewis Seifert

Why is the "Grand Siècle" depicted so frequently in contemporary French film? To answer this question we will explore the roles 17th-century culture plays in French identity through readings in history and literature and recent films focusing on 17th-century texts, personalities, or events. We will highlight both continuities and discontinuities between the 17th century and our own time. Readings by Corneille, Cyrano de Bergerac, Lafayette, Maintenon, Molière, Pascal, Racine, Sévigné. 10 films. Two short papers, two oral presentations, a weekly blog, and a final project (paper or multimedia project).

Prerequisite: a course at the 600- or 700-level or equivalent proficiency. Contact the instructor to verify your proficiency if you have not taken French at Brown.

FREN1310Q – Qu'est-ce que l'identité?

TTh 2:30pm-3:50pm

David Wills

From the 17th century to modernity, the question of identity has been posed in various terms: philosophical (Descartes: "I think therefore I am"), political (Louis XIV: "I am the state."), and poetic (Rimbaud: "I is another"), before being determined in the contemporary context as a means of ethnic or gender identification. We will examine a series of historic (Descartes, Rimbaud) and more recent texts (Glissant, Duras, Daoud, Darrieussecq) in which the self is called critically into question, in order to better understand how identity always stages a play of same and other. Taught in French.

FREN1410I - Sorcellerie et Renaissance: le sort de la sorcière

TTh 1pm – 2:20pm

Virginia Krause

An interdisciplinary exploration of witches and witchcraft in Renaissance France based on close analysis of primary texts—confessions from trials, iconography, literary texts, and witchcraft theory. Topics include the trial of Joan of Arc, the science of demons, skepticism, and the nature of belief. Readings in Montaigne, Mauss, among others. Enrollment limited to 20. Taught in French.

Prerequisite: a course at the 0600- or 0700-level or equivalent proficiency. Contact the instructor to verify your proficiency if you have not taken French at Brown.

FREN1510A - Advanced Oral and Written French: Traduction

MWF 11am – 11:50m

Stéphanie Ravillon

An introduction to the theory and practice of translation, this course will be designed to expand students' range and appreciation of written styles and registers and will be based on translation exercises and texts reflecting different types of written and oral communication. Texts will range from literary texts (excerpts from novels, plays, comic books...) to journalistic texts (articles from newspapers...). Class activities will also include comparative studies of translated texts, as well as grammar review and vocabulary work. Course taught in French. Written translations to and from French.

Prerequisite: FREN 0600 or equivalent. Enrollment limited to 18. Instructor permission required.

FREN1900K – Extrême droite en France

F 3-5:30pm

Gretchen Schultz

Considers the rise and evolution of far-right tendencies from the French counter-revolution to today. Topics include nationalism, anti-Semitism and the Dreyfus Affair, the Vichy regime, the Front national, Islamophobia, and homophobia. While the main focus is on France, we will give comparative consideration to issues of political extremism resonating in the US and other European nations, including national identity, populism, immigration, exclusion, and religious intolerance. This course draws on a variety of sources, fictional and non-fictional, including print journalism, novels and short stories, essays, film. For senior French Studies concentrators; instructor permission required for others. In French.

Prerequisite: a course at the 600- or 700-level or equivalent proficiency. Contact the instructor to verify your proficiency if you have not taken French at Brown.