Brown University
Department of French Studies
Courses Fall 2014

(Note that all courses are subject to change; refer to Banner for the most up-to-date information)

FREN 0100 Basic French
This is the first half of a two-semester course. Four meetings a week for oral practice. One hour of work outside of class is expected every day (grammar/writing, oral practice, reading).
Enrollment limited to 18.

FREN 0300 Intermediate French I
A semi-intensive elementary review with emphasis on all four skills (listening, speaking, reading and writing). Class activities include drills, small group activities, and skits. Class materials include an audio CD, videos, a French film, short stories, and various other authentic documents. Prerequisite: FREN 0200 or placement (Previous experience with French is required to take this class). Four meetings per week plus a 50-minute conversation section with TAs.
Instructor permission required.

FREN 0400 Intermediate French II
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.
Instructor permission required.

FREN 0500 Writing and Speaking French I
A four-skill language course that stresses oral interaction in class. Thematic units will focus on songs, poems, a short novel (E-E Schmitt), two graphic novels (Sattouf, Larcenet), films and a detective novel by Fred Vargas. Activities include a creative project using Comic Life, and a systematic grammar review. Prerequisite: FREN 0400, FREN 0200 with written permission, or placement.
Instructor permission required.

FREN 0600 Writing and Speaking French II
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.
Prerequisite: FREN 0500 or placement.
Enrollment limited to 18. Instructor permission required.

FREN 0720A From Courtly Love to Postmodern Desire
From twelfth-century courtly literature to contemporary film, this course explores the enduring romance between French culture and Eros. The ambiguities of desire are brought to the fore across changing religious and social contexts. Readings include Duras, Flaubert, Freud, and Baudrillard. Open to students who receive a 5 (AP test), 700 and above (SAT II) or with instructor’s permission. Open to first year students only. Please email Virginia_Krause@brown.edu if you have questions. FYS
FREN 0750G L’animal dans la culture contemporaine
From reports of animals stranded in conflict zones and natural calamities, to cute or clever animals cast in advertisements and popular media, from the rat of Ratatouille to the orca of De rouille et d’os, the new interest in the animal marks an age of heightened awareness of the costs, ironies, or at least increasing solitude of the human story. We will consider significant representations of the animal in contemporary French and Francophone literature, film, visual art, cultural theory and media representations. We will revisit earlier moments linking the animal to modernity, including early film/photography and urban history.
Taught in French. WRIT

FREN 1000B Littérature et culture: Chevaliers, sorcières philosophes, et poètes
From the Middle Ages to the Age of Versailles, this course examines 6 foundational moments in French civilization: the Crusades, courtly love, humanism, the witch hunts, Cartesian reason, and the emergence of the autonomous self. Close scrutiny of literary texts and films will provide a window onto French civilization before the Revolution. Readings include medieval epic, Montaigne, and Descartes. In French.

FREN 1030C Modernismes poétiques
Poetry begins with (more) white space on the page. The modernist remaking of poetry - beginning somewhere in the second half of the 19th century and lasting more or less through the first half of the 20th – brought about an exponential increase in the volume of that space, and in various other extensions of it (e.g. into design and drawing into the unconscious). The course will follow those transformations by reading poems and other writings by selected poets from Rimbaud and Mallarmé to the surrealists and Ponge. Taught in French.

FREN 1330C French Women Writers
This class analyzes the relationship between gender and literary genre through the study of texts authored by women from the 19th through the 21st century. We will read novels and poetry by George Sand, Desbordes-Valmore, Colette, Beauvoir, Marguerite Duras, Monique Wittig, Annie Ernaux, among others. Screenings of work by women filmmakers will complement readings.
Course taught in English. WRIT.

FREN 1410L La faveur et l’infamie: Being Marie Antoinette
This course will examine the life of the last queen of France, Marie Antoinette, through a variety of materials: memoirs, pamphlets, and films. We will follow her from her arrival at Versailles to the fires of the Revolution, her trial and her demise. We will read some of the critical literature that has dealt with her legacy in the historiography (Hunt, Thomas, Weber), the fiction (Ch. Thomas) and art history (Mary Sheriff).
Taught in French.

FREN 1410P Paris et la province : je t’aime, un peu, beaucoup...
This course examines the relationship between Paris and the provinces of France (including Overseas Departments and Territories) from a variety of perspectives and approaches: Geography, History, Politics, Economy, Education, Languages, Arts... Readings include Pinçon + Pinçon-charlot, Duby & Mandrou, Weber, Bruno, Fanon, Favereau, and Queffélec. Films and documentaries will be shown.
Taught in French.

FREN 1710E War Machines: Violence and Social Forms in West Africa
From civil war in Ivory Coast to terrorism in Mali, war and violence in Francophone Africa both provoke and respond to debates about France’s colonial legacy and continued presence on the continent. Yet these phenomena have much to tell us about emerging social relations, new forms of politics, and how ordinary Africans view the future—their own, that of their countries, and of the continent as a whole. This course studies these and related questions in a variety of media, including anthropological texts, written testimonies, novels, documentary films, philosophy, and investigative journalism. Anglophone Africa will also be considered.
Taught in English.