

French & Francophone Studies

Fall 2021 Undergraduate Courses

FREN 0100 Basic French

Multiple Sections

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 15.

FREN 0400 Intermediate French II

Multiple Sections

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.

FREN 0500 Writing and Speaking French I

Multiple Sections

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.

FREN 0600 Writing and Speaking French II

Multiple Sections

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 15.

FREN 0620 Writing and Speaking French II: Des écologies littéraires francophones

Sophie Brunau

MWF 1pm-1:50pm

Same level as FREN 0600, with emphasis on literary analysis. This course will explore the intertwinement of literature and ecology in contemporary French and Francophone fiction (novels, short-stories, films, documentaries) and philosophy (articles, chapters, excerpts, interviews). Topics include: postcolonial and decolonial thoughts, the relation, the animal and the vegetal, political literatures and activism, the posthuman. Readings will feature contemporary fiction and theory writers such as Aimé Césaire, Marie Darrieussecq, Suzanne Césaire, Frantz Fanon, and Vinciane Despret. Discussions and writing assignments are based on

those sources and introduce students to the analysis of literature. Prerequisite: FREN 0500. Taught in French.

FREN 1040D: Molière et son monde

Lewis Seifert

MWF 12-12:50p

In-depth study of Molière's theater and its cultural contexts. We will examine how Molière uses a variety of theatrical forms to portray the monarchy, social class, religion, medicine, and gender relations of seventeenth-century France. Plays by Molière will be studied alongside other literary texts and documents of the period as well as films (performances of plays, historical fiction). 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.

FREN 1110F Le Roman contemporain

Thangam Ravindranathan

TTh 2:30pm-3:50pm

In this course we will read a selection of French and Francophone novels from 1985 to 2015. Authors include Patrick Modiano, Marie NDiaye, Lydie Salvayre, Marie Redonnet, Jean-Philippe Toussaint and Laurent Mauvignier. Placing these novels in dialogue with key voices from critical theory (Cixous, Barthes, Derrida, Kristeva), we will pursue through the semester a sustained reflection on major contemporary "problematics" including identity, subjecthood, hospitality, history, genealogy, gender, memory and ghosts. 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.

FREN 1120F L'enfer, c'est les autres

Thangam Ravindranathan

F 3pm-5:30pm

In this course we will read a selection of plays by notable 20th century French and Francophone writers, and consider how the dramatic form organizes and complicates questions of representation, subjectivity, body, politics and voice. Authors include Sartre, Camus, Genet, Beckett, Césaire, Koltès, Duras, Sarraute, Ndiaye, Redonnet. Secondary readings by Adorno, Deleuze, Kristeva amongst others. Taught 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.

FREN1310U Prostitution, or "the oldest profession in the world"

Laura Odello

T 4pm-6:30pm

From brothels as imagined by Restif de la Bretonne in 1769 to the contemporary political activism of sex workers (Coyote), this course aims to explore "the oldest profession in the world" not only as it is represented in literature (Zola, Maupassant), but also as described in direct accounts (Grisélidis Réal, Virginie Despentes, Marie-Thérèse) or as staged in cinema (Jean Renoir, Max Ophüls, Claude Chabrol, Jean-Luc Godard...). Pre-requisites: 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.

FREN1330A Fairy Tales and Culture

Lewis Seifert

MWF 10-10:50a

Fairy tales, which occur in almost every culture, encapsulate in (usually) succinct form many of the pressing concerns of human existence: family conflict, the struggle for survival, sexual desire, the quest for happiness, etc. This course explores why writers and readers have been attracted to the fairy-tale form through a study of its key elements and its uses in adult and children's literature, book illustration, and film. Special attention given to French contes de fées, along with North American, English, German, Italian and selected non-Western fairy tales. Discussions and readings in English with French, German, and Italian originals on reserve.

FREN 1410T L'expérience des réfugiés: déplacements, migrations

Laurin Williams

M 3-5:30p

An exploration of the experience of refugees and immigrants with two components. The first component consists of close study of the French context from Decolonization up through the current refugee crisis based on literature, film, the press, and critical essays. The second component of this course will give students the opportunity to work with refugee/recent immigrant communities in Providence. This is a community-engaged course requiring substantial commitment beyond the classroom. 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.