



BROWN
DEPARTMENT OF FRENCH STUDIES
UNDERGRADUATE COURSES

FALL 2017

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.

FREN0100 – Basic French

Multiple Sections

Annie Wiart

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).

FREN0300 – Intermediate French I

Multiple Sections

Annie Wiart

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.

FREN0400 – Intermediate French II

Multiple Sections

Annie Wiart

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

Justin Izzo

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.

Prerequisite: FREN 0500 or placement.

FREN0720D – Contes et identités francophones (First Year Seminar)

M,W,F 11am - 11:50am

Lewis Seifert

An introduction to the French-speaking world through folk- and fairy tales, we will examine how folktales have been used to define national and ethnic identities in France, Sénégal, the Caribbean, Louisiana, and Canada and consider how the study and rewriting of these traditions have redefined these identities. We will explore these questions by studying tale-types from all of the above regions, tales specific to each, and literary reworkings of folktales by writers, including d'Aulnoy, Perrault, Nothomb, Ben Jelloun, Diop, and Chamoiseau. Taught in French.

Prerequisites: 5 on Advanced Placement testing, 700 and above SAT II, or instructor's permission.

FREN1020A – Histoire de la langue française: usage, politiques et enjeux du français

T, Th 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. Taught in French.

Prerequisite: a course at the 600- or 700-level or equivalent proficiency.

FREN1120F – L'enfer, c'est les autres

M 3pm – 5:30pm

Thangam Ravindranathan

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.

WRIT Prerequisite: a course at the 600- or 700-level or equivalent proficiency.

FREN1130G – Modernismes poétiques

W 3pm – 5:30pm

David Wills

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.

Prerequisite: a course at the 0600- or 0700-level or equivalent proficiency.

FREN1150G – New Waves from Paris to Hollywood

T,Th 2:30pm – 3:50pm

David Wills

“New wave” was coined by a journalist to refer to an “outburst” of filmmaking in France beginning in 1959. Never a movement, and short-lived in terms of whatever aesthetic uniformity it may have had, its effects spread across various European cinemas and became the emblem for a series of American filmmakers well into the 1970s. We will analyze work by a range of French and other cinéastes, in an attempt to understand what perhaps appears--from the current perspective--as one of the last gasps of “high cultural” production against the reality of corporate necessity and new forms of media. Taught in English.

Prerequisite: a course at the 0600- or 0700 -level or equivalent proficiency.

FREN1310M – Le fantastique

T 4pm – 6:30pm

Laura Odello

Ghosts, spirits and specters populate the French "fantastique". Starting with the precursors of the genre in the 18th century (Jacques Cazotte's *Le Diable amoureux*), we will read major works of "littérature fantastique" of the 19th century, including Balzac's *La Peau de chagrin* (1831), *Contes cruels* by Villiers de l'Isle-Adam (1883) and Maupassant's *Le Horla* (1886). Select readings from critical theory and philosophy will accompany the readings (Todorov, Bergson, Derrida). We will also consider examples of the fantastic in 20th century cinema (Epstein's *La Chute de la Maison Usher* (1928) and Franju's *Les Yeux sans visage* (1960). Taught in French.

FREN1410T – L'expérience des réfugiés/immigrés

F 3pm – 5:30pm

Virginia Krause

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.

FREN1510A – Advanced Oral and Written French: Traduction

M,W,F 12pm - 12:50pm

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. Written translations to and from French. Taught in French.

Prerequisite: FREN 0600 or equivalent.