



BROWN

DEPARTMENT OF FRENCH STUDIES
UNDERGRADUATE COURSES

FALL 2019

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

Stéphanie Ravillon

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.

FREN0300 – Intermediate French I

Georgy Khabarovskiy

Multiple Sections

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 videos, a French film, short stories, and various other authentic documents. Four meetings per week, plus a 50-minute conversation section with TAs.

Prerequisite: FREN 0200 or placement (Previous experience with French is required to take this class).

FREN0400 – Intermediate French II

Gretchen Schultz

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.

FREN0500 – Writing and Speaking French I

Stéphanie Ravillon

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.

FREN0600 – Writing and Speaking French II

Stéphanie Ravillon

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.

FREN0720G - L'art de la nouvelle

Thangam Ravindranathan

T, Th 2:30pm - 3:50pm

In this course we shall study a range of examples of the nouvelle or short story, from 19th century realist and fantastic literature (Maupassant, Flaubert, Colette) to modern French and Francophone texts (Sartre, Camus, Djébar, Redonnet, Quiriny). Emphasis will be on formal analysis, major genres/movements (realism, the fantastic, existentialism, anti-/post-colonial critique, “post-modernism”) and the short story’s capacity to offer forms of social critique. We will also read some secondary theoretical materials (Freud, Sartre, Barthes, Todorov, Piglia, Samoyault). Taught in French. Prerequisites: minimum score of 5 in 'AP French Literature', minimum score of 700 in 'SATSubj-French' or minimum score of WAIVE in 'Graduate Student PreReq'. Enrollment limited to students with a semester level of 01 or 02.

FREN1140A – French Theory

David Wills

T,Th 2:30pm – 3:50pm

Something called both “French” and “theory” came ashore in the Anglo-American academic scene of the 1970s. Supposedly both impenetrable and hegemonic, it was seen to reconstitute what was discussed in programs in literature and the social sciences, and how it was discussed. Today the shoreline of study in the humanities has been transformed, but French theory’s moment is presumed to have past. This course will trace that history through key French texts (read in translation) written between the 1960s and 1990s. Taught in English.

FREN1310P – La théorie féministe en France

Laura Odello

T 4:00pm – 6:30pm

From Olympe de Gouges to the mouvement called #Balancetonporc (the French version of #MeToo), from the first-wave feminism to the queer third-wave feminism, from the debates on abortion to pornography, prostitution, and gender parity, this course will explore major texts in French and francophone feminist theory (Simone de Beauvoir, Monique Wittig, Luce Irigaray, Julia Kristeva, Sarah Kofman, Hélène Cixous, Virginie Despentes, Sam Bourcier, Paul B. Preciado...). Taught in French. DIAP

FREN1410T - L'expérience des réfugiés: déplacements, migrations

Virginia Krause

M 3:00pm – 5:30pm

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. CBLR (Community-Based Learning and Research) 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.

FREN1410U - La France en guerre

Gretchen Schultz

M 3:00pm - 5:30pm

Analyzes the impact of warfare on France and its former colonies. Considers various types of violent conflict (wars of expansion and independence, the world wars, terrorism) while consulting diverse sources (literary, historical, journalistic, epistolary, filmic). Also addresses contemporary events relevant to the subject of this course and follows them as they unfold. Topics include: war and collective memory, virility and violence, extreme situations and crises of representation, resistance and collaboration, colonization and nationhood, jihadism. 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.

FREN1510L - À nous deux la mode

Stéphanie Ravillon

M,W, F 11:00am – 11:50am

A bird's eye view of the fashion world, this course will explore the birth and evolution of the French fashion industry (from the development of department stores to the birth and rise of Haute Couture), its impact on society and social change, as well as its relationship with art and advertisement. Materials range from literary excerpts to journalistic texts, online resources, and films, and will include portraits of fashion designers, studies of iconic fashion pieces, descriptions of techniques and crafts, and analyses of fashion shows. Activities include presentations, discussion, essays, commentaries, and the creation of a trend book. In French. Prerequisites: FREN 0600, 0610, 0620

FREN1610C - Advanced Written French: Atelier d'écriture

Virginia Krause

M,W, F 2:00pm – 2:50pm

An advanced course in (functional or creative) writing. The workshops range from practice in interpersonal communication (letters) to essays and various forms of narration. Recommended to students returning from a study-abroad program, students with a native French background who lack formal training in writing, or post-FREN 1510 students. Exercises for each workshop plus a final writing project. Enrollment limited to 15. Instructor permission required. Taught in French. Prerequisite: FREN 1510.

FREN1710I - Politique, démocratie, et corruption en Afrique francophone

Justin Izzo

M,W, F 1:00pm – 1:50pm

What do representations of democracy (its promises as well as its shortcomings) and corruption have to tell us about postcolonial and postmillennial politics in contemporary Francophone Sub-Saharan Africa? How have these interrelated problems and discourses been negotiated in French and African literature, film, journalism, and anthropology? This course will address these and related questions in a number of national and historical contexts, paying special attention to the ways in which current events on the continent both complement and complicate our understandings of Francophone African cultural production. 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.