



BROWN

DEPARTMENT OF FRENCH STUDIES
UNDERGRADUATE COURSES

FALL 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.

FREN0100 – Basic French

Multiple Sections

Stéphanie Ravillon

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

MF 10am-10:50am; TTh 10:30am-11:50am

Christopher Robison

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.

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

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

Stéphanie Ravillon

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. Enrollment limited to 15.

FREN0950C – Paris hors les murs

MWF 10am-10:50am

Sylvie Toux

This course represents an immersive exploration of Paris. Discussions will be organized around a number of themes covering modern and contemporary visions of the city. After a brief presentation of the history and the geography of the city, we will study the myths of Paris (the Eiffel Tower, Notre-Dame); various short writings (Baudelaire, Hugo, Barthes); the rise of the suburbs (La Haine, Les Misérables); current challenges (the climate, COVID-19). We will visit the city through newspaper articles, films videos, podcasts and museums. Three papers during the semester including your personal "mythology" of Paris as a concluding project for the course.

FREN1210F – L'œuvre romanesque de Marguerite Duras

TTh 2:30pm-3:50pm

David Wills

Starting with her first novels in the 1950s and up until her broad recognition, for *The Lover*, as France's most renowned female writer of the post-WWII period, Marguerite Duras was involved in profound research into the form and force of novelistic narrative. Our course will examine a representative series of her texts from three different points of view: narrative, writing, femininity.

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. Taught in French.

FREN1310N – La Pornographie

T 4pm – 6:30pm

Laura Odello

In 1769, Restif de la Bretonne coined the word pornographe: one who writes (graphein) about prostitution (pornê is the prostitute). It is in literature, then, that what is known today as “pornography” was invented. This course will be dedicated to classics of the pornographic genre (from Sade to Bataille), to pornological essays (by Deleuze or Nancy), and to the political stakes of pornography in contemporary writings (by Despentès or Guibert). We will not forget cinema (with films by Genet or Bonello): if pornography pertains to a compulsion to show everything, what would be the blind spot of its absolute visibility? Taught in French.

FREN1410R – Images d’une guerre sans nom: The Algerian War in Literature and Film

W 3-5:30pm

Ourida Mostefai

Not officially acknowledged as a war by France until recently, the Algerian War of independence remains, more than a half-century later, a contested battleground in the French national consciousness. Focusing on depictions of the Algerian War in literature and film we will investigate the many taboos that still endure, most notably around the question of violence and torture, and attempt to reassess the relative “invisibility” of this conflict. Readings will include films by Gillo Pontecorvo, Jean-Luc Godard, Alain Resnais, Agnès Varda, and works by Frantz Fanon, Jean-Paul Sartre, Albert Camus, Benjamin Stora, Claire Etcherelli, Assia Djebar, and Leïla Sebbar. 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. Taught in French.