



BROWN
DEPARTMENT OF FRENCH STUDIES
UNDERGRADUATE COURSES
SPRING 2018

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.

FREN0200 – Basic French

Multiple Sections

Annie Wiart

This is the second half of a two-semester course. Four meetings a week for oral practice plus one conversation hour. One hour of work outside of class is expected every day (grammar/writing, oral practice, reading).

An accelerated track enables qualified students to go directly to FREN0500 after FREN0200.

FREN0400 – Intermediate French II

Multiple Sections

Youenn Kervennic

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.

FREN0600 – Writing and Speaking French II : Literature

M,W,F 2pm – 2 :50pm

Stéphanie Ravillon

Prerequisite for study in French-speaking countries. Continuation of FREN 500. Class time is devoted mainly to conversation and discussion practice. Same level as FREN 0600. This course is designed for students who are interested in literature. Discussions and writing assignments are based on a selection of literary texts from the Francophone world and introduce students to the analysis of literature.

Prerequisite: FREN 0500.

FREN0760A – Introduction à l’analyse littéraire

M,W,F 2pm – 2:50pm

Thangam Ravindranathan

On what terms and with what tools can we “read” a literary text? An introduction to major genres (the short story, the novel, poetry, theater) of French and Francophone literature and to a range of analytical approaches to the text, including narrative theory, poetics and psychoanalysis. Readings will feature select 19th and 20th century works (Maupassant, Apollinaire, Ionesco, NDiaye) and excerpts from key analytic/theoretical writings (Benveniste, Todorov, Freud, Barthes, Bakhtin). Taught in French. WRIT

FREN1110F – Le Roman contemporain

M,W,F 12pm – 12:50pm

Thangam Ravindranathan

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. WRIT

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

FREN1320F- La Communauté

T, 4:00pm-6:30pm

Laura Odello

What do we mean when we say “we”? What does it mean to “be with,” and what do we share with one another? This class ponders such questions, incessantly asked by 20th-century French literature and thought, by studying works that confront the necessity and difficulty of life in common, be it in the community of a family, society, friendship, lovers, or artists. Authors read include Marguerite Duras (*La Maladie de la mort*), Maylis de Kerangal (*Naissance d’un pont*), Maurice Blanchot (*La Communauté inavouable*), Jean-Luc Nancy (*La Communauté désœuvrée*), Jacques Rancière (*Aux bords du politique*), and Georges Bataille’s journal *Acéphale*. Taught in French. WRIT

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

FREN1410I – Sorcellerie et Renaissance: le sort de la sorcière

T,Th 2:30pm – 3:50pm

Virginia Krause

An interdisciplinary exploration of witches and witchcraft in Renaissance France based on close analysis of primary texts-confessions from trials, iconography, literary texts, and witchcraft theory. Topics include

the trial of Joan of Arc, the science of demons, skepticism, and the nature of belief. Readings in Montaigne, Mauss, among others. Taught in French. WRIT

Enrollment limited to 20.

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

FREN1510C –Advanced Oral and Written French: A table !

T,Th 1pm – 2:20pm

Annie Wiart

Thematic units with different approaches to French cuisine and the French meal, such as regional cuisine, meals in literature and at the movies, radio-TV culinary shows, political and economical considerations, and, of course, a practical unit on how to compose, prepare and eat a French meal. Follows FREN 0600 in the sequence of language courses. Development of oral skills via presentations, debates, conversation, and discussion based on the various topics. Writing activities: essays, translations, commentaries, journals, creative descriptions and stories, etc. Taught in French. WRIT

FREN1510H –Advanced Oral and Written French: A nous deux la mode

M,W,F 10am – 10:50am

Stéphanie Ravillon

A bird's eye view of the fashion world, we 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. Taught in French. WRIT

FREN1610C – Advanced Written French: Atelier d'écriture

M,W,F 11am – 11:50am

Youenn Kervennic

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. Taught in French. WRIT

Prerequisite: FREN 1510. Enrollment limited to 15.

FREN1710E – Machines de guerre: Violence et société en Afrique Francophone

M,W,F 1pm-1:50pm

Justin Izzo

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. Taught in French. WRIT

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

FREN1900K – L'extrême droite en France (Senior Seminar)

F 3pm – 5:30pm

Gretchen Schultz

Studies the rise of far-right tendencies (nationalism, anti-Semitism, racism, Islamophobia, homophobia) in France from the 3rd Republic to today. Topics covered include the Dreyfus Affair, the Vichy regime, the Front national. While the main focus is on France, we will also give comparative consideration to questions related to political extremism that resonate in the US and other European nations, such as national identity, populism, immigration, exclusion, religious intolerance. This course will draw on a variety of sources, fictional and non-fictional, including print journalism, novels, historical essays, and film. Taught in French. WRIT

For senior French Studies concentrators; instructor permission required for others.