

French & Francophone Studies

Spring 2022 Undergraduate Courses

FREN 0200 Basic French

Multiple Sections

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 FREN 0500 after FREN 0200. 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: Le livre interdit

Kaitlyn Quaranta

MWF 12pm-12:50pm

Same level as FREN0600, with emphasis on literary analysis. This course will explore a collection of eighteenth-century French works that were formally suppressed or forbidden as well as those which circulated without official authorization. Topics include: censorship in France under the Ancien Régime; the Enlightenment and the ideas of the “philosophes”; politics and religion. We will also consider contemporary debates regarding freedom of expression in France. Readings will feature authors such as Diderot, Voltaire, Rousseau, Montesquieu, Beaumarchais,

and Gouges. Prerequisite: FREN0500. Taught in French.

FREN 0950A Advanced Written and Oral French: Traduction

Stéphanie Ravillon

MWF 10am-10:50am

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. Course taught in French. Written translations to and from French. Prerequisite: FREN 0600 or equivalent. Enrollment limited to 18. Instructor permission required.

FREN 1020A Histoire de la langue française: usages, politiques et enjeux du français

Ourida Mostefai

TTh 10:30am-11:50am

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. 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.

FREN 1130G Modernismes poétiques

David Wills

M 3pm-5:30pm

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 briefly examine the origins of those transformations in the 19th century and follow through their ramifications in poets such as Apollinaire, the Surrealists, Cocteau, Bataille and Ponge. 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.

FREN1150G New Wave Cinema from Paris to Hollywood

David Wills

W 3pm-5:30pm

“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. WRIT

FREN1410I Sorcellerie et Renaissance: le sort de la sorcière

Virginia Krause

TTh 1pm-2:20pm

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. Enrollment limited to 20. 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 1710J Geopolitics and Identity Divides in the Middle East

Maan Alshoufi

MWF 1pm-1:50pm

In this course, we will explore Near Eastern Francophone literature through a period of civil wars and societal fractures, focusing on major themes that haunted modern Levantine authors, including history, “Phénicianisme” versus Arabism, identity versus alterity, nationalist feminism, sectarianism, and universalism. Readings will cover literary productions from 1919 until 1998 and will be supplemented with contextualization articles in French and English. Taught in French.