Brown University
Department of French Studies
Courses Spring 2015
(Note that all courses are subject to change; refer to Banner for the most up-to-date information)

FREN 0200 Basic French
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 18. Instructor permission required.

FREN 0400 Intermediate French II
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. Instructor permission required.

FREN 0500 Writing and Speaking French I
A four-skill language course that stresses oral interaction in class. Thematic units will focus on songs, poems, a short novel (E-E Schmitt), two graphic novels (Sattouf, Larcenet), films and a detective novel by Fred Vargas. Activities include a creative project using Comic Life, and a systematic grammar review. Prerequisite: FREN 0400, FREN 0200 with written permission, or placement. Instructor permission required.

FREN 0600 Writing and Speaking French II
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 18. Instructor permission required.

FREN 0620 Writing and Speaking French II
Prerequisite for study in French-speaking countries. 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. Enrollment limited to 18.

FREN 0720A The Contemporary French Novel
What does today's French novel look like? Reading ten prominent short novels (in English translation) from the last 20 years, students will be acquainted with the novelistic landscape of contemporary France, while also learning to approach through analysis and narrative theory the novel as genre. We will consider what kinds of questions these novels pose and how - be it regarding conditions specific to our time (human/inhuman, identity, technology, the globalized world, the everyday, dystopia...) or those unceasing questions of life, time, love, predicament, that every novel must ask, even while sometimes seeming not to. Freshman seminar. Taught in English. FYS

FREN 0760F Introduction à l'analyse littéraire
On what terms and with what tools can we "read" a literary text? An introduction to major periods and genres (the short story, the novel, poetry, theater) of French and Francophile literature and to a range of analytical approaches to the text, including narrative theory, poetics, psychoanalysis and gender studies.

FREN 1010A Littérature et culture: Margins of Modernity
A survey of French and Francophone works from the 18th century to the present that reflects on a number of cultural shifts, of challenges but also resistances to hierarchies (social, sexual, political); the urban context; legacies of colonization. Various figures of marginality to be studied: vagabonds and parvenus, dandies and courtesans, outcasts and pariahs. Authors to be studied include Prévost, Marivaux, Balzac, Baudelaire, Maupassant, Duras, Camara Laye and Rachid O. Taught in French.

FREN 1310C L’art de la nouvelle
What sort of story is the short story? What kinds of possibilities and pressures distinguish it from other forms? Attentive to its contained – and constrained – narrative economy, we shall study a range of examples of the genre, from 19th century realist and fantastic literature (Maupassant, Flaubert, Nerval) to modern French and Francophone texts (Camus, Sartre, Beckett, Djebar, Condé, Ndiaye). Taught in French.

FREN 1310E Paris, ville des Lumières
Representations of the city; the crowd; the rise of the individual; the narrator as spectator and promeneur; narratives of social mobility; speed and circulation; sex and the city; Paris as a cultural place. Various authors to be studied: Marivaux, Fougeret de Monbron, Rousseau, Diderot, Mercier, Restif de la Bretonne. Taught in French.
FREN 1410I Sorcellerie et Renaissance: le sort de la sorcière
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.

FREN 1410R Images d’une guerre sans nom: the Algerian War in Literature and Film
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.

FREN 1510A Advanced Written and Oral French: Traduction
This course will use contemporary and classic works, newspaper articles, and film – all "made in France" – to explore and analyze the myths, realities, and contradictions of France today. Through in-class discussions, debates, and presentations, students will gain a deeper understanding of the enigma and legacy of this European country that once was the center of the cultural world and an early model of democracy. Follows FREN 0600 in the sequence of language courses. Writing activities, essays, commentaries, journals, etc. May be repeated for credit.
Prerequisite: FREN 0600.
Enrollment limited to 18.

FREN 1900J l'humain - l'inhumain
A broad exploration of French civilization through literature, film, and theory. Close analysis of changing notions of the human and its others (the non-human or the inhuman) from the Middle Ages through the present. Topics to be covered include humanism, human rights, and the notion of crimes against humanity. Taught in French.