



Brown University

Department of French Studies

Courses Spring 2016

(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 0720B The French Novel Today

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.

Taught in English. FYS WRIT

Instructor permission required

FREN 0760A 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 Francophone literature and to a range of analytical approaches to the text, including narrative theory, poetics, psychoanalysis and gender studies.

Taught in French

Prerequisite: Undergraduate level FREN 600

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.

Prerequisite: Undergraduate level FREN 600

FREN 1040B Pouvoirs de la scène: le théâtre du XVIIe siècle

This course examines how 17th-century theater both reinforces and undermines the ideologies of absolutism, national identity, the nuclear family, and emerging bourgeois consciousness, among others. Special consideration will be given to the theory and performance of theater in the 17th century and the present. Readings will be supplemented with screenings of videos for the plays studied (as available). In addition to papers and oral presentations, students will stage selections from some of the plays studied. Plays by Rotrou, Corneille, Molière, Racine, and an opera by Quinault/Lully.

Taught in French.

Prerequisite: Undergraduate level FREN 600

FREN 1210E Un semestre avec Proust: introduction à la recherche

The intent of this course is to introduce students to the principal themes of Proust's major novel - time and memory, desire and jealousy, class and war. Other questions to be covered: the depiction of sexuality and identity, the satire of society. We will also introduce some of the major critical approaches of the novel.

Taught in French.

Prerequisite: Undergraduate level FREN 600

FREN 1410F Comment peut-on être Français? L'identité française en question

This course will examine the transformation of cultural identity in contemporary France. What does it mean to be "French" or étranger today? We will investigate this question by reflecting on some of the major changes that have occurred in French society in the past 30 years in the wake of immigration, the emergence of ethnic identity, racism, the construction of Europe, and globalization. We will study contemporary fiction and non-fiction, essays, films, songs, comedy, as well as theoretical texts. Readings will include works by Leïla Sebbar, Chadhort Djavann, Faïza Guène, Julie Kristeva, Tzvetan Todorov, Philippe d'Iribarne, and Eric Fassin.

Taught in French.

Prerequisite: Undergraduate level FREN 600

FREN 1510A Advanced Written and Oral French: Photographie

Follows FREN 0600 in the sequence of language courses. Development of oral and written skills via presentation, debate, conversation and discussion on a variety of topics. Through novels, articles, photographs and discussions, this course will explore the world of photography from its beginnings until today. Theory and practice; professionals and amateurs; famous people and paparazzi; photo reportage and photo studio; argentic and digital; your own photos, etc.

Taught in French. WRIT

Prerequisite: Undergraduate level FREN 600

FREN 1610C Advanced Written French: Atelier d'écriture

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: Undergraduate level FREN 1510

Enrollment limited to 15

FREN 1900A Boulevard du Crime

A study of crime and criminality in relation to French culture and literature from the late-middle ages through the 20th-century. Readings in a variety of sources including poetry (from Villon to Verlaine), theater (Racine), the novel (Zola, Genêt, Duras), trials (Gilles de Rais, the prototype of Bluebeard), memoirs (Lacenaire, dubbed the "elegant murderer"), and criminological treatises. Film screenings will complement readings.

Taught in French

Prerequisite: Undergraduate level FREN 600