

French & Francophone Studies

Spring 2021 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 0300 Intermediate French I

Christopher Robison

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

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.

FREN 0400 Intermediate French II

Christopher Robison

MWF 11-11:50a

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 0720G L'art de la nouvelle

Thangam Ravindranathan

MWF 12pm-12:50pm

In this course we shall study a range of examples of the nouvelle or short story, from 19th century realist and fantastic literature (Maupassant, Flaubert, Colette) to modern French and Francophone texts (Sartre, Camus, Djébar, Redonnet, Quiriny). Emphasis will be on formal analysis, major genres/movements (realism, the fantastic, existentialism, anti-/post-colonial critique, "post-modernism") and the short story's capacity to offer forms of social critique. We will also read some secondary theoretical materials (Freud, Sartre, Barthes, Todorov, Piglia, Samoyault). 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 1020C Le Mariage dans la littérature médiévale: la violence et le "problème" du corps

Alani Hicks-Bartlett

TTh 9-10:20a

After first gaining a foundational understanding of how marriage was portrayed in seminal Medieval theoretical texts and how it was discussed in Medieval literature, in this course we will examine a wide range of genres—treatises, biblical exegesis, debate literature, fabliaux, and epic and lyric poetry—that will help us carefully investigate literary representations of women and wives in Medieval French literature. Taught in French.

FREN 1120F L'enfer, c'est les autres

Thangam Ravindranathan

F 3pm-5:30pm

In this course we will read a selection of plays by notable 20th century French and Francophone writers, and consider how the dramatic form organizes and complicates questions of representation, subjectivity, body, politics and voice. Authors include Sartre, Camus, Genet, Beckett, Césaire, Koltès, Duras, Sarraute, Ndiaye, Redonnet. Secondary readings by Adorno, Deleuze, Kristeva amongst others. Taught 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.

FREN1140A French Theory

David Wills

W 3pm-5:30pm

Something called both “French” and “theory” came ashore in the Anglo-American academic scene of the 1970s. Supposedly both impenetrable and hegemonic, it was seen to reconstitute what was discussed in programs in literature and the social sciences, and how it was discussed. Today the shoreline of study in the humanities has been transformed, but French theory’s moment is presumed to have past. This course will trace that history through key French texts (read in translation) written between the 1960s and 1990s. Taught in English.

FREN1310R Agnès Varda: La Femme à la Caméra

Laura Odello

T 4-6:30p

The only feminine figure in the New Wave, Agnès Varda produced, throughout her life, a work of more than forty films, between feature films, short films, and documentaries. From *Cléo de 5 à 7* (1962) to *Varda par Agnès* (2019), from *L’Une chante, l’autre pas* (1977) to *Documenteur* (1981) or *Sans toit ni loi* (1985), the course aims at following the rich cinematographic journey of a “woman with a movie camera”. Taught in French. Pre-req: 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 1410F Comment peut-on être Français? L'identité française en question

Ourida Mostefai

M 3-5:30p

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. 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. In French. This is a senior seminar course.