FRENCH

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FACULTY OF THE DEPARTMENT OF FRENCH

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Assistant Professors Thomas C. Connolly, Christopher Semk, Yue Zhuo

Senior Lecturer Maryam Sanjabi

Lecturers Jonathan Cayer, Diane Charney, Alyson Waters

Senior Lectors Kathleen Burton, Ruth Koizim, Soumia Koundi, Matuku Ngama, Lauren Pinzka, Françoise Schneider, Constance Sherak, Candace Skorupa

Lectors Audrey Hoffmann, Vanessa Vysosias

The Department of French has two distinct but complementary missions: to provide instruction in the French language at all levels of competence, and to lead students to a broad appreciation and deep understanding of the literatures and cultures of France and other French-speaking countries.

The major in French is a liberal arts major, designed for those who wish to study one of the world’s greatest and richest literatures in depth. The department offers courses devoted to authors, works, and literary and cultural movements that span ten centuries and four continents. The curriculum also includes interdisciplinary courses on relations between literature and other areas of study such as history, law, religion, politics, and the arts. Majors are encouraged to explore all periods and genres of literature in French, as well as a wide variety of critical approaches.

Excellent knowledge of a foreign language and a mature, informed appreciation of a foreign literature open doors to many professions. The French major provides ideal preparation for careers not only in academics but also in a wide range of fields from law and diplomacy to journalism and the arts. Recent graduates have gone on to select law schools and graduate programs in French and comparative literature. Others work in primary and secondary education, business, government, and a variety of nongovernmental agencies and international organizations.

French can be taken either as a primary major or as one of two majors, in consultation with the director of undergraduate studies. Appropriate majors to combine with French might include, but are not limited to, African American Studies, African Studies, English, Film Studies, Global Affairs, History, History of Art, Humanities, Literature, Music, Philosophy, Political Science, Theater Studies, and Women’s, Gender, and Sexuality Studies. (Regulations concerning the completion of two majors can be found in the Academic Regulations, section K.)

Study abroad Students are encouraged to spend a term or a year abroad, for which appropriate course credit is granted. Summer study abroad may also, in some cases, receive course credit. Further information may be obtained from the Center for International and Professional Experience (http://cipe.yalecollege.yale.edu) and from Ruth Koizim (ruth.koizim@yale.edu), the study abroad adviser for the Department of French. The Kenneth Cornell Charitable Foundation provides some financial support for majors and prospective majors who undertake research projects related to their work in the major in France or a francophone country. Contact the director of undergraduate studies for details.

The major for the Class of 2015 and previous classes Students in the Class of 2015 and previous classes may fulfill the requirements of the standard or intensive French major that were in place when they entered the major, as described in previous editions of this bulletin (http://www.yale.edu/printer/bulletin/archivedpdf/files/YCPS). Alternatively, they may fulfill the requirements for the major as described below for the Class of 2016 and subsequent classes.

Prerequisite for the Class of 2016 and subsequent classes Candidates for the major should take FREN 150 or the equivalent during the freshman or sophomore year. Prospective majors are strongly encouraged to take at least one literature course numbered 170 or above before the end of the sophomore year.

The standard major for the Class of 2016 and subsequent classes The standard major consists of ten term courses numbered 160 or above, including a one-term senior essay (see below). One of these ten courses must be FREN 170 or the equivalent, which should be completed early in a candidate’s studies; at least four must be Group B courses numbered 200 or above. Students may count no more than two courses in the FREN 180–199 range and no more than two courses conducted in English (Group C) toward the major. With prior approval of the director of undergraduate studies, a maximum of four term courses taught outside the Yale Department of French but bearing directly on the student’s principal interest may be counted toward the major. Up to two of these may be taken in other departments at Yale, and up to four may be taken as part of a Year or Term Abroad or summer study abroad program. However, the combined number of courses from other departments and from study abroad may not exceed four. (The director of undergraduate...
students may grant exceptions to this limit for students who spend two academic terms in an approved study abroad program.) Relevant freshman seminars may count toward the major, with permission of the director of undergraduate studies.

The intensive major for the Class of 2016 and subsequent classes The intensive major is designed for students who wish to undertake a more concentrated study of literature in French. It is recommended for students considering graduate study in French or in comparative literature. The intensive major consists of twelve term courses numbered 160 or above, including a one-term or two-term senior essay (see below). At least five courses must be from Group B and numbered 200 or above. The requirement of FREN 170 and the stipulations for courses in the 180–199 range, courses conducted in English, and courses taken outside the department are identical to those for the standard major.

Senior requirement All majors must write a senior essay showing evidence of careful reading and research and substantial independent thought. Essays may be written in either French or English and must be prepared under the direction of a ladder faculty member in the Department of French. Students planning to pursue advanced work in French after graduation are encouraged to write their senior essay in French.

Students writing a one-term essay enroll in FREN 491 in the senior year. A one-term essay may be written in either the fall or the spring term and should be approximately thirty pages in length. A preliminary statement indicating the general area to be addressed and the name of the adviser must be submitted to the director of undergraduate studies by September 13 (fall-term essay) or November 8 (spring-term essay). A one-page prospectus and bibliography are due September 20 (fall term) or January 24 (spring term). A rough draft must be submitted to the adviser by November 1 (fall term) or March 28 (spring term). Two copies of the final essay are due in the department by December 2 (fall term) or April 21 (spring term).

Students electing a two-term essay for the intensive major must select their subject and adviser by the end of the junior year and enroll in FREN 493 and 494 during the senior year. The essay should be approximately sixty pages in length. A preliminary statement indicating the general area to be addressed and the name of the adviser must be submitted to the director of undergraduate studies by September 13. A one-page prospectus and bibliography are due September 20. Students must submit an initial rough draft to their adviser by January 24 and a complete draft by March 28. Two copies of the final essay are due in the department by April 21.

All majors Students in the major are encouraged to take as many advanced courses as possible in all historical periods from the Middle Ages to the present. Candidates for the major should consult the director of undergraduate studies as early as the beginning of the sophomore year and no later than the fall term of the junior year. Schedules must be approved and signed by the director of undergraduate studies. Students planning to study abroad or to petition for completion of two majors should contact the director of undergraduate studies during the sophomore year. Courses taken Credit/D/Fail may not be counted toward the requirements of the major.

Special Divisional Major The department will support the application of qualified students who wish to pursue an interdisciplinary course in French studies. Under the provisions of the Special Divisional Major, students may combine courses offered by the French department with subjects elected from other departments. Close consultation with departmental advisers is required; candidates for a Special Divisional Major should consult the director of undergraduate studies in French by the fall term of the junior year. For further information about the Special Divisional Major see under that heading.

Group A courses (FREN 110–159) This group consists of language courses that lead directly to courses counting toward the major. Preregistration is required for all Group A courses except FREN 125 and 145. For further details, students should consult the Freshman Web site (http://yalecollege.yale.edu/content/french-0) or see the director of undergraduate studies.

Group B courses (FREN 160–449, not including Group C courses) This group contains more advanced courses that are taught in French and count toward the major. FREN 160 and 170 are gateway courses that prepare students for courses numbered FREN 200 and above. Courses in the FREN 180–199 range are advanced language courses. Courses numbered 200–449 are advanced courses in literature and culture. The 200–299 range contains courses devoted to broad, general fields defined by century or genre; the 300–449 range contains courses devoted to specific topics within or across those general fields.

Group C courses This group comprises courses taught in English; readings may be in French or English. Two term courses from this group may be counted for credit toward the major. Placement Proper placement is essential for productive language study. All students who have not yet taken French at Yale are expected to take the departmental placement test in August. Students who study abroad during the summer with a non-Yale program must take the placement examination to qualify for credit for their study and to be placed in the appropriate more advanced course.

Only the following students are exempt from the August placement examination:

1. Students who have no previous knowledge of French whatsoever. These students must still preregister on line for FREN 110.

2. Students who received a score of 5 on the Advanced Placement examination in French, a score of 6 or 7 on the higher-level International Baccalaureate examination, or a grade of A or B on the GCE A-level examination. These students should discuss their proper course placement with the director of undergraduate studies, who will be present during the advising session held by the department at the
beginning of the fall term (visit the departmental Web site (http://french.yale.edu/language-placement-exam-and-pre-registration) for details).

Please note that the departmental placement test is given only once a year, at the beginning of the fall term. Students who wish to begin taking French in the spring must take the test in August. Details about placement and preregistration will be posted on the departmental Web site (http://french.yale.edu/language-placement-exam-and-pre-registration).

**REQUIREMENTS OF THE MAJOR**

**Prerequisite** FREN 150 or equivalent

**Number of courses** Standard major—10 term courses numbered 160 or above; Intensive major—12 term courses numbered 160 or above

**Specific course required** FREN 170 or equivalent

**Distribution of courses** Standard major—at least 4 courses in Group B numbered 200 or above; no more than 2 courses numbered FREN 180–199; no more than 2 courses conducted in English; Intensive major—same, plus 1 addtl Group B course numbered 200 or above

**Substitution permitted** With prior approval of DUS, up to 4 term courses outside French dept, as specified

**Senior requirement** Standard major—one-term senior essay in French or English (FREN 491); Intensive major—one-term (FREN 491) or two-term (FREN 493, 494) senior essay in French or English

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**Group A Courses**

*FREN 110a, Elementary and Intermediate French I* Matuku Ngam and staff

Intensive training and practice in all the language skills, with an initial emphasis on listening and speaking. Emphasis on communicative proficiency, self-expression, and cultural insights. Extensive use of audio and video material. Conducted entirely in French. Mandatory weekly tests given on Mondays at 30-minute intervals from 5 to 8:30 p.m. To be followed by FREN 110b. For students with no previous experience of French. Daily classroom attendance is required. Placement according to placement test score. Online preregistration required; see french.yale.edu for details. Credit only on completion of FREN 110. L1 RP ½ Course cr

*FREN 110b, Elementary and Intermediate French II* Matuku Ngam and staff

Continuation of FREN 110. Conducted entirely in French. Only after FREN 110. Online preregistration required; see french.yale.edu for details. To be followed by FREN 115. L2 RP ½ Course cr

*FREN 120a or b, Intermediate French* Candace Skorupa and Matuku Ngam

Designed for initiated beginners, this course develops all the language skills with an emphasis on listening and speaking. Activities include role playing, self-expression, and discussion of cultural and literary texts. Emphasis on grammar review and acquisition of vocabulary. Frequent audio and video exercises. Conducted entirely in French. Daily classroom attendance is required. Placement according to placement test score. Online preregistration required; see french.yale.edu for details. L1, L2 RP ½ Course cr

*FREN 125a, Intensive Elementary French* Constance Sherak

An accelerated course that covers in one term the material taught in FREN 110 and 120. Practice in all language skills, with emphasis on communicative proficiency. Admits to FREN 145. Conducted entirely in French. For students of superior linguistic ability. No preregistration required. L1, L2 RP 2 Course cr

*FREN 130a or b, Intermediate and Advanced French I* Ruth Koizim

The first half of a two-term sequence designed to develop students' proficiency in the four language skill areas. Prepares students for further work in literary, language, and cultural studies, as well as for nonacademic use of French. Oral communication skills, writing practice, vocabulary expansion, and a comprehensive review of fundamental grammatical structures are integrated with the study of short stories, novels, and films. Admits to FREN 140. Conducted entirely in French. After FREN 120, 121, or a satisfactory placement test score. Online preregistration required; see french.yale.edu for details. L3 RP ½ Course cr

*FREN 140a or b, Intermediate and Advanced French II* Soumia Koundi

The second half of a two-term sequence designed to develop students’ proficiency in the four language skill areas. Introduction of more complex grammatical structures. Films and other authentic media accompany literary readings from throughout the francophone world, culminating with the reading of a longer novel and in-class presentation of student research projects. Admits to FREN 150. Conducted entirely in French. After FREN 130 or a satisfactory placement test score. Online preregistration required; see french.yale.edu for details. L4 RP ½ Course cr

*FREN 145b, Intensive Intermediate and Advanced French* Soumia Koundi

An accelerated course that covers in one term the material taught in FREN 130 and 140. Emphasis on speaking, writing, and the conversion of grammatical knowledge into reading competence. Admits to FREN 150. For students of superior linguistic ability. Conducted entirely in French. After FREN 120, 121, or 125. No preregistration required. L3, L4 RP 2 Course cr

*FREN 150a or b, Advanced Language Practice* François Schneider

An advanced language course intended to improve students’ comprehension of spoken and written French as well as their speaking and writing skills. Modern fiction and nonfiction texts familiarize students with idiomatic French. Special attention to grammar review and vocabulary acquisition. Conducted entirely in French. After FREN 140, 145, or a satisfactory placement test score. May not be taken after FREN <151>. Online preregistration required; see french.yale.edu for details. L5 RP
Group B Courses

Group B courses are conducted entirely in French. Courses numbered from 160 to 199 are open to students who have passed FREN 150 or the equivalent, and to others with consent of the department. Courses numbered from 200 to 449 are open to students who have passed FREN 170, or with permission of the instructor. Students who have taken a course at the 200 level or higher may not ordinarily take a 100-level course for credit, with the exception of advanced language courses numbered 185 or higher. Students may take 200-, 300-, and 400-level courses in any order. Courses in the 200–299 range are devoted to general fields; courses in the 300–449 range are devoted to specific topics.

GATEWAY COURSES

*FREN 160a or b, Advanced Culture and Conversation  Lauren Pinzka
Intensive oral practice designed to further skills in listening comprehension, speaking, and reading through the use of videos, films, fiction, and articles. Emphasis on contemporary French and francophone cultures. Conducted entirely in French. Prerequisites: FREN 150, <151>, or a satisfactory placement test score, or with permission of the course director. May be taken concurrently with or after FREN 170. L5 RP

*FREN 170a or b, Introduction to the Study of Literature in French  Marie-Hélène Girard
Introduction to close reading and analysis of literary texts written in French. Works by authors such as Marie de France, Molière, Balzac, Hugo, Baudelaire, Césaire, and Duras. May not be taken after FREN 171. L5, HU

*FREN 171b, Introduction to the Study of Literature in French for Students of Directed Studies  Edwin M. Duval
An introduction to close reading and analysis of literary texts written in French, for current and former students of Directed Studies. Similar in content to FREN 170, but specifically designed to build on readings in DRST 001 and 002. Works by authors such as Du Bellay, Racine, Baudelaire, Flaubert, Proust, and Sartre. Prerequisites: DRST 001 or 002; FREN 150, or equivalent with permission of instructor and the director of undergraduate studies. May not be taken after FREN 170. L5, HU

ADVANCED LANGUAGE COURSES

*FREN 195b, Advanced Writing Workshop  Lauren Pinzka and Benjamin Hoffmann
An advanced writing course for students who wish to work intensively on perfecting their written French. Frequent compositions of varying lengths, including creative writing, rédactions (compositions on concrete topics), and dissertations (critical essays). Recommended for prospective majors. Conducted entirely in French. After FREN 150 or higher, or a satisfactory placement test score. May be taken after courses in the 200–449 range. L5

*FREN 198a, Applied Advanced French Grammar  Constance Sherak
In-depth study of grammar and discourse strategies. Advanced grammar exercises, linguistic analysis of literary selections, and English-to-French translation. Intended to improve students' written command of French and to prepare them for upper-level courses; recommended for prospective majors. After FREN 150 or higher, or a satisfactory placement test score. May be taken after courses in the 200–449 range. L5

GENERAL FIELDS

*FREN 200a, Literary Analysis and Theory  Yue Zhuo
Close readings of short literary masterpieces of the modern period, supplemented by critical readings that introduce various theoretical approaches. Primary authors include Flaubert, Maupassant, Baudelaire, Proust, Genet, Sartre, Duras, and Ponge. May not be taken after FREN <175>. L5, HU

*FREN 221b, The French Enlightenment  Thomas Kavanagh
The French Enlightenment as a crucial transition from ancien régime absolutism to modernity. Topics include the heritage of absolutism, libertinage and the rocco, new relations between the public and private spheres, changing constructions of identity and gender, and the role of the philosophes in the coming of the Revolution. Authors include La Bruyère, Montesquieu, Marivaux, Boyer d'Argens, Diderot, Voltaire, Rousseau, Laclos, Beaumarchais, Mirabeau, Olympe de Gouges, and Sade. Examination of paintings by Watteau, Chardin, Boucher, Fragonard, and Greuze, as well as cinematic representations of the period by Leconte, Frears, and Renoir. L5, HU

*FREN 230a / AFAM 191a / AFST 330a / LITR 266a, Introduction to Francophone African and Caribbean Literature  Christopher L. Miller
A comprehensive survey of literature written in French from sub-Saharan Africa and the Caribbean. The context of French colonialism and its institutions; the rise of Negritude and nationalism; independence and the postcolonial era. Authors include Senghor, Césaire, Sembènè (including film), Kourouma, Bâ, Belaya, Condé, and Lopes. L5, HU

*FREN 236a, Modern French Poetry  Thomas C. Connolly
Introduction to French poetry of the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. Methods for reading and analyzing a poetic text in French. Influences from classical and popular music, painting, sculpture, film, and dance, as well as from other European poetic traditions. L5, HU
*FREN 265a / THST 265a, French Classical Tragedy  Christopher Semk
Comprehensive survey of seventeenth-century French tragedy, with an emphasis on performance. Stylistic features and major themes of tragedy; the material conditions of early modern performance; the art of declamation; recent productions, including both those that seek to reproduce early modern practices and those that modernize the plays. Works by Bernard, Corneille, Racine, and Rotrou.  L5, HU

SPECIAL TOPICS

*FREN 304b, Power in Medieval French Literature  Jonathan Cayer
Portrayals of feudal and martial power, intellectual domination, and amorous contests in medieval French literature. Introduction to foundational movements and diverse literary genres, from romances to chronicles.  L5, HU

*FREN 337a, Premodern Travels in French Narrative  Jonathan Cayer
The use and representation of travel in French literature from the Middle Ages to the eighteenth century. Ideas of travel and exploration, cross-cultural interactions and misunderstandings, and geographies, both real and imagined.  L5, HU

*FREN 361b, Subjectivity and Sexuality in Twentieth-Century French Fiction  Yue Zhuo
Ways in which fragmented subjectivities have been represented and constructed in twentieth-century French fiction through encounters with others and through aesthetic and sexual experiences. Key literary trends and authors considered from critical perspectives of psychoanalysis, narratology, phenomenology, and gender.  L5, HU

*FREN 366b / HSAR 251b, Writers and Artists in Paris, 1780–1914  Marie-Hélène Girard
Ways in which the transformation of Paris shaped the representation of artists who lived and worked in the French capital from the end of the Old Regime until the eve of World War I. The emergence of Paris as a cultural marker; the role played by the image of the bohemian or the artiste maudit. Authors and artists include David, Balzac, Delacroix, Baudelaire, Manet, Mallarmé, impressionist painters, and Picasso.  L5, HU

*FREN 381a, Paris, Capital of the Nineteenth Century  Maurice Samuels
The myth of Paris as it took shape in nineteenth-century art and literature. Works by writers such as Hugo, Balzac, Baudelaire, and Rimbaud and by artists such as Delacroix, Gavarni, and Manet, as well as major impressionists such as Monet, Sisley, and Caillebotte. Other topics include nineteenth-century French history, Haussmann’s urbanism, architecture, and the birth of photography.  L5, HU

*FREN 398b / FILM 415b, Seventeenth-Century France in Cinema  Christopher Semk
Introduction to seventeenth-century French literature and culture through cinematic adaptations of literary works and representations of the period in film. The influence of seventeenth-century France on contemporary French culture; ways in which the period and its literature continue to capture the imagination of film directors.  L5, HU

Special Tutorial and Senior Courses

*FREN 470a and FREN 471b, Special Tutorial for Juniors and Seniors  Christopher Semk
Special projects set up by the student in an area of individual interest with the help of a faculty adviser and the director of undergraduate studies. Intended to enable the student to cover material not offered by the department. The project must terminate with at least a term paper or its equivalent and must have the approval of the director of undergraduate studies. Only one term may be offered toward the major, but two terms may be offered toward the bachelor’s degree. For additional information, consult the director of undergraduate studies.

*FREN 491a or b, The Senior Essay  Christopher Semk
A one-term research project completed under the direction of a ladder faculty member in the Department of French and resulting in a substantial paper in French or English. For additional information, consult the director of undergraduate studies.

*FREN 493a and FREN 494b, The Senior Essay in the Intensive Major  Christopher Semk
A yearlong research project completed under the direction of a ladder faculty member in the Department of French and resulting in a paper of considerable length, in French or English. For additional information, consult the director of undergraduate studies.

Group C Courses

Courses in Group C are conducted in English; readings may be in French or English. Group C courses numbered above 100 are open to all students in Yale College.

*FREN 007b, Money and the Novel  Maurice Samuels
The relationship between the invention of the modern novel and the rise of modern capitalism in France. Literature’s role in making sense of economic turmoil; literature as a commodity. Authors include Balzac, Gide, Maupassant, Murger, and Zola. Readings and discussion in English. Enrollment limited to freshmen. Preregistration required; see under Freshman Seminar Program.  WR, HU Tr

FREN 240a / HUMS 214a / LITR 214a, The Modern French Novel  Alice Kaplan and Maurice Samuels
A survey of major French novels, considering style and story, literary and intellectual movements, and historical contexts. Writers include Balzac, Flaubert, Proust, Camus, and Sartre. Readings in translation. One section conducted in French.  HU Tr
*FREN 302a / HUMS 236a / LITR 192a, Medieval Humor  R. Howard Bloch
Introduction to the fabliau, or Old French comic tale, and to the medieval sense of humor more generally. Close reading of a representative sample of extant fabliaux, with attention to the literary, historical, and social context of the tales. Readings and discussion in English; texts available in Old French.  HU  Tr

*FREN 305b / ENGL 157b, Medieval Biography  Ardis Butterfield and Joseph Stadolnik
The sources, aims, and diversity of biographical forms in medieval literature. Analysis of the medieval world through the study of autobiography, hagiography, political martyrlogy, and literary biography; the challenges of viewing a historical period primarily through a single life. Includes a research trip to New York City. Recommended preparation: reading knowledge of French.  HU  Tr

*FREN 323a / THST 408a, Actor and the Text: The Misanthrope  Toni Dorfman
Critical and practical exploration of Molière’s Misanthrope, culminating in a public performance. Admission by audition on Monday, August 26; interested students may sign up for auditions in the week prior. To audition, students must read from The Misanthrope or perform a comic monologue. Open to junior and senior Theater Studies majors, and to nonmajors with permission of the instructor.  HU  Tr

*FREN 347a / HSAR 280a / HUMS 213a, Ekphrasis  Thomas C. Connolly
An exploration of ekphrasis, understood both as the verbal representation of visual representation and, more broadly, as the way in which one artistic discourse represents, critiques, or transgresses another. Manifestations of this rhetorical device in both Western and non-Western cultures from antiquity to the present. Readings and discussion in English.  HU  Tr

*FREN 352b / GMAN 256b / LITR 217b, Poetry and the Holocaust  Thomas C. Connolly
The relationship between poetry and the Holocaust, both in poetry’s attempts to remember and come to terms with the past, and in the ways that it predicts and warns about the future. Readings from French, German, Hebrew, Arabic, Yiddish, and Italian works in translation. Readings and discussion in English, with texts available in the original languages.  HU  Tr

*FREN 397b / HUMS 362b / LITR 339b, French Theory from Sartre to Derrida  Yue Zhuo
A survey of French thought from the end of World War II to the present, from existentialism and Marxism to structuralism and poststructuralism. Authors include Sartre, de Beauvoir, Barthes, Lévi-Strauss, Foucault, Bataille, Deleuze, Kofman, and Derrida. Readings and discussion in English.  HU  Tr

Reading Course

*FREN 109a or b, French for Reading  Maryam Sanjabi
Fundamental grammar structures and basic vocabulary are acquired through the reading of texts in various fields (primarily humanities and social sciences, and others as determined by student interest). Intended for students who either need a reading knowledge of French for research purposes or are preparing for French reading examinations and who have had no (or minimal) prior study of French. No preregistration required. Conducted in English. Does not satisfy the language requirement.