FRENCH (FREN)

* FREN 096a, Women's Narratives of Self in Modern French Literature  Maryam Sanjabi
The course explores women’s autobiographical literature, demonstrating their uniqueness from an individual perspective and capturing the social, economic, religious, and ethnic themes of the period and their authors’ intellectual standpoints. The selected works represent a variety of literary genres ranging from memoir to journal, graphic novel, and film scripts with a focus on the 20th and 21st centuries as they appear in the works of: Colette, Simone de Beauvoir, Nathalie Sarraute, Lucie Aubrac, Hélène Berr, Assia Djebar, Ken Bugul, Agnès Varda, Marjane Satrapi, Marguerite Duras, Annie Ernaux, and Camille Laurens among others. This course thus aims at a critical awareness of what modernity has meant in women’s experiences and why debate about its consequences often revolves around women’s lives. While some authors explore the coming of age of European gender awareness, others deal with the war and resistance and more recent non-Western voices in French pose the question of identity of the “Other.” Course readings include short theoretical essays and a number of secondary works. Readings and discussions are in French, but papers may be submitted in French or English. Enrollment limited to first-year students. Preregistration required; see under First-Year Seminar Program.  HU

* FREN 109a, 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.

* FREN 110a, Elementary and Intermediate French I  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. To be followed by FREN 120. For students with no previous experience of French. Daily classroom attendance is required.  L1 RP 1½ Course cr

* FREN 120b, Elementary and Intermediate French II  Staff
Continuation of FREN 110. Open only to students who took FREN 110 (L1) at Yale. Conducted entirely in French. Only after FREN 110. To be followed by FREN 130.  L2 RP 1½ Course cr

* FREN 121a, Intermediate French  Candace Skorupa
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.  L2 RP 1½ 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  Staff
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.  L3 RP 1½ Course cr

* FREN 140a or b, Intermediate and Advanced French II  Staff
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.  L4 RP 1½ Course cr

* FREN 145b, Intensive Intermediate and Advanced French  Candace Skorupa
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  Staff
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 http://french.yale.edu/academics/placement-and-registration for details.  L5 RP
* FREN 160 a or b, Advanced Conversation Through Culture, Film, and Media  Staff  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 170 a or b, Introduction to Literatures in French  Staff  Introduction to close reading and analysis of literary texts written in French. Works by authors such as Marie de France, Molière, Balzac, Hugo, Baudelaire, Duras, Proust, and Genet. May not be taken after FREN 171.  L5, HU

* FREN 182 b, Creative and Critical Writing Workshop  Lauren Pinzka  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 183 a, Medical French: Conversation and Culture  Leo Tertrain  An advanced language course emphasizing verbal communication and culture. Designed to foster the acquisition of the linguistic and cultural skills required to evolve within a Francophone medical environment. Discussions, in-class activities, and group projects in simulated professional situations, with a focus on ethical questions. Topics such as public health policies, pandemics, medicine in Francophone Africa, humanitarian NGOs, assisted reproductive technologies, end-of-life care, and organ donation are explored through films, documentaries, articles, excerpts from essays and literary texts. Conducted entirely in French. Prerequisite: FREN 150 or a satisfactory placement test score, or with permission of instructor. May be taken concurrently with or after FREN 160 and FREN 170.  L5

* FREN 184 b, Business French: Communication and Culture  Leo Tertrain  An advanced language course emphasizing verbal communication and culture. Designed to foster the acquisition of the linguistic and cultural skills required to evolve within a Francophone business environment. Discussions, in-class activities, and group projects in simulated professional situations, with a focus on ethical questions. Topics such as human resources, labor unions, labor law, taxation, the service sector, the sharing economy, the green economy are explored through films, documentaries, articles, excerpts from essays and literary texts. Conducted entirely in French. Prerequisite: FREN 150 or a satisfactory placement test score, or with permission of instructor. May be taken concurrently with or after FREN 160 and FREN 170.  L5

* FREN 191 a, Translation  Alyson Waters  An introduction to the practice and theory of literary translation, conducted in workshop format. Stress on close reading, with emphasis initially on grammatical structures and vocabulary, subsequently on stylistics and aesthetics. Translation as a means to understand and communicate cultural difference in the case of French, African, Caribbean, and Québécois authors. Texts by Benjamin, Beckett, Borges, Stein, and others. Readings in French and in English. After FREN 150 and 151 or with permission of instructor. Preference to juniors and seniors.  HU

* FREN 192 b, Intermediate Literary Translation  Alyson Waters  A continuation of FREN 191 for students who wish to work on a longer project and to deepen their reading in translation theory. Prerequisite: FREN 191.  HU

FREN 216 a / ENGL 154 a / HUMS 134 a / LITR 194 a, The Multicultural Middle Ages  Ardis Butterfield  Introduction to medieval English literature and culture in its European and Mediterranean context, before it became monolingual, canonical, or author-bound. Genres include travel writing, epic, dream visions, mysticism, the lyric, and autobiography, from the Crusades to the Hundred Years War, from the troubadours to Dante, from the Chanson de Roland to Chaucer. Formerly ENGL 189.  HU

FREN 240 b / HUMS 201 b / LITR 214 b, 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 270 a / GMAN 214 a / LITR 284 a, Mad Poets of the Nineteenth and Twentieth Century  Thomas Connolly  Nineteenth- and twentieth-century French (and some German) poetry explored through the lives and works of poets whose ways of behaving, creating, and perceiving the world might be described as insane. Authors include Hölderlin, Nerval, Baudelaire, Rimbaud, Verlaine, Mallarmé, Lautréamont, Apollinaire, Breton, Artaud, and Celan. Lectures in English; readings available both in original language and in English translation.  WR, HU

* FREN 310 b, Montaigne Beyond Skepticism: Learning to Read the Essais  Dominique Brancher  Que sais-je? What do I know? This is Montaigne's motto, engraved on a medal in 1576 at the writer's request. At the crossroad of disciplines, this seminar explores how Michel de Montaigne develops a philosophy of doubt by literary means. We see that he does not naively or theoretically subscribe to the skeptical tradition, but rather proposes a practical and singular use of a non-judgmental attitude in the writing of Les Essais—the early modern masterpiece of the French literature of the self. We read essays on topics such as: idleness, education, eroticism, imagination. These texts are coupled with short, theoretical excerpts (Sextus Empiricus, Diogène Laërce, Henri Estienne). Readings and discussion in French.  L5, HU
* FREN 321b, Passions and Politics in the Theater of the Ancien Régime  Pierre Saint-Amand
This course consists in close readings of the major political tragedies of the classical period (17th–18th century), starting with Corneille who leads the genre and creates imitators. We consider how the language of passions intersects with the language of politics, the dialectics of hero and state. Study of the recurring major passions: love, jealousy, hate, and how they are dealt with, sometimes repaired. Readings in Pierre Corneille, Jean Racine, Voltaire, and Houdar de La Motte.  L5, HU

* FREN 345a, The Prose Poem  Thomas Connolly
An examination of the poème en prose, from its beginnings as a response to the inadequacy of French verse forms through its emergence as an independent genre.  L5, HU

FREN 384a / FILM 362a / ITAL 384a / JDST 289a / LITR 338a, Representing the Holocaust  Maurice Samuels and Millicent Marcus
The Holocaust as it has been depicted in books and films, and as written and recorded by survivors in different languages and national contexts. Questions of aesthetics and authority, language and its limits, ethical engagement, metaphors and memory, and narrative adequacy to record historical truth. Interactive discussions about films (Life Is Beautiful, Schindler’s List, Shoah), novels, memoirs (Primo Levi, Charlotte Delbo, Art Spiegelman), commentaries, theoretical writings, and testimonies from Yale’s Fortunoff Video Archive.  WR, HU

* FREN 394b / FILM 416b / LITR 366b, French Cinema through the New Wave  Dudley Andrew
The history of French cinema c. 1930 to 1970, from the onset of sound through the New Wave movement. The New Wave “idea of cinema”; the relation of cinema to national self-perception and state policy in France.  HU RP

* FREN 412b / AFAM 287b / AFST 412b / AMST 465b / LITR 250b, Postcolonial Theory and Literature  Fadila Habchi
A survey of the principal modes of thought that have animated decolonization and life after colonialism, as seen in both theoretical and literary texts. Concentration on the British and French imperial and postcolonial contexts. Readings in negritude, orientalism, psychoanalysis, poststructuralism, and novels. Lectures in English; readings available both in French and in English translation.  HU TR RP

* FREN 491a or b / FREN 492a or b, The Senior Essay  Thomas Connolly
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 491a or b / FREN 492a or b, The Senior Essay—Translation Track  Thomas Connolly
A one-term research project completed under the direction of a ladder faculty member in the Department of French and resulting in a substantial translation (roughly 30 pages) from French to English, with a critical introduction of a length to be determined by the student in consultation with the advising ladder faculty member. Materials submitted for the translation track cannot be the same as the materials submitted for the translation courses. For additional information, consult the director of undergraduate studies.

* FREN 493a and FREN 494b / FREN 495a and FREN 496b, The Senior Essay in the Intensive Major  Thomas Connolly
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.

FREN 493a and FREN 494b / FREN 495a and FREN 496b, The Senior Essay in the Intensive Major—Translation Track  Thomas Connolly
First term of a yearlong research project completed under the direction of a ladder faculty member in the Department of French and resulting in a translation of considerable length (roughly 60 pages), from French to English, with a critical introduction of a length to be determined by the student in consultation with the advising ladder faculty member. Materials submitted for the translation track cannot be the same as the materials submitted for the translation courses. For additional information, consult the director of undergraduate studies.