FRENCH

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FACULTY OF THE DEPARTMENT OF FRENCH

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Senior Lecturers Lauren Pinzka, Maryam Sanjabi

Lecturer Diane Charney

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

Lector 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 selective 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 and Media 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 under Section K, Special Arrangements, (http://catalog.yale.edu/ycps/academic-regulations/special-arrangements) in the Academic Regulations.

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.

Prerequisite for the major 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 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 studies 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 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 18 (fall-term essay) or November 13 (spring-term essay). A one-page prospectus and bibliography are due September 25 (fall term) or January 29 (spring term). A rough draft must be submitted to the adviser by November 6 (fall term) or April 1 (spring term). Two copies of the final essay are due in the department by December 7 (fall term) or April 25 (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 18. A one-page prospectus and bibliography are due September 25. Students must submit an initial rough draft to their adviser by January 29 and a complete draft by April 1. Two copies of the final essay are due in the department by April 25.

**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, see under Special Divisional Majors (http://catalog.yale.edu/ycps/subjects-of-instruction/special-divisional-majors).

**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 language program director (ruth.koizim@yale.edu).

**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** The departmental placement exam in French is accessible online over the summer. Dates and information for the exam will be available on the French Department Web site (http://french.yale.edu/academics/placement-and-registration), in the Calendar for the Opening Days of College, and on the Center for Language Study Web site (http://cls.yale.edu/placement-testing).

All students who have not yet studied French at Yale (except those who have had no previous exposure to French whatsoever) are expected to take the departmental placement exam. Students who studied abroad over the summer with non-Yale programs must take the placement exam to be eligible to receive credit for their work.

Students who earned superior scores on standardized tests may be able to enroll in a course designated L5. The department strongly recommends, however, that advanced students take the departmental placement exam in order to be directed to the most appropriate courses. Students who earned a score of 5 on the Advanced Placement exam, a score of 6 or 7 on the Advanced-Level International Baccalaureate (IB) exam, a rating of C1 on the CEFR European test, or an A or B on the GCE A-Level exam are normally placed into a course at the 150 level and above.

Students who wish to begin taking French in the spring are advised to take the placement exam over the summer. Placement exam results remain valid for one year.

**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

Group A Courses
* 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. Mandatory weekly tests given on Mondays at 30-minute intervals from 5 to 8:30 p.m. To be followed by FREN 120. For students with no previous experience of French. Daily classroom attendance is required. Credit only on completion of FREN 120.  L1 RP 1½ Course cr
* FREN 120b, Elementary and Intermediate French II  Staff
Continuation of FREN 110. 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

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  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
* FREN 170a or b, Introduction to the Study of Literature in French  Staff
Introduction to close reading and analysis of literary texts written in French. Works by authors such as Marie de France, Molière, Baudelaire, Hugo, Baudelaire, Duras, Proust, and Genet. May not be taken after FREN 170. 15, RP

* FREN 171b, Introduction to the Study of Literature in French for Students of Directed Studies  Edwin 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. 15, HU

ADVANCED LANGUAGE COURSES

* FREN 195a, Advanced 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, réécritures (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. 15

* FREN 198b, 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. 15

GENERAL FIELDS

* FREN 211a, French Poetry: The First Five Hundred Years  Edwin Duval
A survey of the first half-millennium of French poetry, from courtly love songs by the Trouvères of the late twelfth century to satirical verse by the Libertins of the early seventeenth. Special focus on the great flowering of lyric poetry during the Renaissance. The musical origins and aspirations of lyric poetry in France. Emphasis on close readings of representative works by major poets. 15, HU

* FREN 233a, French Fiction since the 1990s  Morgane Cadieu
Exploration of literary life in contemporary France. Literature in the media; the figure of the writer, including prizes, publishing houses, and literary quarrels; the legal status of texts, trials for plagiarism, and violation of privacy; new literary movements and genres. Works by Modiano, Ernaux, Guibert, Angot, Houellebecq, Darrieusse, NDaye, Garréta, Toussaint, and Echenoz. 15, 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. 15, HU

SPECIAL TOPICS

* FREN 307b / LITR 302b, Trains in French Literature, Film, and History  Morgane Cadieu
The aesthetics of trains in French and Francophone literature and culture. Survey of major literary movements in France from the nineteenth century to the present; trains and subways in French film, visual arts, and comics; the role of trains in French history, including industrialization, deportation, and colonization; theory on cities and public transportation. May not be taken after FREN 306. 15, WR, HU

* FREN 309a, Shopping and the Novel  Morgane Cadieu
Representations of shopping and consumerism in French literature, cinema, and culture from the nineteenth century to the present. The politics of window shopping, mythology of French commodities, rhetoric of advertisements, aesthetics of supermarkets, and literary versions of consumer society. An overview of major authors with an introduction to literary theory and sociology. 15, WR, HU

FREN 310b / LITR 191b, Louis XIV and the Culture of Absolutism  Christopher Semk
An exploration of the major literary works of seventeenth-century France, with special emphasis on the relationship between absolutism and cultural life. Artistic patronage and the institutionalization of the arts, support for and subversion of royal authority, and the characteristics of classical style. 15, HU

* FREN 366a / HSAR 251a, 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. 15, HU
* FREN 394a / FILM 416a / LITR 366a, 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 396b / FILM 474b, World War II in French Cinema  Alice Kaplan
A study of French films dealing with everyday life in France during the Nazi occupation (1940–44). Close analysis of scenes and cinematic techniques, historical readings, and film criticism.  L5, HU

* FREN 399a / HUMS 400a / PLSC 316a, Modernities  R. Howard Bloch and Steven Smith
An interdisciplinary study of philosophy, social thought, and some key literary works connected to two moments of modernity—the Enlightenment and the period of the “great upheaval” (1870–1915).  HU, SO

* FREN 412b / AFAM 287b / AFST 412b / LITR 250b, Postcolonial Theory and Literature  Christopher Miller
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

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-semester 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.

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.