FRENCH

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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 richest cultures 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 in a wide range of fields from law and diplomacy to journalism, academia, and the arts. Recent graduates have gone on to selective law schools and graduate programs in French and comparative literature. Others work in business, government, primary and secondary education, 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, in the Academic Regulations.

COURSE NUMBERING

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.

PREREQUISITES

Candidates for the major should take FREN 150 or the equivalent during the first or second year. Prospective majors are strongly encouraged to take at least one literature course numbered 170 or above before the end of the sophomore year.

PLACEMENT PROCEDURES

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 Website, in the Calendar for the Opening Days of College, and on the Center for Language Study Website.

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 of French 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

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.

Credit/D/Fail  Courses taken Credit/D/Fail may not be counted toward the requirements of the 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 April 21, 2017 (fall-term essay) or November 10 (spring-term essay). A one-page prospectus and bibliography are due September 22 (fall term) or January 26 (spring term). A rough draft must be submitted to the adviser by November 3 (fall term) or March 01 (spring term). Two copies of the final essay are due in the department by December 6 (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 April 21, 2017. A one-page prospectus and bibliography are due September 22. Students must submit an initial rough draft to their adviser by January 26 and a complete draft by March 30. Two copies of the final essay are due in the department by April 25.

ADVISING

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.

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.

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 and from Ruth Koizim (ruth.koizim@yale.edu), the study abroad adviser for the Department of French.

REQUIREMENTS OF THE MAJOR

Prerequisite  FREN 150 or equivalent

Number of courses  Standard major—10 term courses numbered 160 or above (inc senior req); Intensive major—12 term courses numbered 160 or above (inc senior req)

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

FACULTY OF THE DEPARTMENT OF FRENCH

Professors  R. Howard Bloch, Edwin M. Duval, Marie-Hélène Girard (Visiting), Alice Kaplan, Christopher L. Miller, Pierre Saint-Amand, Maurice Samuels (Chair)

Assistant Professors  Morgane Cadieu, Thomas C. Connolly, Jill Jarvis

Senior Lecturers  Lauren Pinzka, Maryam Sanjabi

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

Lector  Ramla Bedoui, Jessica DeVos, Chloé Folens, Marc Lozano, David Stoleru, Alice Thibaud

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  
  Staff  
  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 150, 151, or a satisfactory placement test score, or with permission of the course director. May be taken concurrently with or after FREN 170. 1.5 RP

* 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, Balzac, Hugo, Baudelaire, Duras, Proust, and Genet. May not be taken after FREN 171. 1.5, HU

ADVANCED LANGUAGE COURSES

* FREN 185a, 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, Steiner, and others. Readings in French and in English. After FREN 150 and 151 or with permission of instructor. Preference to juniors and seniors. 1.5, HU

* FREN 186b, Intermediate Literary Translation  
  Alyson Waters  
  A continuation of FREN 185a for students who wish to work on a longer project and to deepen their reading in translation theory. Group B courses are conducted entirely in French. Courses numbered from 160 to 190 are open to students who have passed two courses in the FREN 150–159 range or the equivalent, and to others with consent of the department. 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. Prerequisite: FREN 185a. 1.5, HU

* 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, 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. 1.5

* FREN 196b, 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. 1.5

GENERAL FIELDS

* FREN 217a, The French Renaissance  
  Edwin Duval  
  A survey of the literature of the French Renaissance, focusing on major authors, works, and literary movements in their historical and cultural contexts. Works include Rabelais’s Gargantua, Marguerite de Navarre’s Heptaméron, Ronsard’s Amours, Du Bellay’s Regrets, and Montaigne’s Essais. 1.5, HU

SPECIAL TOPICS

* FREN 352a / JDST 386a, Jewish Identity and French Culture  
  Maurice Samuels  
  Notions of Jewish identity in France from the French Revolution to the present. Writers and filmmakers include Balzac, Finkelkraut, Memmi, Modiano, Némirovsky, Renoir, Sartre, and Zola. 1.5, 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 417a / AFAM 420a / MMES 349a, Postcolonial Cities  
  Christopher Miller and Jill Jarvis  
  Critical study of literature and film that charts urban spaces in the French colonial empire and the Francophone postcolonial world. Readings and topics include: Paris as imperial capital and site of anti-imperial movements; Dakar, Senegal in Sembene Ousmane’s “Black Girl” (novel and film); Fort-de-France, Martinique in Césaire’s Notebook and Chamoiseau’s Solibo magnifique; Algiers in Assia Djebar’s Women of Algiers and Samir Toumi’s Alger le cri; Tunis in Abdelwahhab Meddeb’s Talismano; Casablanca in Mahi Binebine’s Les étoiles de Sidi Moumen; and Abderrahmane Sissako’s film Timbuktu. Reading knowledge of French required (FREN 160 or above). HU
* FREN 421b / AFAM 440b, Intercultural Literary Hoaxes  Christopher Miller
Study of literary works that test the bounds of propriety by borrowing or stealing an alien identity and passing the imposture off as authentic. Cases in Anglo-American and French-Francophone literature, ranging from the hilarious to the reprehensible. Attention to issues in the ethics of representation. Works include Diderot, Mérimée, George Eliot, pseudo-slave narratives, Camara Laye, Romain Gary, Forrest Carter, JT LeRoy, Paul Smail, Margaret B. Jones, Misha Defonseca. Prerequisite: Reading knowledge of French at the L4 level. HU

Special Tutorial and Senior Courses

* FREN 491a or b, The Senior Essay  Staff
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  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.

Group C Courses

Courses in this group 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 012b / LITR 020b, French Literature in Global Context  Jill Jarvis
Introduction to contemporary French fiction in a global perspective. Close readings of prizewinning novels by writers of the former French Empire—in Africa, the Middle East, Southeast Asia, and the Caribbean—alongside key manifestos and theoretical essays that define or defy the notion of world literature. Enrollment limited to freshmen. Preregistration required; see under Freshman Seminar Program. HU

* FREN 214b / ENGL 207b / HUMS 187b / LITR 182b, Medieval Romance  R. Howard Bloch
A study of some of the principal forms of Arthurian, chivalric, courtly, and parodic romances of medieval French and English tradition. HU

FREN 216b / ENGL 189b / HUMS 134b / LITR 194b, 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. HU

* FREN 227a / HUMS 257a / LITR 310a, Love in the Western World  R. Howard Bloch
Consideration and definition of the varieties of love by which we still live and which came into being in late Antiquity and the High Middle Ages. HU

FREN 270a / GMAN 214a / LITR 284a, 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 335a / HUMS 235a, Orientalism in French Literature and Art  Marie-Hélène Girard and Maryam Sanjabi
Examination of Oriental influences in French prose, theater, poetry, travel literature, and art from the seventeenth century to the twentieth. Topics include the problems of Orientalism; encounters with peoples, monuments, and cultures of the Muslim Middle East; social and political critique; and the popular lure of Oriental exoticism. Readings in English. HU

* FREN 383b / ENGL 271b / HUMS 404b, Modernities: Literature in the Era of Tyrannies 1919-1960  Alice Kaplan and David Bromwich
Political writing of the mid-20th century with emphasis on ideologies, including communism, fascism and democracy. Emphasis on British, French, and American authors such as Orwell, Camus, Sartre, Greene, Duras, and Arendt. Students must be in sophomore, junior, or senior year.

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.