FRENCH

Humanities Quadrangle, 3rd floor, 203.432.4900
http://french.yale.edu
M.A., M.Phil., Ph.D.

Chair
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Associate Professors  Morgane Cadieu, Thomas Connolly

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Affiliated Faculty  Carol Armstrong (History of Art)

FIELDS OF STUDY
Fields include French literature, criticism, theory, and culture from the early Middle
Ages to the present, and the French-language literatures of Africa, the Caribbean, and
the Maghreb.

SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS FOR THE PH.D. DEGREE

• Candidates must demonstrate proficiency in two languages (in addition to English
and French). Proficiency is defined as the successful completion of one year of study
at the college level or reading proficiency at the graduate level. Students must fulfill
one language requirement no later than the beginning of their third term of study.
The second language requirement must be satisfied before the prospectus can be
approved.

• During the first two years of study, students normally take fourteen term courses.
These must include Old French (FREN 610) and at least two graduate-level
term courses outside the department. They may include one term of an approved
language course taken as a means of fulfilling one of the language requirements,
and as many as four graduate-level term courses outside the department. Methods
and Techniques in the Italian and French Classroom (FREN 670) is also required
for students in their second year. At the end of the first year of study, a grade of
Honors must be obtained in at least two graduate term courses taught by core
faculty within the French department. By the end of the second year, a grade of
Honors must be obtained in at least four graduate term courses taught by core
faculty within the French department. The total required number of Honors in
French department courses taught by core faculty is thus four. (Core faculty are
faculty appointed in French, as opposed to affiliated faculty.)

• A qualifying oral examination takes place during the sixth term. The examination is
designed to demonstrate students’ mastery of the French language, their knowledge
and command of selected topics in literature, and their capacity to present and discuss texts and issues.

• After having successfully passed the qualifying oral examination, students are required to submit a dissertation prospectus for approval, normally no later than the end of the term following the oral examination.

In order to be admitted to candidacy for the Ph.D., students must complete all predissertation requirements, including the prospectus. Students must be admitted to candidacy by the end of the seventh term.

Teaching is considered an integral part of the preparation for the Ph.D. degree, and all students are required to teach for at least one year. Opportunities to teach undergraduate courses normally become available to candidates in their third year, after consideration of the needs of the department and of the students’ capacity both to teach and to fulfill their final requirements. Prior to teaching, students take a language-teaching methodology course.

COMBINED PH.D. PROGRAMS

The French department also offers three combined Ph.D.s: one in French and African American Studies (in conjunction with the Department of African American Studies), one in French and Early Modern Studies (in conjunction with the Early Modern Studies Program), and one in French and Film and Media Studies (in conjunction with the Film and Media Studies Program). Students in all of these combined degree programs are subject to all the requirements for a Ph.D. in French, with exceptions noted below. In addition, they must fulfill certain requirements particular to the combined program.

French and African American Studies

This program is most appropriate for students who intend to concentrate in and write a dissertation on the literature of the francophone Caribbean. Students take sixteen term courses, including Theorizing Racial Formations (AFAM 505), which is a required course for all first-year graduate students in the combined program, and three other graduate-level African American Studies courses: (1) a history course, (2) a social science course, and (3) a course in African American literature or culture. Ten of the remaining twelve courses are devoted to the full spectrum of periods and fields in French and francophone literature and culture; the two remaining courses can be in any field. Students in the combined degree program should fulfill the French department’s language requirements by gaining proficiency in either a Creole language of the Caribbean or Spanish, as well as by demonstrating competence in a second foreign language that is directly relevant to the study of the Caribbean. The students’ oral examinations normally include two topics of African American content. The dissertation prospectus must be approved by the director of graduate studies (DGS) both in the French department and in African American Studies, and final approval of the dissertation must come from both departments. For further details see African American Studies.
French and Early Modern Studies

The Department of French offers, in conjunction with the Early Modern Studies Program, a combined Ph.D. in French and Early Modern Studies. For further details see Early Modern Studies.

French and Film and Media Studies

For students in the combined Ph.D. program in French and Film and Media Studies, the oral examination will normally include one topic on film theory and one on French film. Both the dissertation prospectus and the final dissertation must be approved by the French department and the program in Film and Media Studies. In addition, Film and Media Studies requires a dissertation defense. For further details see Film and Media Studies.

MASTER’S DEGREES

M.Phil. See Degree Requirements under Policies and Regulations.

M.A. Students who withdraw from the Ph.D. program may be eligible to receive the M.A. degree if they have met the requirements and have not already received the M.Phil. degree. For the M.A., students must successfully complete one of the language requirements and eight courses, of which at least six are in French. Two grades of Honors in French are required, and the remaining grades must average High Pass.

Program materials are available on the department’s website at http://french.yale.edu/academics/graduate-program.