

# Department of French

Professor: *Mistacco, Lydgate, Respaut, Levitt (Chair), Masson, Datta*

Associate Professor: *Petterson, Prabhu*

Assistant Professor: *Gunther, Bilis*

Senior Lecturer: *Egron-Sparrow, Tranvouez*

The French department's courses develop skills in the language of France and French-speaking countries and offer access to cultures that are rich in tradition and have important roles to play in a rapidly diversifying Europe and a rapidly contracting world. All but one of our courses, from elementary to advanced, are taught in French. Their topics, in literature and culture, span 10 centuries, from the Middle Ages to the present. In addition to opening cultural doors, the department's courses help students develop a number of critical skills and habits—linguistic, analytical, interpretive, expressive.

Early in the language cycle students encounter material from different parts of the world, from historical periods that range from the medieval to the contemporary, and in a variety of genres and media. They encounter as well a number of different approaches to reading and analyzing texts: historical, sociological, psychological, and literary—including the perspectives of race and gender and women's studies. Students who graduate from our program have gone on to further study in (among other areas) the law, medicine, international relations, museum science, art and art history, English, French, and Middle Eastern Studies, as well as to careers in publishing and on Wall Street and Madison Avenue. Graduates routinely report that their skills in French are a significant asset in pursuing careers with international organizations and companies.

## Goals for the Major

The French department expects linguistic competence of its majors at graduation; students should be able to express themselves with a considerable degree of sophistication and near-native accuracy both orally and in writing.

All majors are expected to develop their knowledge of the literature and culture of France and are encouraged to learn about the literature and culture of other Francophone countries as well. Students should also be able to conduct rigorous in-depth research using primary as well as secondary sources on both literary and cultural topics.

Please see Requirements for the Major below for information about the major.

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## FREN 101-102 Beginning French I and II

*Gunther, Lydgate, Staff*

Systematic training in all the language skills, with special emphasis on communication, self-expression, and cultural insights. A multimedia course based on the video series, *French in Action*. Classes are supplemented by regular assignments in a variety of video, audio, print and Web-based materials to give students practice using authentic French accurately and expressively. Three periods. *Each semester earns one unit of credit; however, both semesters must be completed satisfactorily to receive credit for either course.*

Prerequisite: Open by permission of the instructor to first-year students and sophomores who would like to prepare for study abroad their junior year in a Francophone country. Normally not open to students who present French for admission.

Distribution: None

Semester: Fall, Spring

Unit: 1.0

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## FREN 103 Intensive French I

*Lydgate*

Intensive training in French. The course covers the material of French 101-102 in a single semester. Five class periods four days a week. For students with little or no previous study of French. This is a demanding course designed for students interested in taking a junior year or semester abroad. Not recommended for students seeking to fulfill the foreign-language requirement in French.

Prerequisite: Open to first-year students and sophomores who do not present French for admission by permission of the instructor.

Distribution: None

Semester: Fall

Unit: 1.25

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## FREN 201-202 French Language, Literatures, and Cultures

*Gunther, Tranvouez*

Reading, writing, and speaking skills are developed through analysis and discussions of short stories, plays, poems, films, and newspaper articles from France and the Francophone world. Three periods. *Each semester earns one unit of credit; however, both semesters must be completed satisfactorily to receive credit for either course. Students beginning with 202 must take one of the following courses: 205, 206, 207, 208 or 209, in order to complete the requirement. The 201-202 sequence should be completed within three consecutive semesters.*

Prerequisite: 102 or 103, SAT II score of 500-590, or an equivalent departmental placement score, or an AP score of 1 or 2 or permission of the instructor.

Distribution: One unit of Language and Literature for 202

Semester: Fall, Spring

Unit: 1.0

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## FREN 202 French Language, Literatures, and Cultures

*Staff*

In this Wintersession course, reading, writing, and speaking skills are developed through analysis and discussions of short stories, plays, poems, films, and newspaper articles from France and the Francophone world. *Subject to Dean's Office approval. Not offered every year.*

Prerequisite: Open only to students who receive B+ or better in 201 the previous semester.

Distribution: Language and Literature

Semester: Wintersession

Unit: 1.0

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**FREN 203 Intensive French II***Lydgate*

The continuation of French 103. Systematic training in all the language skills. Five class periods four days a week. The course is equivalent to French 201-202, and is designed to prepare students to qualify for study abroad after two further courses in French: a unit of French 206, 207, 208, or 209 and a unit of French 210 or 211.

Prerequisite: Open only to students who have completed FREN 103 or by permission of the instructor.

Distribution: Language and Literature

Semester: Spring

Unit: 1.25

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**FREN 205 Literature and Film in Cultural Contexts***Datta*

Discussion of modern literature and film in their cultural contexts. Training in techniques of literary and cultural analysis. Materials include novels, short stories, poetry, films, screenplays, and videos from France and the Francophone world. Vocabulary building and review of key points of grammar. Frequent written practice. Attention to oral skills and listening comprehension, as needed.

Prerequisite: 202 or 203, an SAT II score of 600-640, an equivalent departmental placement score, or an AP score of 3.

Distribution: Language and Literature

Semester: Fall

Unit: 1.0

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**FREN 206 Intermediate Spoken French***Billis, Petterson, Respaut*

Practice in conversation, using a variety of materials including newspaper articles, radio and television broadcasts, advertisements, and films. This course is designed to develop oral proficiency and listening comprehension, with necessary attention to the other skills—reading, and writing.

Prerequisite: 202, 203, or 205, an SAT II score of 650-680, an equivalent departmental placement score, or an AP score of 4.

Distribution: Language and Literature

Semester: Fall, Spring

Unit: 1.0

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**FREN 207 Perspectives on French Culture and Society: French Identity in the Age of Globalization***Datta*

In this introduction to French society and culture, we will examine France's identity crisis at the beginning of the twenty-first century. From its historical position of political, economic, and intellectual leadership in Europe and the world, France is searching to maintain its difference as a defender of quality over mass appeal and the proud values of its national tradition in the face of increasing globalization. Topics covered include Franco-American relations, the European Union, immigration, the family, and the role of women in French society. Readings are drawn from a variety of sources: historical, sociological, and ethnographic. Magazine and newspaper articles, along with television programs and films will provide supplementary information.

Prerequisite: 202, 203, or 205, an SAT II score of 650-680, an equivalent departmental placement score, or an AP score of 4.

Distribution: Language and Literature or Social and Behavioral Analysis

Semester: Spring

Unit: 1.0

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**FREN 208 Women and Literary Tradition***Mistacco*

**NOT OFFERED IN 2009-10.** An introduction to women's writing from Marie de France to Marguerite Duras, from the Middle Ages to the twentieth century. The course is designed to develop an appreciation of the evolution of women's writing across the centuries and of women's place in French literary history. Special attention is given to the continuities among women writers and to the impact of their minority status upon their writing. Well-known writers, such as Christine de Pizan, Louise Labé, Beauvoir, Colette and Duras, and lesser-known figures, such as Hélienne de Crenne and the fairy tale *conteuses*, Aulnoy, Villeneuve and Le Prince de Beaumont, are studied.

Prerequisite: 202, 203, or 205, an SAT II score of 650-680, an equivalent departmental placement score, or an AP score of 4.

Distribution: Language and Literature

Semester: N/O

Unit: 1.0

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**FREN 209 Studies in Literature***Masson*

**Topic for 2009-10: Contemporary Theater and Contemporary Issues.** Reading and analysis of plays performed in France at the end of the twentieth and beginning of the twenty-first century. Introduction to the techniques of reading dramatic works. Emphasis on oral discussion of the representation of contemporary issues in various plays.

Prerequisite: 202, 203, or 205, an SAT II score of 650-680, an equivalent departmental placement score, or an AP score of 4.

Distribution: Language and Literature or Arts, Music, Theatre, Film, Video

Semester: Fall

Unit: 1.0

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*The prerequisites for all upper 200-level French courses from FREN 210 on are the same (except for FREN 232 which is taught in English). These courses may be taken in any order. Students preparing to spend their junior year in France or a Francophone country should take FREN 211 as soon as possible.*

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**FREN 210 French Literature and Culture Through the Centuries: From Classicism to the Present***Petterson*

A study of major authors in their cultural contexts, from the seventeenth century to the twentieth, with emphasis on textual analysis and

essay writing in French. Readings will be drawn from the following authors: Corneille, Molière, Montesquieu, Voltaire, Diderot, Beaumarchais, Balzac, Flaubert, Gide, Sartre, Camus, Duras, and Bâ.

Prerequisite: At least one unit of 206, 207, 208, 209 or above, an SAT II score of 690-800, an equivalent departmental placement score, or an AP score of 5.

Distribution: Language and Literature

Semester: Fall

Unit: 1.0

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### **FREN 211 Studies in Language**

*Bilis, Mistacco, Prabhu, Masson*

Comprehensive review of French grammar, enrichment of vocabulary, and introduction to French techniques of literary analysis, composition, and the organization of ideas. Open to first-year students who have taken one of the prerequisite courses.

Prerequisite: At least one unit of 206, 207, 208, 209 or above, an SAT II score of 690-800, an equivalent departmental placement score, or an AP score of 5.

Distribution: Language and Literature

Semester: Fall, Spring

Unit: 1.0

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### **FREN 213 From Myth to the Absurd: French Drama in the Twentieth Century**

*Masson*

**NOT OFFERED IN 2009-10.** An investigation of the major trends in modern French drama: the reinterpretation of myths, the influence of existentialism, and the theater of the absurd. Special attention is given to the nature of dramatic conflict and to the relationship between text and performance. Study of plays by Anouilh, Cocteau, Giraudoux, Sartre, Camus, Ionesco, Beckett, and Genet.

Prerequisite: At least one unit of 206, 207, 208, 209 or above, an SAT II score of 690-800, an equivalent departmental placement score, or an AP score of 5.

Distribution: Language and Literature or Arts, Music, Theatre, Film, Video

Semester: N/O

Unit: 1.0

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### **FREN 214 Desire, Power, and Language in the Nineteenth-Century Novel**

*Tranvouez*

**NOT OFFERED IN 2009-10.** Ambition, passion, and transgression in major works by Balzac, Sand, Flaubert, and Zola. Analysis of narrative techniques that organize the interplay of desire and power against which individual destinies are played out in post-Revolutionary France. Realism and the representation of reality in the context of a society in turmoil.

Prerequisite: At least one unit of 206, 207, 208, 209 or above, an SAT II score of 690-800, an equivalent departmental placement score, or an AP score of 5.

Distribution: Language and Literature

Semester: N/O

Unit: 1.0

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### **FREN 215 Baudelaire, Verlaine, Rimbaud**

*Respaut*

This course emphasizes close study of a body of poetry which ranks among the most influential in Western literature, and which initiates modern poetics. Baudelaire will be treated in relation to romanticism and conceptions of the modern. In Verlaine, we will study the development of free verse and the liberation of poetic form. The course will conclude by confronting Rimbaud's effort to "changer la vie" through his visionary and surreal writing.

Prerequisite: At least one unit of 206, 207, 208, 209 or above, an SAT II score of 690-800, an equivalent departmental placement score, or an AP score of 5.

Distribution: Language and Literature

Semester: Fall

Unit: 1.0

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### **FREN 216 Mothers and Daughters**

*Mistacco*

This course will examine the mother/daughter relationship in French literature, in autobiographical writing including personal correspondence, and in art from the late-seventeenth century to the present in the context of evolving concepts of motherhood and the education of girls in French culture. Recent feminist criticism will be brought to bear on the conflicts and complexities of the mother/daughter dynamic, highlighting both its enabling and engulfing aspects and its role as a vehicle for transmitting societal values as well as challenging them. Authors and artists include: Sévigné, Lambert, Genlis, Rousseau, Charrière, Vigée-Lebrun, Sand, Desbordes-Valmore, Colette, Irigaray and Chawaf.

Prerequisite: At least one unit of 206, 207, 208, 209 or above, an SAT II score of 690-800, an equivalent departmental placement score, or an AP score of 5.

Distribution: Language and Literature

Semester: Spring

Unit: 1.0

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### **FREN 217 Books of the Self**

*Lydgate*

**NOT OFFERED IN 2009-10.** This course focuses on texts that seek to reveal the reality of the self in the space of a book, including readings of confessional and autobiographical works by the twentieth-century writers Camus, Annie Ernaux, Roland Barthes, and Maryse Condé, and by their literary ancestors Augustine, Abélard, Montaigne, and Rousseau. Themes examined include: the compulsion to confess; secret sharing versus public self-disclosure; love, desire, and language; the search for authenticity; dominant discourse and minority voices; the role of the reader as accomplice, witness, judge, confessor.

Prerequisite: At least one unit of 206, 207, 208, 209 or above, an SAT II score of 690-800, an equivalent departmental placement score, or an AP score of 5.

Distribution: Language and Literature or Religion, Ethics and Moral Philosophy

Semester: N/O

Unit: 1.0

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**FREN 218 Négritude, Independences, Women's Issues: Francophone Literature in Context**

*Prabhu*

**NOT OFFERED IN 2009-10.** This course seeks to understand key concerns of writers from the colonized world. We will study writing in different genres by the young African writers and poets who met in Paris in the early-twentieth century. We will discuss issues concerning women in independence movements and later in the newly independent nations. The impact of colonialism and independence on different indigenous societal institutions, polygamy in particular, will be central to the later readings.

Prerequisite: At least one unit of 206, 207, 208, 209 or above, an SAT II score of 690-800, an equivalent departmental placement score, or an AP score of 5.

Distribution: Language and Literature

Semester: N/O

Unit: 1.0

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**FREN 219 Love/Death**

*Respaut*

**NOT OFFERED IN 2009-10.** This course investigates the connection between fiction and film and our fundamental preoccupation with the issues of love and death. Texts ranging from the Middle Ages to the twentieth century are studied, with an eye toward understanding how the thematics of love and death are related to story structure, narration, and the dynamics of reading.

Prerequisite: At least one unit of 206, 207, 208, 209 or above, an SAT II score of 690-800, an equivalent departmental placement score, or an AP score of 5.

Distribution: Language and Literature

Semester: N/O

Unit: 1.0

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**FREN 222 French Cinema**

**NOT OFFERED IN 2009-10.** A survey of French cinema with a focus on three key periods: the 30s, the 60s and the 90s. Starting with classics by Jean Renoir, Marcel Carné, and Julien Duvivier, the course will study the stylistic revolution brought about by the New Wave and the mark it has left on recent French cinema. The films will be analyzed from a variety of perspectives: political and socioeconomic contexts, gender representations, narrative patterns, and visual metaphors of subjectivity.

Prerequisite: At least one unit of 206, 207, 208, 209 or above, an SAT II score of 690-800, an AP score of 5, or an equivalent departmental placement score.

Distribution: Language and Literature or Arts, Music, Theatre, Film, Video

Semester: N/O

Unit: 1.0

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**FREN 223 The Paris of Poets**

*Petterson*

**NOT OFFERED IN 2009-10.** An examination of Paris as historical urban inspiration for French poetry and the visual arts. Special attention to Parisian artistic life during the late nineteenth-century reconstruction of Paris and the twentieth and twenty-first centuries. Poems by Hugo, Baudelaire, Rimbaud, Verlaine, Apollinaire, Breton, Desnos, Ponge, Senghor, Prévert, Queneau, Bonnefoy, Dupin, Chedid, Réda, Roubaud, Hocquard.

Prerequisite: At least one unit of 206, 207, 208, 209 or above, an SAT II score of 690-800, an AP score of 5, or an equivalent departmental placement score.

Distribution: Language and Literature

Semester: N/O

Unit: 1.0

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**FREN 224 Versailles and the Age of Louis XIV**

*Billis*

Louis XIV sought to present his royal court at Versailles as the ultimate in monarchical splendor and power. Yet writers who frequented the court focus on its dangerous intrigues, moral corruption and petty rivalries. The course will explore this discrepancy through close study of official and unofficial productions of the court. Royal paintings, medallions, architecture, ceremonies and official historiography all foreground the Sun King's glory; novels, memoirs, letters and moral treatises seem to undo the very notions of courtly magnificence put forward by the monarchy. Both elements are crucial to understanding the social, political, religious and artistic practices that defined the court. Recent films and historical works on Versailles will help us evaluate its legacy for contemporary French culture.

Prerequisite: At least one unit of 206, 207, 208, 209 or above, an SAT II score of 690-800, an AP score of 5, or an equivalent departmental placement score.

Distribution: Language and Literature or Historical Studies

Semester: Spring

Unit: 1.0

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**FREN 225 The French Press**

*Gunther*

This course is designed for students who want to become more familiar with the French media, to keep up with current events and to know more about the differences between the perspectives of French and American news sources with regard to current issues. The course is also intended to improve students' reading, writing, and speaking skills in French.

Prerequisite: At least one unit of 206, 207, 208, 209 or above, an SAT II score of 690-800, an AP score of 5, or an equivalent departmental placement score.

Distribution: Language and Literature or Social and Behavioral Analysis

Semester: Fall

Unit: 1.0

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**FREN 226 Speaking Through Acting**

*Masson*

Improvement of French oral skills and public speaking skills through the use of acting techniques. Intensive analysis of short literary texts and excerpts from several plays with emphasis on pronunciation, diction, elocution, acting and staging.

Prerequisite: At least one unit of 206, 207, 208, 209 or above, an SAT II score of 690-800, an AP score of 5, or an equivalent departmental placement score.

Distribution: Language and Literature or Arts, Music, Theatre, Film, Video

Semester: Spring

Unit: 1.0

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**FREN 228 Wintersession in Paris:***Datta*

**Topic for 2009-10: Pleasures of Paris: Paris in the Age of Mass Culture, 1860–1930.** In the second half of the nineteenth century, Paris was transformed through the process of *hausmannisation* from a medieval city to a modern capital known for its entertainments and pleasures. The construction of the new boulevards and monuments, along with the emergence of mass democracy and the popular press, gave rise to a culture of spectacle and display. This interdisciplinary course explores life on the boulevards, Montmartre as a revolutionary space and a place of popular entertainment, the *grands magasins*, and the café culture enjoyed by American writers and artists during the interwar years. Sites to be visited include the Musée d'Orsay, the Opéra Garnier, the *grands magasins*, Montmartre, Père Lachaise cemetery, as well as tours of the *grands boulevards* and of Left Bank cafés. *Not offered every year. Subject to Dean's Office's approval.*

Prerequisite: At least one unit of 206, 207, 208, 209 or above, an SAT II score of 690-800, an AP score of 5, or an equivalent departmental placement score. Application required.

Distribution: Language and Literature or Historical Studies

Semester: Wintersession

Unit: 1.0

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**FREN 229 America through French Eyes: Perceptions and Realities***Datta*

**NOT OFFERED IN 2009-10.** The French have long been fascinated by the United States, especially since the end of the Second World War. At times, the U.S. has been seen as a model to be emulated in France; more often, it has stood out as the antithesis of French culture and values. This course examines French representations of the United States and of Americans through an examination of key historical and literary texts—essays, autobiographies, and fiction—as well as films. Topics to be explored include: representations of African-Americans in French films (Josephine Baker), French views of Taylorization, the Coca-Cola wars of the 1950s, French-American tensions during the Cold War, especially under de Gaulle, as well as more recent debates about Euro Disney, McDonald's, Hollywood, globalization, and multiculturalism.

Prerequisite: At least one unit of 206, 207, 208, 209 or above, an SAT II score of 690-800, an equivalent departmental placement score, or an AP score of 5.

Distribution: Language and Literature or Historical Studies

Semester: N/O

Unit: 1.0

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**FREN 232 Occupation and Resistance:****The French Memory and Experience of World War II (in English)***Datta*

**NOT OFFERED IN 2009-10.** Few experiences in recent French history have marked French collective memory as profoundly as World War II. During these years, the French dealt not only with the trauma of defeat and the German Occupation, but also with the divisive legacy of the collaborationist Vichy regime, headed by Marshal Philippe Pétain, a revered World War I hero. Memories of the war have continued to mark the public imagination to the present day, manifesting themselves in the various arenas of French national life. This course examines the history and memory of the French experience of World War II through historical documents, memoirs, films, literature, and songs. *Does not count toward the minimum major in French.*

Prerequisite: None

Distribution: Historical Studies

Semester: N/O

Unit: 1.0

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**FREN 237 Saint-Germain-des-Prés***Lydgate*

The legendary sixth arrondissement neighborhood as a cultural crucible in post-Liberation Paris. Saint-Germain-des-Prés as the locus of an unprecedented concentration of literary and artistic talent after 1945: existentialists, writers, artists, café intellectuals, and nonconformists. The discovery of jazz and American popular culture. Saint-Germain and the myth of the Left Bank. Study of texts by Sartre, Camus, Simone de Beauvoir, Boris Vian, Raymond Queneau; songs by Juliette Gréco and others; newsreel, film and audio documents of the period.

Prerequisite: At least one unit of 206, 207, 208, 209 or above, an SAT II score of 690-800, an equivalent departmental placement score, or an AP score of 5. Not open to students who have taken 228 in Wintersession 2006.

Distribution: Language and Literature or Arts, Music, Theatre, Film, Video

Semester: Spring

Unit: 1.0

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**FREN 301 Books and Voices in Renaissance France***Lydgate*

**NOT OFFERED IN 2009-10.** Innovative writers in sixteenth-century France and the ideas and forms of expression they explored in the early decades of printing. The persistence of oral culture and the search for a voice in print; the triumph of French over Latin as a literary language of subtlety and power; the collisions of propaganda and censorship in a century torn by religious strife; the emergence of new audiences and new strategies of narration and reading. Readings in prose works by Rabelais, Montaigne, Calvin, Marguerite de Navarre; poetry by du Bellay, Ronsard, and Louise Labé. Periodic reference to resources of the Rare Books Collection in the College library.

Prerequisite: 211 (or for classes of 2010-2011 only, 210 may be substituted) and one additional unit, 212 or above.

Distribution: Language and Literature

Semester: N/O

Unit: 1.0

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**FREN 303 Advanced Studies in Seventeenth and Eighteenth Centuries***Billis***NOT OFFERED IN 2009-10.**

Prerequisite: 211 (or for classes of 2010-2011 only, 210 may be substituted) and one additional unit, 212 or above.

### **FREN 304 Male and Female Perspectives in the Eighteenth-Century Novel**

*Mistacco*

**NOT OFFERED IN 2009-10.** Drawing from feminist inquiries into the politics of exclusion and inclusion in literary history, the course examines, in dialogue with masterpieces authored by men, novels by major women writers of the period. Though much admired in their time, these novels were subsequently erased from the pages of literary history and rediscovered only in the late-twentieth century. In this course, we will reconsider this particular literature of female dissent along with key novels by men as part of a crisis in legitimacy that led to the French Revolution. Works by Prévost, Claudine-Alexandrine de Tencin, Françoise de Graffigny, Marie-Jeanne Riccoboni, Rousseau, Diderot, Laclos, and Isabelle de Charrière.

Prerequisite: 211 (or for classes of 2010-2011 only, 210 may be substituted) and one additional unit, 212 or above.

Distribution: Language and Literature

Semester: N/O

Unit: 1.0

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### **FREN 306 Literature and Inhumanity: Novel, Poetry, and Film in Interwar France**

*Petterson*

**NOT OFFERED IN 2009-10.** This course will examine the confrontation between literature and inhumanity through the French literature, poetry, and film of the early twentieth century. Poetry by Guillaume Apollinaire, Robert Desnos, André Breton, Francis Ponge, and René Char, films by Luis Buñuel, and novels by André Gide, Jean-Paul Sartre, and André Malraux all serve to illustrate the profound crisis in human values that defined and shaped the twentieth century.

Prerequisite: 211 (or for classes of 2010-2011 only, 210 may be substituted) and one additional unit, 212 or above.

Distribution: Language and Literature

Semester: N/O

Unit: 1.0

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### **FREN 308 Advanced Studies in Language**

*Petterson*

The art of translation and its techniques are studied through analysis of the major linguistic and cultural differences between French and English. Translations from both languages will serve to explore past and present-day practices and theories of translation.

Prerequisite: 211 (or for classes of 2010-2011 only, 210 may be substituted) and one additional unit, 212 or above. Open to juniors and seniors only or by permission of the instructor.

Distribution: Language and Literature

Semester: Fall

Unit: 1.0

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### **FREN 313 George Sand and the Romantic Theater**

*Masson*

George Sand, multifaceted woman and influential writer, allows us to explore the romantic theater as well as the overall theater production of the nineteenth century. The fact that Sand's theater was overlooked in her time and subsequently forgotten raises important questions of public recognition and literary posterity that we will examine.

Prerequisite: 211 (or for classes of 2010-2011 only, 210 may be substituted) and one additional unit, 212 or above.

Distribution: Language and Literature or Arts, Music, Theatre, Film, Video

Semester: Spring

Unit: 1.0

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### **FREN 314 Cinema**

**NOT OFFERED IN 2009-10.** François Truffaut: An in-depth review of Truffaut's overall contribution to cinema. Includes readings from his articles as a film critic, a study of influences on his directorial work (Renoir, Hitchcock) and a close analysis of a dozen of his films using a variety of critical approaches: biographical, historical, formal, and psychoanalytical.

Prerequisite: 211 (or for classes of 2010-2011 only, 210 may be substituted) and one additional unit, 212 or above.

Distribution: Language and Literature or Arts, Music, Theatre, Film, Video

Semester: N/O

Unit: 1.0

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### **FREN 317 Commitment and the Contemporary French Poet**

*Petterson*

An examination of twentieth and twenty-first century French poetry through the reception of Jean-Paul Sartre's mid-century *Qu'est-ce que la littérature?* (1948) and through poetry's elaboration of a pragmatic response to the charge that it is politically uncommitted. Readings ranging from Tzara's Dadaism, to the surrealism of Breton and Valéry on poetry and anarchy, to Césaire, Senghor and the wartime poetry of Eluard, Char and Ponge, to Jacques Dupin and André du Bouchet in the wake of 1968, to the contemporary writings of Deguy, Fourcade, Cadiot, Hocquard, Réda, Noël and Alféri, who pursue equally subtle challenges to the political and philosophical condemnations of poetry.

Prerequisite: 211 (or for classes of 2010-2011 only, 210 may be substituted) and one additional unit, 212 or above.

Distribution: Language and Literature

Semester: Spring

Unit: 1.0

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### **FREN 318 Narrative in the Twentieth Century**

*Mistacco*

**NOT OFFERED IN 2009-10.** This course explores innovative fiction by major novelists spanning the twentieth century, from André Gide at

the threshold of “the age of suspicion” (Sarraute) on. Challenges to canonical narratives, discourses of mastery and authoritative modes of storytelling in a wide variety of revolutionary works, including absurdist, avant-garde, and feminist texts are examined. Literary, historical, and cultural perspectives will be brought to bear on these narrative which chart vital developments in the twentieth-century novel. Authors include André Gide, Marcel Proust, Nathalie Sarraute, Albert Camus, Samuel Beckett, Marguerite Duras, and Alain Robbe-Grillet.

Prerequisite: 211 (or for classes of 2010-2011 only, 210 may be substituted) and one additional unit, 212 or above.

Distribution: Language and Literature

Semester: N/O

Unit: 1.0

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### **FREN 319 Women, Language, and Literary Expression**

*Mistacco*

**NOT OFFERED IN 2009-10.** This course explores the notion of difference in fiction by twentieth-century women writers in France. It examines challenges to literary conventions, patriarchal thinking and the dominant discourse in major works by Beauvoir, Colette, Chawaf, Wittig, Duras, and Djébar. Attention is focused on gender as a site of dissidence and on the creative possibilities as well as the risks involved in equating the feminine with difference. Perspectives on women, writing, and difference in colonial and postcolonial contexts. Selected readings from foundational and recent works by feminist theoreticians including Cixous, Kristeva, and Irigaray.

Prerequisite: 211 (or for classes of 2010-2011 only, 210 may be substituted) and one additional unit, 212 or above.

Distribution: Language and Literature

Semester: N/O

Unit: 1.0

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### **FREN 321 Selected Topics**

**NOT OFFERED IN 2009-10.**

Prerequisite: 211 (or for classes of 2010-2011 only, 210 may be substituted) and one additional unit, 212 or above.

Distribution: Language and Literature

Semester: N/O

Unit: 1.0

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### **FREN 327 A Fascination with Bodies: The Doctor's Malady**

*Respaut*

**NOT OFFERED IN 2009-10.** The addictive interplay between doctors and patients as reflected in a variety of nineteenth- and twentieth-century writings, and in photography and film. The course will investigate the effect of sickness on family structure and the struggle with illness as a desperate “dancing with the beast,” touching on mental and physical suffering of various kinds—hysteria and alcoholism, child-birth and abortion, tuberculosis, cancer, AIDS—represented in novels and short stories from Barbey d'Aurevilly to Gide, in the reflections of historians and psychologists (Michelet, Charcot), and in biographies, personal accounts and autofictions by Guibert and Ernaux.

Prerequisite: 211 (or for classes of 2010-2011 only, 210 may be substituted) and one additional unit, 212 or above.

Distribution: Language and Literature

Semester: N/O

Unit: 1.0

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### **FREN 329 Colette/Duras: A Pleasure unto Death**

*Respaut*

**NOT OFFERED IN 2009-10.** Two prolific authors whose works embrace the span of women's writing in the twentieth century and who correspondingly illustrate the essential features of modern expression by women. Attention to the phases of a woman's life, sexuality, the figure of the mother, exoticism and race, and the relation between fiction and autobiography.

Prerequisite: 211 (or for classes of 2010-2011 only, 210 may be substituted) and one additional unit, 212 or above.

Distribution: Language and Literature

Semester: N/O

Unit: 1.0

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### **FREN 330 French and Francophone Studies**

*Prabhu*

**NOT OFFERED IN 2009-10.** The course examines various texts from the post-independent Francophone world to understand pressing concerns in different postcolonial regions. Close attention will be paid to narrative techniques while studying questions concerning the relationship with the metropolis and the functioning of language(s). Includes a brief introduction to the history of Francophone literature. Texts by Driss Chraïbi, Maryse Condé, Axel Gauvin, Assia Djébar.

Prerequisite: 211 (or for classes of 2010-2011 only, 210 may be substituted) and one additional unit, 212 or above.

Distribution: Language and Literature

Semester: N/O

Unit: 1.0

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### **FREN 331 Desire, Sexuality, and Love in African Francophone Cinema**

*Prabhu*

An exploration of interpersonal relationships within traditional or transgressive couples in African-Francophone cinema. Consideration of various cultural and social backgrounds will frame our discussion of such controversial issues as cliterodectomy, polygamy, and homosexuality.

Prerequisite: 211 (or for classes of 2010-2011 only, 210 may be substituted) and one additional unit, 212 or above.

Distribution: Language and Literature or Arts, Music, Theatre, Film, Video

Semester: Spring

Unit: 1.0

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### **FREN 332 Myth and Memory in Modern France: From the French Revolution to May 1968**

*Datta*

This course explores the way in which the French view their past as well as the myths they have created to inscribe that past into national memory. Through an approach simultaneously thematic and chronological, modern French history and culture will be examined from the perspective of "les lieux de mémoire," that is, symbolic events (Bastille Day), institutions (the Napoleonic Code), people (Joan of Arc), and places (Sacré-Coeur) that have shaped French national identity. The course begins by analyzing such concepts as the nation and the hexagon, and proceeds to the legacy of key moments in French history, among them the French Revolution and the Napoleonic era, the establishment of the Third Republic, the two World Wars, the Algerian conflict, and the events of May 1968.

Prerequisite: 211 (or for classes of 2010-2011 only, 210 may be substituted) and one additional unit, 212 or above.

Distribution: Language and Literature or Historical Studies

Semester: Fall

Unit: 1.0

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### **FREN 333 French Classical Tragedy: Corneille Versus Racine: Rethinking the Parallel**

*Bilis*

Ever since La Bruyère's famous comment on Corneille and Racine respectively, "The first depicts men as they should be, the second as they are," critics have tirelessly opposed the two French tragedians. In this course, we will take a critical approach to the notion of "Auteurs Classiques" and the seventeenth century's status as the "Grand Siècle" by questioning the archetypal Corneille and Racine parallel in light of important but marginalized playwrights such as Jean Rotrou, Tristan l'Hermitte and Catherine Bernard who defy standard definitions of Classicism and tragedy. We will explore the many variations on the Corneille and Racine parallel, asking if there is a "Grand Corneille" and a "Tender Racine," and considering why certain historical periods deemed one playwright to encapsulate "French values" and patriotism more than the other. Students will become familiar with an array of seventeenth-century tragedies and reflect on the process and politics of literary canonization.

Prerequisite: 211 (or for classes of 2010-2011 only, 210 may be substituted) and one additional unit, 212 or above.

Distribution: Language and Literature

Semester: Fall

Unit: 1.0

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### **FREN 349 Studies in Culture and Criticism**

#### **Topic A: *La Belle Époque*: Politics, Society, and Culture in France: 1880-1914**

*Datta*

**NOT OFFERED IN 2009-10.** In the aftermath of World War I, French men and women viewed the preceding years as a tranquil and stable period in French history. Yet, during the era, subsequently known as *la belle époque*, the French experienced changes of enormous magnitude: the emergence of both consumer culture and a working class, the development of a national press, and the expansion of an overseas colonial empire. Such ebullience was reflected in the emergence of Paris as the capital of the European avant-garde. Drawing on literary texts and historical documents, as well as on films, posters, and songs, this interdisciplinary course examines French society, politics, and culture during the era that ushered France into the modern age.

Prerequisite: 211 (or for classes of 2010-2011 only, 210 may be substituted) and one additional unit, 212 or above.

Distribution: Language and Literature or Historical Studies

Semester: N/O

Unit: 1.0

#### **Topic B: France and Europe: Ambiguities, Obstacles, and Triumphs**

*Gunther*

**NOT OFFERED IN 2009-10.** After an introduction to various social, cultural and political aspects of contemporary France and the French, we will turn our attention to issues surrounding France's role in the project to unify Europe. We will examine how France's anxieties and hopes for the European Union are shared by other European nations, and how France is experiencing EU membership differently from its neighbors, in ways that reflect its unique history and culture. Readings will be drawn from a variety of disciplines, including texts by historians, political scientists, sociologists and economists.

Prerequisite: 211 (or for classes of 2010-2011 only, 210 may be substituted) and one additional unit, 212 or above.

Distribution: Language and Literature or Historical Studies

Semester: N/O

Unit: 1.0

#### **Topic C: Liberty, Equality, Sexualities: How the Values of the French Republic Have Both Protected and Limited Sexual Freedoms**

*Gunther*

An examination of sexualities and genders in France that addresses the questions of why the French seem so comfortable with sex while at the same time so constrained by gender roles and why French movements for gay rights and women's rights have had such difficulty cooperating. The answers lie in the paradoxical relationship between France's relative indifference toward sexuality, on the one hand, and its fixation with gender difference, on the other. At the end of the semester, the course will focus on recent changes in discussions of gender and sexuality and address the issue of whether traditional paradigms for explaining gender and sexuality in France still apply or whether the French might be entering a new sexual era.

Prerequisite: 211 (or for classes of 2010-2011 only, 210 may be substituted) and one additional unit, 212 or above.

Distribution: Language and Literature or Historical Studies

Semester: Spring

Unit: 1.0

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### **FREN 350 Research or Individual Study**

Prerequisite: 211 (or for classes of 2010-2011 only, 210 may be substituted) and one additional unit, 212 or above.

Distribution: None

Semester: Fall, Spring

Unit: 1.0

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### **FREN 360 Senior Thesis Research**

Prerequisite: By permission of the department. See Academic Distinctions.

Distribution: None

Semester: Fall, Spring

Unit: 1.0

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### **FREN 370 Senior Thesis**

Prerequisite: 360 and permission of the department.

Distribution: None

Semester: Fall, Spring

Unit: 1.0

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## **Department Information**

FREN 101-102, 103 (and starting with the Class of 2011, FREN 201 as well) count toward the degree but not toward the major. First-year students who have not studied French and would like to study abroad should begin with 103. Students who begin with 101-102 in college and who plan to study abroad should consult the chair of the department during the second semester of their first year.

All but one of our courses are conducted in French. Oral expression and composition are stressed.

The numbering of certain 200-level courses does not denote increasing levels of difficulty; 206 through 209 may be taken in any sequence and 200-level courses above 209 may also be taken in any sequence, although students planning to study abroad should take 211 as soon as possible.

## **Requirements for the Major**

Majors are required to complete a minimum of eight units, including the following courses or their equivalents: FREN 211, which develops students' literary analysis and writing skills in the context of an intensive grammar review (FREN 210 may be substituted for FREN 211 only for classes 2010 and 2011) and 308, which focuses on translation and stylistics. The goals of a coherent program are: (a) oral and written linguistic competence; (b) acquisition of basic techniques of reading and interpreting texts and of conducting in-depth research; and (c) a general understanding of French and Francophone literatures and cultures. FREN 232, which is taught in English, does not count for the minimum major in French. All majors must take at least one culture course (FREN 206, 207, 225, 229, 237) or spend one semester studying in a Francophone country, and at least one literature course (FREN 208, 209, 210, 213, 214, 215, 216, 217, 218, 219, 223, 224). All majors must take two 300-level French courses at Wellesley College, at least one of which must be during their senior year. FREN 350, 360 and 370 do not count towards the minimum requirement of two 300-level courses for the major. No more than two courses taken credit/noncredit at Wellesley College may be applied to the French major. Students planning to major in French should consult with the chair of the French department.

## **Honors**

The only route to honors in the major is writing a thesis and passing an oral examination. To be admitted to the thesis program, a student must have a grade point average of at least 3.5 in all work in the major field above the 100 level; the department may petition on her behalf if her GPA in the major is between 3.0 and 3.5. Students must complete a 300-level course or its equivalent before the fall of senior year. In addition, a 300-level course is to be taken concurrently with 360-370. See Academic Distinctions.

Students interested in an interdepartmental major in French Cultural Studies are referred to the listing for this program.

## **Graduate Study**

Students planning graduate work in French or comparative literature are encouraged to write an honors thesis and study a second modern language and/or Latin.

## **Teacher Certification**

Students interested in obtaining certification to teach French in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts should consult the chair of the education department.

## **Advanced Placement Policies and Language Requirement**

A student entering Wellesley must have an Advanced Placement score of 5 or an SAT II score of 690 to satisfy the foreign language requirement. The Wellesley College language requirement is normally met with the completion of either FREN 201-202 or FREN 203. Students who present an AP score of 3 or an SAT II score between 600–640 can satisfy the requirement by taking FREN 205. Students who present an AP score of 4 or an SAT II score between 650–680 can satisfy the requirement by taking one of the following courses: FREN 206, 207, 208 or 209. All incoming students are required to take the placement test. Any discrepancy between a student's AP score and her score on the departmental placement test will be resolved by the placement committee. Any student who takes a language course at another institution and would like college credit must have permission in advance and take the French placement test upon her return to verify she has attained the required level.

## **Study Abroad**

All our students, majors and non-majors alike, are encouraged to spend a year or semester abroad in France or a Francophone country as a way of deepening their academic learning with real-time experience. A student who has mastered enough French to enter sympathetically into the language's many cultures is likely to be more complexly understanding, more subtly perceptive, more keenly articulate and more expansively communicative than her neighbor who has not. To move within more than one frame of cultural reference and to have French sounds and songs and bilingual jokes in one's head are deep intellectual pleasures. They are also highly useful tools in the real

world because they foster the ability to see reality from the standpoint of others as well as from one's own. In an age of globalization, this is a valuable skill—in diplomacy, business, politics, and of course in human relations. The department also has funds to support a limited number of summer internships in France or Francophone countries. The department encourages those students who cannot spend a semester abroad to participate in the department's Wintersession course in Paris.

## **Maison Française**

Qualified students are highly encouraged to live at the Maison Française. The Maison Française is a French-speaking residence and a cultural center for the Wellesley College community. It houses 14 students and two French assistants from the University of Provence. It is a place where majors and non-majors who have demonstrated a significant competence in French live and can exchange ideas. During the academic year, the Maison Française organizes seminars, talks and colloquia, and students are encouraged to attend.

## **French Cultural Studies**

The French Department also offers an interdepartmental major in French Cultural Studies. This major is intended for students whose interests in the French and Francophone world are primarily cultural and historical. Students are directed to the description of the major and its directions for election, which appear at the end of the French curriculum.