



UNDERGRADUATE & GRADUATE COURSES FALL 2021 AND SPRING 2022 PREVIEW

UN1101 & UN1102

ELEMENTARY FRENCH I & UN1102 ELEMENTARY FRENCH II

The beginning French sequence (French 1101-1102) enables students to develop an active command of the French language. The four main language skills—listening, speaking, reading and writing—are developed in cultural context to achieve basic communicative proficiency.

UN1105

ACCELERATED ELEMENTARY FRENCH

This course covers in one semester the material normally presented in Elementary French I and II. No previous knowledge of French or another Romance language is necessary, but this course is especially recommended for students who are confident about language-learning.

UN2101

INTERMEDIATE FRENCH I

This course expands students' understanding of the French language and culture, providing a comprehensive review of fundamental grammar points while introducing more advanced ones. By the end of the course, you will be able to read short to medium-length literary and non-literary texts, and analyze and comment on varied documents and topics, both orally and in writing.

UN2102

INTERMEDIATE FRENCH II

This course completes the French language requirement sequence and prepares students to take advanced French language and culture courses. It refines skills in speaking, reading, and writing French and develops cultural awareness through the study of short stories, films, and passages from novels. Students achieve the ability to write about and discuss a variety of topics using relatively complex structures.

UN2105

ACCELERATED INTERMEDIATE FRENCH I & II

This course covers in one semester the material normally presented in Intermediate French I and II and fulfills the Columbia College language requirement. Only students who obtained a grade of A- or above in Elementary French II or have the instructor's permission may enroll. It is especially recommended for students considering a French minor or concentration, or spending a semester in a French-speaking country.

UN2106

RAPID READING & TRANSLATION

Although it can be of interest to undergraduates, this course is primarily intended for graduate students of other departments who need to demonstrate a reading knowledge of French as one of their program's requirements AND have completed the equivalent of at least one year of college French. It focuses on reading comprehension and translation into English, the differences between English and French syntax, and includes a grammar and vocabulary overview.

UN2121

INTERMEDIATE CONVERSATION I

In this course students improve pronunciation, vocabulary acquisition, listening comprehension, and oral expression. Activities include listening comprehension, skits, debates, and oral presentations, as well as discussions of films, songs, short films, plays, news articles and short stories. The themes and topics covered are chosen to reflect students' interests. Intended for students at the lower Intermediate level (Intermediate I).

UN2122

INTERMEDIATE CONVERSATION II

In this course students improve pronunciation, vocabulary acquisition, listening comprehension, and oral expression. Activities include listening comprehension, skits, debates, and oral presentations, as well as discussions of films, songs, short films, plays, news articles and short stories. The themes and topics covered are chosen to reflect students' interests. Intended for students at the Intermediate II level or for students who have already fulfilled the language requirement but wish to strengthen their oral skills.

UN3131

THIRD-YEAR CONVERSATION I

Conversation on contemporary French and francophone topics based on a variety of materials. Intended for students with an advanced level in French, e.g. students who are enrolled in advanced-level courses such as 3405, 3333, 3334, 3420, 3421 or simply want to maintain and improve already strong oral skills.

UN3240

FRENCH LANGUAGE, SOCIETY, CULTURE THROUGH FILM

French socio-political issues and language through the

prism of film. This advanced course is designed above all for non-majors wishing to further develop their French language skills and learn about French culture, but may be counted towards a major or concentration. Each module includes assignments targeting the four language competencies: reading, writing, speaking and oral comprehension, as well as cultural understanding.

UN3242

FRENCH LANGUAGE, SOCIETY, CULTURE THROUGH PARIS

Paris has been described as the capital of modernity, the city of romance and pleasure, and as a center of cultural prestige and political power. It has also been a privileged stage for crises and revolutions. In this course, students research and analyze these diverse representations, in the process discovering key aspects of French and Francophone political, social, and cultural history and improving their oral and written French language skills. Materials include major literary texts, paintings, movies, popular songs, museum websites, newspapers and ads, and even restaurant menus and postcards. This advanced course is designed above all for non-majors wishing to further develop their French language skills and learn about French culture, but may be counted towards a major or concentration.

UN3333

INTRO TO LITERARY STUDIES I

Reading and discussion of major French-language works from the Middle Ages to 1750.

UN3405

THIRD-YEAR GRAMMAR & COMPOSITION

FREN UN3405 enables students to improve their grammar and perfect their writing and reading skills, especially as a preparation for taking literature or civilization courses, or spending a semester in a francophone country. Professor Crépon's section emphasizes the study of language through literary works. Students discover different genres, periods, and styles, becoming more aware of stylistic nuances. Professor Skippon's section focuses more on social and political questions, using a variety of media to explore them. In both sections, students improve their writing through a variety of exercises, including pastiches and creative pieces, as well as typically French forms of academic writing such as the "résumé," "explication de texte," and "dissertation." Required for the major and concentration.

UN3420

INTRO TO FRENCH & FRANCOPHONE STUDIES I

Examines conceptions of culture and civilization in France from the Enlightenment to the early 20th century, with an emphasis on the history and ideological foundations of French colonialism. Authors and texts include: the Encyclopédie; the Déclaration des droits de l'homme et du citoyen; the Code noir; Diderot; Chateaubriand; Tocqueville; Claire de Duras; Renan; Gobineau; Gauguin; Drumont.

UN3421

INTRO TO FRENCH & FRANCOPHONE STUDIES II

This course examines anticolonial and nationalist movements in the French empire beginning roughly in the 1930s. Students encounter major currents of the literature of the French-speaking world in Europe, the Americas, and Africa. Authors include: Aimé Césaire, Léopold Sedar Senghor, Frantz Fanon, Maryse Condé.

UN3995

SENIOR SEMINAR

Required of all French and French & Francophone Studies majors. Usually taken by majors during the fall term of their senior year. Critical discussion of a few major literary works (mostly chosen by the students) along with some classic commentaries on those works. Students critically assess and practice diverse methods of literary analysis.

UN3996

SENIOR TUTORIAL IN LITERATURE

Preparation of a Senior Thesis. In consultation with a faculty member, students examine a topic of their choice within the areas of French language, literature, or intellectual history. Recommended for seniors majoring or concentrating in French and open to other qualified students. Required for majors wishing to be considered for departmental honors. This course may also be taken at Reid Hall

GU4301

FRENCH LITERATURE OF THE 17TH CENTURY

A one-semester survey of seventeenth-century French literature, with an emphasis on the relationship between literature and the major cultural, philosophical, and religious developments of the period. The course will be taught in French.

GU4422

BAUDELAIRE, PAINTER OF MODERN LIFE

Close reading of Baudelaire's poetry and prose as it relates to both the painting of modernity and the resistance to modernity. The course will be taught in French.

GU4422 (*French & Comparative Literature*)

VERSAILLES

Along with the Eiffel tower and Notre-Dame cathedral, Versailles is one of the key iconic sites of French history and culture. This course will examine ancien régime court culture through the history of the château de Versailles from Louis XIV's assumption of power in 1661 to 1789, the end of Versailles as Louis XIV had conceived it. We concentrate on literature from that period, while also taking a multidisciplinary approach to cultural history through the examination of social, architectural, and artistic aspects of the château de Versailles as concept, mythology, and lived reality. Readings include memoirs, letters, plays and other contemporary literary accounts of life at Versailles, and we will also watch film treatments from Sacha Guitry's 1954 "Si Versailles m'était conté" to the recent television series "Versailles."

GU4730

DISCOVERING EXISTENCE

A study of the theme of human existence confronted with the infinite universe of modern science (Descartes, Pascal), with the proliferation of existence (Sartre), with the absurd (Camus), with the other (Levinas). This course will be taught in English.

GR6020

FRENCH LECTURE SERIES

Students curate, organize and attend a series of lectures open to and recommended for all members of the French department, including graduate students, faculty and undergraduate majors/concentrators. Working with a faculty member, graduate students invite two speakers each semester, collaborate on the scheduling and organization of talks, introduce guests and lead the discussion. The lecture series exposes graduate students to new work in the field, including new methodologies and emerging areas of research and teaching. By organizing and scheduling events, preparing speaker introductions and moderating questions and discussion, they develop important professional skills.



PREVIEW OF COURSES FOR SPRING 2022

UN1101 & UN1102

ELEMENTARY FRENCH I & UN1102 ELEMENTARY FRENCH II

UN2101

INTERMEDIATE FRENCH I

UN2102

INTERMEDIATE FRENCH II

UN2105

ACCELERATED INTERMEDIATE FRENCH I & II

UN2106

RAPID READING AND TRANSLATION

UN2121

INTERMEDIATE CONVERSATION I

UN2122

INTERMEDIATE CONVERSATION II

UN3200

ADVANCED TRANSLATION WORKSHOP

UN3132

THIRD-YEAR CONVERSATION I

UN3241

FRENCH LANGUAGE, SOCIETY, CULTURE THROUGH THEATER

French 3241 is an advanced course that allows students to refine their knowledge of the French language and actively practice their oral skills through analyzing complete plays, individual scenes, and theoretical texts, as well as performing a variety of theatrical exercises. The course hopes to convey the diversity of French-language theater within a cultural context, examine how it challenges us physically, emotionally, intellectually, morally, and aesthetically, and allow students to perform the language in a way that engages the voice, the whole body, and the mind. No previous experience of acting is required, but the desire to “get up and move within the language” and have FUN is highly recommended. This course is designed above all for non-majors wishing to further develop their French language skills and learn about French culture, but may be counted towards a major or concentration.

UN3244

FRENCH LANGUAGE, SOCIETY, CULTURE THROUGH CURRENT EVENTS

UN3333

INTRO TO LITERARY STUDIES I

UN3334

INTRO TO LITERARY STUDIES II

Reading and discussion of major French-language works from 1750 to the twenty-first century.

UN3421

INTRO TO FRENCH & FRANCOPHONE STUDIES II

W3500 (*French & Comparative Literature*)

THE MODERN NOVE: BALZAC, FLAUBERT, PROUST

This course will examine the genealogy of 19th- and 20th-century realism and modernism through readings of three French novels: Balzac's *Lost Illusions*, Flaubert's *Sentimental Education*, and Proust's *Swann's Way*. Readings and discussion in English.

UN3600

INTRO TO FRENCH CIVILIZATION

Based on readings of short historical sources, the course provides an overview of French political and cultural history since 1700.

UN3622

MONSTERS, GHOSTS & CURSES: THE FANTASTICAL IN MODERN FRANCOPHONE LITERATURE AND CINEMA

This course explores "the fantastical" (le fantastique) across the landscape of modern Francophone literature from the late seventeenth to the twentieth centuries as well as cinema. In it, students find an alternate version of the modern Francophone canon, one that leads them to the same celebrated authors (from Christine de Pizan, to Voltaire, Césaire and Maryse Condé) through different, stranger and neglected routes.

UN3835

VIOLENCE, POLITICS & THE GRAPHIC NOVEL

The French-language graphic novel as an important contemporary medium for the representation of history, politics, and violence. In the first half of the class, we consider various historical modes of image-text forms in and beyond the French context, including Scève's emblems, Hokusai's manga, Goya's woodcuts, and Töppfer's proto-graphic novels; Dauterive, Nadar, and Doré's political cartoons; children's comics (notably Tintin, Corto Maltese); and adult comics (Hara-Kiri, Charlie Hebdo, Métal Hurlant). In the latter half of the course, we focus our attention on iconic and lesser-known French and Francophone graphic novels, attending to the particularity of this *neuvième art*. How does one study a popular medium that has not been canonized or is in the process of canonization? Why have *bandes dessinées* become an important site for representing and remembering historical trauma, from the Iranian Revolution to October 17th, 1961?

GU4426

ROUSSEAU, WOMEN & GENDER

This course teases out Jean-Jacques Rousseau's complex and often contradictory ideas on women and gender difference in nature and society, to examine his own gender construction in his autobiographical writings, and to determine how women writers from the eighteenth to the twenty-first centuries have responded to these aspects of his work.

G4... (*French & Comparative Literature*)

FRENCH THEORY IN A GLOBAL CONTEXT

This course introduces major thinkers and works of French and Francophone cultural theory. We explore influential concepts of literary and aesthetic theory as well as seminal contributions to historiography, political theory and the conceptualization of identity and difference. The course is divided into 5 units, each organized around a central theme, e.g. 'archives,' 'affects,' 'authors and readers,' 'borders and relations,' 'strangers and selves.' Authors include Étienne Balibar, Roland Barthes, Pierre Bourdieu, Jacques Derrida, Frantz Fanon, Michel Foucault, Arlette Farge, Gérard Genette, Édouard Glissant, Julia Kristeva, Henri Lefebvre, Achille Mbembe, Chantal Mouffe & Joan Scott.

G4...

QUEER MEDIEVAL FRANCE

What did it mean to be queer in the francophone Middle Ages? Was there such a thing? The questions we will address include the following: In an era in which all non-procreative sex was conceived as sinful, does the opposition between homosexual and heterosexual still hold? Was male and female homosexuality conceived symmetrically? Topics include the construction of gender (binary vs. spectral, natural vs. cultural), gender variance (transgender, intersex and nonbinary people), sodomy and the contours of "sex," and sadomasochism. Our readings will take us through a broad range of genres—from penance manuals to lyric poetry to romance. Texts include selected *Lais* by Marie de France, troubadour songs, Alan of Lille's *Plaint of Nature*, the *Roman d'Enéas*, Helldris of Cornwall's *Le Roman de Silence* and selected saints' lives.

GR8189

BERGSON & BERGSONISM

The work of French philosopher Henri Bergson (1859-1941) has defined in the history of ideas what Frederic Worms has rightly called the "Bergson moment." Bergson's influence on literature and philosophy started with his 1889 *Essai sur les données immédiates de la conscience* (Time and Free Will) and still endures, as can be seen in the works of Gilles Deleuze's works. The revolution he represented in philosophical thought with his concepts of duration, intuition, élan vital, dynamic religion and open society have exercised also a profound influence among intellectuals in Asia and Africa fighting for a decolonized world. Bergson's philosophy and the global influence of Bergsonism, especially among colonial/postcolonial subjects are examined in this seminar. After a presentation of Bergson's thought and main concepts, we examine the "Bergsonism" of two important poets and thinkers of the twentieth century: the Indian Muhammad Iqbal and the Senegalese Léopold Sédar Senghor.