Overview and Contact Information

The French curriculum is intended to develop skills in the language and provide a broad and varied acquaintance with French and Francophone cultures and literatures. Taking as its premise that language gives access to new and different cultures, the program makes available to students the textual, oral, and visual products of the French-speaking world. It also offers familiarity with the interdisciplinary exchanges—art, literature, history, politics, music, philosophy—that inform French studies today.

The department offers courses in language, culture, and literature at all levels. All courses are conducted in French with the exception of the department’s first-year seminars and the Romance Languages and Literature seminar (FREN-321). The Romance Language seminar is taught in English but all reading and writing are done in French.

In language courses students have the opportunity to work with language assistants in small supplementary conversation groups. Many culture and literature courses are either speaking-intensive or writing-intensive, and in some, writing mentors are provided. Students have access to weekly drop-in tutoring sessions as well as one-on-one tutoring. Pedagogical and technological resources and events enable French students to communicate and share ideas with the global community. A comprehensive library of classic French books and movies is maintained in the department office.

Graduates of Mount Holyoke who have majored in French have used the analytical skills and means of expression acquired during their studies to pursue a wide range of career options: education, government service, law, international banking, publishing, and marketing, among others. Each spring, the department sponsors a Major Tea and Career Panel inviting to campus three or four alumnae with diverse occupations who speak about the benefits and opportunities that their French major has brought to their careers.

Study Abroad

Mount Holyoke College has its own study abroad program in Montpellier, France. Students spending one or two semesters in France or a Francophone country on a program approved by the department will be able to earn credits toward the requirements of their major through study abroad. The programs are open to both majors and non-majors.

To qualify for study abroad, students need to have taken at least two courses in French (not counting Independent Study) and completed at least FREN-201.

Students may be able to accelerate from FREN-101 to FREN-201 or from FREN-102 to FREN-203 upon recommendation of their instructor.

Bringing Back Credit from Study in France or Other Francophone Country

- French majors who spend one semester abroad are allowed to bring back a maximum of 16 credits including 4 credits worth of advanced language course work, for a total of 16 credits maximum toward the major.
- French majors who spend two semesters abroad are allowed to bring back a maximum of 24 credits, including 4 credits of advanced language course work, for a total of 24 credits maximum toward the major.
- Students with a double major may choose to pursue courses in their other major. They are urged to obtain approval from the adviser of their other major before departure to make sure it will count towards their other major.
- The major program should provide continuity in the study of French. To this end, at least one 4-credit course taught in French must be elected each semester of the junior and senior years.
- French minors who spend either one semester or a full year abroad are allowed to bring back a maximum of 8 credits toward the minor.
- All courses taught in the French language may be counted toward the major or minor.

Please consult the French department and the McCulloch Center for Global Initiatives for details about these and other programs.

Eligible students who are selected to participate in the Montpellier program may use their Mount Holyoke financial aid to do so. Mount Holyoke financial aid for other approved study abroad programs is awarded on a competitive basis. Scholarships are available to qualified undergraduates. Information about financing study abroad may be obtained from the McCulloch Center for Global Initiatives (http://www.mtholyoke.edu/go/global/).

Honors Work

The French department is pleased to support senior independent study projects during their penultimate semester undertaken by students with a proven track record of exceptionally high performance in course work in French. Continuation of these projects toward completion of a thesis to be considered for possible honors is contingent upon approval of the department.

French Department Prizes

In order to be eligible to receive a French Department prize, students must take a minimum of two French courses over the academic year.

Students may qualify for the Global Competence Award (https://www.mtholyoke.edu/global/global-competence-award/), which is given to seniors with demonstrated achievement in language learning, cultural immersion, global perspective-taking, and cross-cultural learning.

Contact Information

Catherine Le Gouis, Chair
Stacey Pare, Academic Department Coordinator

115 Ciruti Language Center
413-538-2074
https://www.mtholyoke.edu/acad/french (https://www.mtholyoke.edu/acad/french/)

Learning Goals

Learning a foreign language is an essential component of a liberal arts education, offering broad perspectives on other cultures and enhancing abilities in one’s own.

Fluency in the French language along with knowledge of a wide range of literature and life in a variety of Francophone cultures, reached through a structured and flexible sequencing of courses from entry to seminar levels, are the goals of this curriculum for majors and non-majors alike. Since full immersion is the most effective way to achieve fluency, all the courses are taught exclusively in French.
Mount Holyoke French majors are competent global citizens who go on to a wide variety of careers.

**Communication**

Students who take courses in the French department become able to engage in substantive and active discussions with native speakers of French, ranging in complexity from everyday conversations to abstract intellectual discourse.

**Civilization**

Students become acquainted with a broad range of written, visual, and digital texts, as well as social and cultural artifacts from all regions of the French-speaking world.

**Self-expression**

Students become able to produce written documents and oral or media presentations that are not only grammatically correct, coherent, and well-organized, but display genuine sophistication of thought and analysis.

**Exploration**

Mount Holyoke French majors are able to conduct independent research, articulate their results in effective spoken and written French, take advantage of internship opportunities, and collaborate in a global environment.

**Immersion**

Majors and non-majors are fully immersed in French in all of our courses. Students who choose to go abroad become able to study alongside native speakers of French in courses within the regular academic curriculum of French and French-language universities.

**Faculty**

This area of study is administered by the Department of French:

Samba Gadjigo, Helen Day Gould Professor of French

Catherine Le Gouis, Reverend Joseph James Hilary Paradis Professor of French

Sonya Stephens, Professor of French; President

Nancy Holden-Avard, Senior Lecturer in French

Carolyn Shread, Senior Lecturer in French, Teaching Spring Only

Brahim Oulbeid, Visiting Language Instructor in French

Anouk Alquier, Reverend Joseph James Hilary Paradis Visiting Instructor in French

**Requirements for the Major**

A minimum of 32 credits:

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>FREN-215</td>
<td>Intermediate Level Courses in Culture and Literature: Introduction to Culture and the French-Speaking World</td>
<td>8</td>
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<td>FREN-219</td>
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<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FREN-225</td>
<td>Intermediate Level Courses in Culture and Literature: Introduction to Contemporary Culture and Media of France and the French-Speaking World</td>
<td>4</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Total Credits 32

1. 215, 219, or 225, can be used to fulfill the intermediate course requirements if not previously taken to fulfill the advanced 200-level course requirements. One of the electives may be a course in another department and taught in English provided it focuses substantially on French or Francophone content and was pre-approved by the chair of the French department.

2. French majors who study abroad, for a summer, semester, or year are required to complete at least 4 credits’ worth of advanced language work while abroad. When possible, this should include work in both oral French (typically, a course in phonetics) and written French (a course in grammar, composition, stylistics, or translation); in some cases, a single course may cover both written and oral components. French majors who do not study abroad must complete another 300-level course in French in order to fulfill the minimum requirement of 32 credits for the major.

**Additional Specifications**

- Note that independent study (FREN-295 and FREN-395) will not be counted among the required courses listed above.
- The major program should provide continuity in the study of French. To this end, at least one 4-credit course taught in French must be elected each semester of the junior and senior years.
- See Study Abroad information in the overview (p. 1) for information about crediting courses taken on study abroad towards the major.

**Requirements for the Minor**

A minimum of 16 credits:

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<td>4</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Total Credits 16

**Additional Specifications**

- Independent study (FREN-295 or FREN-395) does not count toward the minor.
Teacher Licensure

Students interested in pursuing licensure in the field of French can combine their course work in French with a minor in education. In some instances, course work in the major coincides with course work required for licensure; in other cases, it does not. For specific course requirements for licensure within the major of French, please consult your advisor or the chair of the French department. Further information about the minor in education (http://catalog.mtholyoke.edu/areas-study/psychology-education/#minor) and the Teacher Licensure program (http://catalog.mtholyoke.edu/areas-study/psychology-education/teacherlicensure) is available in other sections of the catalog, or consult Sarah Frenette, Teacher Licensure Coordinator in the psychology and education department.

Licensure also requires a formal application as well as passing scores on the Massachusetts Test of Educator Licensure (MTEL) in both the literacy component and the subject matter component. Copies of the test objectives for the MTEL are available in the French department and in the Department of Psychology and Education.

Additional information about the Licensure Program, including application materials, can be found on the Teacher Licensure Program website (https://www.mtholyoke.edu/acad/teach/).

Course Offerings

Course Selection/Foreign Language Requirement

Students who have never studied French should enroll in FREN-101, a course for beginners. Those who have previously studied French at Mount Holyoke and who wish to continue must have the prerequisites stipulated for specific courses.

All students must take a placement test online (https://www.mtholyoke.edu/acad/french/placement_exam/).

Advanced Courses

The department's 300-level courses represent a variety of approaches to advanced work in French studies and thus reflect the diversity within the field of French today. Specific offerings under the general rubrics change from year to year. Prerequisites for all 300-level courses are two of the following: FREN-215, FREN-219, or FREN-225. Students who do not have the stipulated prerequisites must consult the department chair or the course instructor.

Course Offerings

FREN-101 Elementary French I
Fall and Spring. Credits: 4
Learn to speak, understand, read and write authentic French in record time. We will use a multimedia approach that accesses language via video, audio and text. The immersive environment students experience will equip them to make active use of the language and provide insight into French and Francophone cultures. Students will have the opportunity to work on language skills in sessions with a language assistant.
Applies to requirement(s): Humanities; Language
N. Holden-Avard, B. Oulbeid
Prereq: Placement test required even if no previous study of French; FREN-101 is designed for students with no previous training in French. All students must take the online French placement test to register for the class.
Advisory: FREN-101 is designed for students with no previous training in French or a maximum of one year of French at the high school level. All students must take the online French placement test to register for the class.
Notes: Students who have done strong work in FREN-101 may accelerate to FREN-201 with the approval of their instructor.

FREN-102 Elementary French II
Fall and Spring. Credits: 4
Students will develop their speaking, understanding, reading and writing skills in French. The multimedia approach will provide students with an immersive environment where they will engage actively with the language and culture.
Applies to requirement(s): Humanities; Language
A. Alquier, N. Holden-Avard
Prereq: FREN-101 or placement test and department placement.

FREN-201 Intermediate French
Fall and Spring. Credits: 4
Communication and culture in the global French-speaking world. We will explore different media and documents that will enable students to express themselves both orally and in writing in a wide variety of contexts. Students will consolidate and expand their skills and engage in creative activities in literary as well as colloquial French.
Applies to requirement(s): Humanities; Language
N. Holden-Avard, C. Shread
Prereq: FREN-102 or placement test and department placement.

FREN-203 Advanced Intermediate French
Fall and Spring. Credits: 4
This course will improve students' writing and speaking skills in French and develop their ability to read and discuss texts. Course materials include authors and films representing cultures of the French-speaking world. Written and oral expression are strengthened through weekly essays, class discussion, and comprehensive grammar review.
Applies to requirement(s): Humanities; Language
A. Alquier, C. Le Gouis, C. Shread
Prereq: FREN-201 or placement test and department placement.
Notes: Note: FREN-203 provides a strong foundation for continued study of French and for study abroad (see http://www.mtholyoke.edu/acad/french)
FREN-215 Intermediate Level Courses in Culture and Literature: Introduction to the Literature and Culture of France and the French-Speaking World
Fall and Spring. Credits: 4
This course introduces students to literature and culture from a variety of perspectives. It will increase confidence and skill in writing and speaking; integrate historical, political, and social contexts into the study of literary texts from France and the French-speaking world; and bring understanding of the special relevance of earlier periods to contemporary French and Francophone cultural and aesthetic issues. Students explore diversified works – literature, historical documents, film, art, and music – and do formal oral and written presentations.
Applies to requirement(s): Humanities; Language
Other Attribute(s): Writing-Intensive
A. Alquier, C. Le Gouis
Prereq: FREN-203, placement test and department placement.

FREN-219 Intermediate Level Courses in Culture and Literature: Introduction to the French-Speaking World
Fall and Spring. Credits: 4
This course introduces the literatures of French-speaking countries outside Europe. Readings include tales, novels, plays, and poetry from Africa, the Caribbean, Canada, and other areas. Discussions and short papers examine the texts as literary works as well as keys to the understanding of varied cultures. Students will be asked to do formal oral and written presentations.
Applies to requirement(s): Humanities; Language; Multicultural Perspectives
S. Gadjigo
Prereq: FREN-203, placement test and department placement.

FREN-225 Intermediate Level Courses in Culture and Literature: Introduction to Contemporary Culture and Media of France and the French-Speaking World
Fall and Spring. Credits: 4
The primary purpose of this course is to familiarize students with contemporary issues in French culture as they are represented in French-speaking media of today. This course will introduce students to contemporary popular culture, through the study of texts, popular music, and feature films. Students will be asked to participate actively in class discussion, do oral presentations, and converse with an exchange partner.
Applies to requirement(s): Humanities; Language
Other Attribute(s): Speaking-Intensive
A. Alquier
Prereq: FREN-203, placement test and department placement.

FREN-295 Independent Study
Fall and Spring. Credits: 1 - 4
The department
Instructor permission required.

Advanced Courses

FREN-311 Period Courses
Courses on social and political issues and critical approaches: The usual periodization of French literature and culture is by century. Some period courses focus on the characteristics of specific centuries. Others focus on artistic or intellectual movements: gothic, Renaissance, romantic. All period courses, whatever their conceptual framework, integrate texts and historical contexts.
FREN-331FE Courses on Social and Political Issues and Critical Approaches: 'Fabulous Feasts: French Cuisine and Food Culture'
Fall. Credits: 4
UNESCO recognized French culinary culture as "a social custom aimed at celebrating the most important moments in the lives of individuals and groups" (2010). We will explore the historical, sociological and cultural aspects of meals, étiquette and the culinary arts, and the culture that embodies them through different media (recipe collections, guides, literary texts, essays, plays, films and TV shows). We will examine the development of French cuisine from medieval banquets to markets to grande cuisine and nouvelle cuisine and its influences. We will also investigate gastronomic traditions, regional and local culinary character and gastronomy in order to understand and reflect upon French food culture.
Applies to requirement(s): Humanities; Language
Other Attribute(s): Speaking-Intensive
A. Alquier
Prereq: Two of the following courses: FREN-215, FREN-219, FREN-225.

FREN-341 Courses in Francophone Studies
These courses study nonmetropolitan French-speaking cultures and literary works written in French outside Europe. Areas of focus are one or more of the following regions: Africa, the Caribbean, or Canada.

FREN-341FS Courses in Francophone Studies: 'Women and Writing in French-Speaking Africa'
Spring. Credits: 4
This course explores writings by women in French-speaking Africa from its early beginnings in the late 1970s to the present. Special attention will be given to social, political, gender, and aesthetic issues.
Crosslisted as: GNDST-333FP
Applies to requirement(s): Humanities; Language
S. Gadjigo
Prereq: 12 credits in French including two courses at the advanced level, or permission of department chair and instructor.

FREN-341PA Courses in Francophone Studies: 'Paris dans l'Imaginaire Africain'
Not Scheduled for This Year. Credits: 4
Colonial relations have not only been a contest over land ownership but were also always centered around the question of who has the right to represent whom. This course will examine how, from the fifties and sixties, African students in France have represented France and Paris in their narratives. Readings will include novels and travelogues.
Applies to requirement(s): Humanities; Language
S. Gadjigo
Prereq: Two of the following courses: FREN-215, FREN-219, FREN-225, or permission of department chair and course instructor.

FREN-341SE Courses in Francophone Studies: 'Africa Beyond the Mirror: The Cinema Ousmane Sembene'
Fall. Credits: 4
Born in 1923 in Senegal, the writer/filmmaker Ousmane Sembène is one of the rare witnesses of the three key periods of contemporary African history: the colonial period; the period of struggle for political and economic independence; and the period of effort to eliminate neocolonialism through the rehabilitation of African cultures. This course is entirely devoted to the works of Ousmane Sembène and will explore the key moments of his life, his activism in European leftist organizations, his discovery of writing, and most of all the dominant features of his film work.
Crosslisted as: FMT-330SE
Applies to requirement(s): Humanities
S. Gadjigo
Prereq: 12 credits in French including two courses at the advanced level, or permission of department chair and instructor.

FREN-351 Courses on Women and Gender
These courses explore cultural, literary, and social issues relating to women and gender identities in France and French-speaking countries. Topics may include women's writing, writing about women and men, the status of women, feminist criticism, and

FREN-361 Courses in Advanced Language Study
These courses investigate the French language, past or present, and refine students' linguistics skills by focusing on nuances of written and spoken expression. Areas of study may include stylistics, translation, phonology, morphology, syntax, rhetoric, and dramatic art.

FREN-395 Independent Study
Fall and Spring. Credits: 1 - 8
The department
Instructor permission required.