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 Language and Literatures Seminar (FREN-321). The Romance Language seminar is taught in English but all reading and writing are done in French.

In language courses students work with native French and Francophone 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 in addition to one-on-one tutoring for more in-depth remediation. Technological resources—Web-based and computer-assisted applications, videoconferencing, iMovie, and various multimedia tools—are used in courses at all levels to foster individual learning and to promote communication with the international community. A comprehensive library of DVDs and classic French texts 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 to 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, and is also affiliated with the Sweet Briar College Junior Year in France Program. A student spending the junior year in France or a Francophone country with a program approved by the department will normally meet some of the requirements of their major through study abroad. The programs are open to both majors and non-majors.

Students must have successfully completed at least one 4-credit course each semester they are enrolled at Mount Holyoke prior to departure for study abroad (excluding independent study). They also should have completed at least one course in culture and literature at the 200 level (FREN-215, FREN-219, or FREN-225).

Bringing Back Credit from Study in France or Other Francophone Country

- French majors who spend a full year/two semesters abroad are allowed to bring back a maximum of three courses (12 credits), in addition to the required 4 credits of advanced language course work, for a total of 16 credits maximum toward the major.
- French majors who spend only one semester abroad are allowed to bring back a maximum of two courses (8 credits), in addition to the required 4 credits of advanced language course work, for a total of 12 credits maximum toward the major.
- French minors who spend a full year/two semesters abroad are allowed to bring back a maximum of two courses, for a total of 8 credits maximum toward the minor.
- French minors who spend only one semester abroad are allowed to bring back a maximum of one course, for a total of 4 credits maximum toward the 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 Sweet Briar, as well as for other approved study abroad programs, is awarded on a competitive basis. Scholarships, specifically for study in France or Italy, are available to qualified undergraduates from the Mary Vance Young Scholarship Fund. 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 the fall semester undertaken by students with a proven track record of exceptionally high performance in course work in French. However, continuation of these projects toward completion of a thesis to be considered for possible honors is not guaranteed and 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.

Contact Information

Catherine LeGouis, Chair
Stacey Pare, Academic Department Coordinator
115 Ciruti Language Center
413-538-2074
https://www.mtholyoke.edu/acad/french

Faculty

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

Samba Gadjigo, Helen Day Gould Professor of French, Teaching Spring Only

Catherine Le Gouis, Professor of French
Christopher Rivers, Professor of French
Sonya Stephens, Professor of French; President
Nancy Holden-Avard, Senior Lecturer in French, Teaching Fall Only
Carolyn Shread, Lecturer in French
Anouk Alquier, Reverend Joseph Paradis Visiting Instructor in French
Korka Sall, Visiting Instructor in French; UMass Teaching Associate

Requirements for the Major

A minimum of 32 credits:
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:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Two of the following intermediate courses in culture and literature:</td>
<td>8</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FREN-215</td>
<td>Intermediate Level Courses in Culture and Literature: Introduction to the Literature and Culture of France and the French-Speaking World</td>
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<tr>
<td>FREN-219</td>
<td>Intermediate Level Courses in Culture and Literature: Introduction to the French-Speaking World</td>
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<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>
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<tr>
<td>Two 4-credit electives in culture and literature at the 200 or 300 level</td>
<td>8</td>
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<tr>
<td>Three additional 4-credit electives in culture and literature at the 300 level</td>
<td>12</td>
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<tr>
<td>Four credits of advanced language study</td>
<td>4</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total Credits</td>
<td></td>
<td>32</td>
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1. One or both of these electives may be a course in another department and taught in English provided they focus substantially on French or Francophone material and pre-approval has been granted by the chair of the French department.

2. It is recommended that at least one of these courses include a significant pre-1800 component.

3. French majors who study abroad, for a summer, semester or year, are required to complete at least four 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. A French major who does not study abroad is encouraged to find comparable course work in advanced language within the Five College system, in consultation with their adviser for the French major (for example, French 371 or French 473 at UMass); if that proves impossible, they may simply complete an extra 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 or FREN-395) does not count toward the minor.
- See Study Abroad information in the overview (p. 1) for information about crediting courses taken on study abroad towards 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/#minortext) and the Teacher Licensure program (http://catalog.mtholyoke.edu/areas-study/psychology-education/#teacherlicensuretext) 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 Advice**

**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).

If you enroll in FREN-101 as a first-year student, and are interested in studying in a French-speaking country during your third year, you will need to accelerate your French language studies. Your advisor will assist you in working out a plan of study, which may include altering your course sequence, for example going directly to FREN-201 after FREN-101 if you have made sufficient strides in acquiring elementary French, or to FREN-203 instead of FREN-201 after completing FREN-102. See acceleration information here (https://www.mtholyoke.edu/acad/french/accelerating-study-abroad).

**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 and 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 multi-media 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 enhance their language skills and explore a contemporary outlook in weekly meetings with a language assistant.

**Applies to requirement(s): Humanities; Language**

**N. Holden-Avard**

**Prereq:** Placement test required even if no previous study of French; score 0-100. Coreq: FREN-101L.

**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.

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**FREN-102 Elementary French II**

*Spring.* Credits: 4

Students will develop their speaking, understanding, reading and writing skills in French. Our multimedia approach will provide students with an immersive environment where they will engage actively with the language and culture. Students will expand their perspective on the French-speaking world and practice their skills during weekly meetings with a language assistant.

**Applies to requirement(s): Humanities; Language**

**The department**

**Prereq:** FREN-101 or placement test. Coreq: FREN-102L.

**Notes:** Students may select whichever lab fits their schedules, as class content will be the same across sections.

**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 yourself 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**

**A. Alquier, The department**

**Prereq:** FREN-102 or FREN-199, placement score of 200-350, or department placement.

**Notes:** FREN-201 provides a strong foundation for continued study of French and for study abroad (see http://www.mtholyoke.edu/acad/french).

**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 analyze 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. LeGouis, C. Shread**

**Prereq:** FREN-201, placement score of 350-450, or department placement.

**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**

**C. LeGouis, K. Sall**

**Prereq:** FREN-203, placement score of 450 or higher, or 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. Gadigjo, C. Shread
Prereq: FREN-203, placement score of 450 or higher, or 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. Credits: 4
This course will introduce students to contemporary popular culture in France and the French-speaking world, largely through the study of recent (post-1990) best-selling novels, popular music, and feature films. Students will be asked to give formal oral presentations based on up-to-date materials gathered from the Internet and/or French television and to participate actively in class discussion.
Applies to requirement(s): Humanities; Language
Other Attribute(s): Speaking-Intensive
C. Rivers
Prereq: FREN-203, placement score of 450 or higher, or department placement.

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

Advanced Courses
FREN-321 Genre Courses
This interdisciplinary seminar will focus on a comparative study of Romance languages or literatures. Topics will vary from semester to semester. Seminar discussions will be conducted in English, but students wishing to obtain language credit are expected to read works in at least one original language. Papers will be written in either English or the Romance language of the student’s choice.

FREN-321LT Genre Courses: ‘Romance Language Translate’
Spring. Credits: 4
This seminar explores Romance languages, literatures and cultures through the prism of translation. By comparing translations from Spanish, Catalan, French, Italian, Portuguese, and Romanian between each other and into English, we will map out the boundaries, intersections and middle grounds of this language family. Students will engage with the different traditions of translation studies in these languages and critically analyze translators’ paratexts. Selecting an individual translation project in a Romance language of their choice, through a process of revision and collaboration, each student will produce both a polished translation and a commentary explaining challenges and choices.
Crosslisted as: ROMLG-375LT, ITAL-361LT, SPAN-360LT
Applies to requirement(s): Humanities; Language
C. Shread
Advisory: Two courses in culture and literature at the 200 level.
Notes: Students wishing to obtain 300-level credit in French, Italian, or Spanish must read texts and write papers in the Romance language for which they wish to receive credit.

FREN-331 Courses on Social and Political Issues and Critical Approaches
These courses examine a definable phenomenon—an idea, a movement, an event, a mentality, a cultural structure or system, an ideological stance, or a critical mode—relevant to the civilization of France or of French-speaking countries. Readings from a variety of disciplines shed light on the particular aspect of thought or culture being studied.

FREN-331BF Courses on Social and Political Issues and Critical Approaches: ‘Corporalités: Writing the Body in French’
Not Scheduled for This Year. Credits: 4
Study of representations of the body in French and Francophone fiction, film and art. How has embodiment been conceived across time and culture? What concepts of beauty, gender, race, class, sexuality, and age do the works communicate? How do representations of bodies convey power and desire? What forms of violence and monstrousness appear? Theoretical readings (Descartes, Freud, Beauvoir, Fanon, Foucault, Chebel) plus possible authors and films: Rabelais; Molière; Balzac; Gide; Colette; Duras; Blais; Djemiai; Warner-Vieyra; Rawiri; Un chien andalou; Cléo de 5 à 7; Le Jardin parfumé.
Applies to requirement(s): Humanities; Language
The department
Prereq: Two of the following courses: FREN-215, FREN-219, FREN-225 or permission of department chair and course instructor.

FREN-331LM Courses on Social and Political Issues and Critical Approaches: Reading “Le Monde”
Spring. Credits: 4
Founded after the liberation of Paris near the end of World War II at the behest of General de Gaulle, Le Monde is the premier French newspaper, famous for its in-depth analysis of domestic and international topics and for its provocative opinion pieces. In this course we will examine the history and evolution of the paper; we will then read each week a selection of pieces across a range of fields including domestic and international politics, society, economics, business and the arts. Through the reading and study of Le Monde, students gain a distinct French perspective on current affairs; advanced language skills in contemporary French, and up-to-theminute access to French culture.
Applies to requirement(s): Humanities; Language
Other Attribute(s): Speaking-Intensive
C. Le Gouis
Prereq: Two of the following courses: FREN-215, FREN-219, FREN-225.

FREN-331SE Courses on Social and Political Issues and Critical Approaches: ‘Writing and Politics: Literature as Social Engagement’
Not Scheduled for This Year. Credits: 4
Study of French and Francophone writers, filmmakers, and artists, in their specific contexts, whose works engage with important political and social issues of their time and place. Preliminary readings theorize how texts can communicate, explicitly or implicitly, an ideological stance. We will then consider imaginative works, from the Middle Ages to the present, whose thematic, narrative, cinematic, stylistic, or linguistic techniques connect with movements for social or cultural change.
Applies to requirement(s): Humanities; Language
The department
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'
Not Scheduled for This Year. 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.
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-341HT Courses in Francophone Studies: 'The Haitian Literary Tradition: Revolution, Diaspora, and Writing in French Now'
Fall. Credits: 4
This course engages with the rich tradition of French writing from Haiti. Beginning with Émeric Bergeaud's Stella (1859), the first novel of the first Black republic, students will explore the history of Haitian writing across literary genres and movements, including the Indigénisme that anticipated Négritude. We will study this tradition both on the island and abroad. Diasporic authors from the period of the Duvalier dictatorship include Dany Laferrière, famous as both the first Haitian and the first Quebeçois to enter the Académie française, and Marie Vieux-Chauvet. In Haiti's contemporary literary scene, we focus on women writers such as Yanick Lahens, Ketty Mars and Marie-Célie Agnant.
Applies to requirement(s): Humanities; Language; Multicultural Perspectives
C. Shread
Prereq: Two of the following courses: FREN-215, FREN-219, FREN-225.

FREN-341NE Courses in Francophone Studies: 'Revisiting the Négritude Movement: Origins, Evolution, and Relevance'
Spring. Credits: 4
In the interwar period, 1920-1940, black students from Africa and the Caribbean met in Paris to pursue their education. Galvanized by the colonial situation at home and the political situation in France, Aimé Césaire (Martinique), Léopold S. Senghor (Sénégal), and Léon Damas (French Guyana) formed the cultural movement called Négritude. This course will survey the emergence, goals, evolution, achievements, and legacies of that movement. Discussions will be based on major texts by the founders. Their influence on the works of a new generation of African and Caribbean writers will also be examined.
Applies to requirement(s): Humanities; Language; Multicultural Perspectives
S. Gadjigo
Prereq: Two 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: French 215, 219, 225, or 230, or permission of department chair and course instructor.

FREN-341SE Courses in Francophone Studies: 'A Rebel with a Camera: the Cinema of Ousmane Sembène'
Not Scheduled for This Year. 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: FL MST-370SE
Applies to requirement(s): Humanities
S. Gadjigo
Prereq: Two of the following courses: FREN-215, FREN-219, FREN-225.

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-351SE Courses on Women and Gender: 'Every Secret Thing'
Not Scheduled for This Year. Credits: 4
This course will examine contemporary autobiographical narratives written by women, with a particular focus on authors whose works include multiple autobiographical texts of various genres: fictional, nonfictional, and semifictional. We will analyze the ways in which these authors present their life stories, especially its traumatic or secret episodes, and the ways in which their works discuss the process of that presentation and of memory itself. Themes that are common to these autobiographical texts include: relationships with family, education, sexuality, class, and love. In addition to literary texts, we will analyze in detail several autobiographical films made by women.
Applies to requirement(s): Humanities; Language
C. Rivers

FREN-351VR Courses on Women and Gender: 'Viragos, Virgins, and Visionaries'
Not Scheduled for This Year. Credits: 4
In this course, we will study the three most celebrated French female saints: Jeanne d’Arc, Thérèse de Lisieux and Bernadette de Lourdes. Their stories are similar: ordinary young women to whom extraordinary things happened, who became symbols of France and inspired a rich verbal and visual iconography. Yet they are profoundly different: Joan was a warrior, Thérèse a memoirist, Bernadette a visionary. We will study the facts of their lives, in their own words and those of others, but also the many fictions, semi-fictions, myths and legends based on those lives. We will analyze a number of films and visual images as well as literary and non-literary texts in our attempt to understand these cases of specifically female, specifically French sainthood.
Crosslisted as: GNDST-333VR
Applies to requirement(s): Humanities; Language
C. Rivers
FREN-361TR Courses in Advanced Language Study: ‘Atelier de Traduction’

Fall. Credits: 4
This course is designed to give students practical, hands-on experience in the translation, from French to English, of a literary work. We will begin the semester with readings in translation theory before moving on to the selection (by students) of a literary text. Students will work collaboratively in teams on a collective translation; teams will meet on a weekly basis with the professor for a detailed review of the work in progress. At the end of the semester, each team will submit the definitive version of their translation as well as a paper reflecting on the particular linguistic challenges encountered and their resolution thereof.

Applies to requirement(s): Humanities; Language

C. Rivers

Prereq: Two of French 215, 219, 225 and one 300-level course in the French department.

FREN-395 Independent Study

Fall and Spring. Credits: 1 - 8
The department

Instructor permission required.