

Fall 2020 Course Offerings French and Francophone Studies

FR 204

Introduction to French and Francophone Studies

This course engages students in a reflection on what it means to “do French Studies” in an American university and acquaints them with the kinds of activities they will encounter in more advanced courses. Through careful analysis of a variety of literary texts, students will consider the problems – and intellectual potential – involved in studying a field that is by definition interdisciplinary. Specific assignments will help students practice both oral and written expression and expository writing. Students will also review essential grammar points encountered in previous study of French.

Instructor: Dr. Jeorg Ellen Sauer

MWF 12:00-12:50

FR 215

Visual Cultures

In this course, students examine visual media from Francophone cultures while creating interdisciplinary connections with other visual forms of representation. Through analytic exercises of photos, video, art, textiles, drawings, comics, etc., students learn to describe and express the relationship between visual “texts” and the culture from which they come.

Instructor: Dr. Jeorg Ellen Sauer

MWF 11:00-11:50

FR 310

French Phonetics

This course examines the fundamental theory of French sounds and intonation patterns and provides practice in pronunciation and corrective phonetics. The course content, imbedded in a contrastive and comparative approach, includes an on-line pronunciation program and in-class presentations to gain practice in self and peer correction and auditory discrimination. French phonemes and intonation patterns will be studied in isolation through a series of contrastive exercises as well as within the continuum of spontaneous speech. Corrective phonetics will be an important part of the course to equip students with techniques and strategies that will carry on beyond the FR 310 classroom.

Instructor: Dr. Sadia Zoubir-Shaw

TR 9:30-10:45

FR 325

Le cinéma français: Agnès Varda et Jacques Demy

Varda and Demy, both known for their distinct film styles and participation in the French New Wave, were a cinematic couple. This course will examine their films to explore and analyze how each created her own cinematic style. Varda, known for her documentary style, and Demy, known for his continuity of characters, both focus on using film to tell specific stories. While developing a film vocabulary, students will watch Varda’s and Demy’s films, compare and contrast their works, discuss themes in both *auteurs’* body of work, and analyze the role each takes in producing films.

Instructor: Dr. Jeorg Ellen Sauer

MWF 10:00-10:50

FR 350

Francophone Cultures: Art History in Comics

Comics and art have contrasting reputations in the area of legitimacy and academic merit. While Pop Artists such as Andy Warhol and Roy Lichtenstein played with comics in their artistic production, other comics artists explore so-called High Art in their work. In this course, students will read comics that are published by the Louvre and the Musée d'Orsay, as well as works that explore how art inspires and influences the way comics artists tell stories. Students will lead discussions on comics in class, write several short papers, and complete a research project.

Instructor: Dr. Jeorg Ellen Sauer

MWF 1:00-1:50

FR 470G

Topical Seminar I: African and Caribbean Literatures of French Expression

This introduction to Francophone literatures and theories will allow students to examine how various experiences of the Francophone worlds have been shaped by colonial and postcolonial encounters, experiences and cultures in different periods such as slavery, colonialism and the postcolonial era. A variety of genres, such as short stories, novels and orature, will be used throughout the course.

Instructor: Dr. Vieux Touré

MWF 11:00-11:50

FR 606

The Romances of Chrétien de Troyes

This course focuses on the twelfth-century French romances of Chrétien de Troyes and on the rich scholarship that explores Arthurian legend from a variety of perspectives. Primary texts include *Erec and Enide*, *Cligès*, *The Knight of the Cart*, *The Knight with the Lion*, and *The Story of the Grail*. Students will also explore other areas of Arthurian legend and will have the opportunity present their research in the form of a conference paper at the end of the semester.

Instructor: Dr. Julie Human

M 3:30-6:00

FR 630

Roman et cinéma du Maghreb

This course looks at the literary, social and political issues brought to the fore in twentieth- and twenty-first-century Maghribi literature and film. These works bear witness to the different experiences of Morocco, Algeria, and Tunisia with colonization and the repercussion of colonialism, independence, as well as the development of Francophone cultures in North Africa. The course pays particular attention to the ways in which this corpus of literature and selection of films addresses issues related to language, identity, race, gender, memory, migration, Islamism, and the particular socio-political contexts from which such works emerge. Additionally, the course content will lead us to an investigation of the meaning and implications of the word “Francophonie” and of the transition into *littérature-monde*. The readings and films are works by predominantly very well-known Maghribi Francophone authors and filmmakers. Students will read all of the primary literary texts in French. Films will have French subtitles.

Instructor: Dr. Nisrine Slitine El Mghari

R 3:30-6:00