

Fall 2021 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 11:00-11:50

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 12:00-12:50

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, embedded 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 324

Studies in French Literature: Writing Love

Love is a central motif or theme in literary texts. As readers, we compel writers of poetry, short stories, and novels to prioritize relationships that center on love. Readers seek romance, tragic love stories, saccharine sweet dramas, “ride or die” friendships, and horror stories about obsession. This course examines how love is written in French and Francophone storytelling. We will consider what love is, how it gets defined in written works, and how authors in French and Francophone countries have written about love. Some of our guiding questions will be: how does love change, motivate, or destroy narrators and characters? And how is love culturally constructed in other national contexts? This course will be a survey course examining love through multiple perspectives through the centuries.

Instructor: Dr. Jeorg Ellen Sauer
MWF 10:00-10:50

FR 350

The Enlightenment and Its Critics

The Enlightenment remains one of the most foundational and yet controversial intellectual and cultural movements in modern Western history. For many, it is a pillar of liberal democratic society; for others it is a source of enduring social injustice. Several of the most pressing cultural questions dominating headlines today concern the legacy of the Enlightenment. This course provides some points of entry into this vast intellectual and cultural landscape and ongoing debate. The first part of the course examines key thinkers (Kant, Locke, Montesquieu, Diderot) that have become emblems of the Enlightenment. The second part of the course turns to what is known as the counter-enlightenment—its critics—beginning with the enigmatic figure of Jean-Jacques Rousseau. Students will study early feminist critics of the Enlightenment (Olympe de Gouges and Mary Wollstonecraft) and consider how late twentieth-century intellectual movements (postmodernism, postcolonialism, gender studies and critical race theory) constitute critiques of the Enlightenment. **Taught in English. Satisfies Honors College requirement.**

Instructor: Dr. Leon Sachs
TR 12:30-1:45

FR 470G

Topical Seminar I: Histoires de soi: (S')écrire et (se)raconter

Using storytelling as a central technique, this course will focus on reading, writing, and speaking skills modeled after various folktales, legends, and autobiographical and fictional works read in class. The first part of the course will be dedicated to “retelling” and rewriting stories that we will read for the course (folktales and legends from around the world along with excerpts from Jules Renard, Colette, Hervé Bazin, Nathalie Sarraute, etc.), while the second half will concentrate on students’ own stories and creations which will constitute the course final project.

Instructor: Dr. Sadia Zoubir-Shaw
TR 2:00-3:15

FR 621

From Realism to Modernism

This course explores the intellectual and cultural currents underlying the transition from a realist to a modernist aesthetic occurring in late nineteenth-century and early twentieth-century France. Most of the course will be devoted to studying the turn-of-the-century “crisis of representation,” a shift among artists, writers and critics away from a concern with the mimetic function of art to a preoccupation with the techniques and materials of artistic construction itself. Representative writers we will study may include Balzac, Flaubert, Zola, Baudelaire, Mallarmé, Rimbaud, Aragon, Proust, Apollinaire.

Instructor: Dr. Leon Sachs
M 3:30-6:00

FR 630

Récits de la ville

This course examines how Francophone Maghribi writers represent the evolving and sometimes chaotic cityscapes in Morocco, Algeria, and Tunisia from the early 20th century to the present. The emphasis will be on close readings and discussions of (graphic) novels and short stories that describe major themes related to 1. Arab/Islamic, Amazigh, Andalusian Spanish, and Jewish identities, and promise lands and disenchantments; 2. the representation of the city as sites of individual and collective memory in colonial and postcolonial sources; 3. gender issues in North African Islamic Cities. Students in this course will read all the primary literary texts in French.

Instructor: Dr. Nisrine Slitine El Mghari
R 3:30-6:00