

## Fall 2024 Course Offerings

### French and Francophone Studies

[New course]

#### **MCL 390-002 Topics in MCL: French for Healthcare Professionals**

*Instructor: Nisrine Slitine*

*TR 9:30-10:45*

This course for beginners is intended for students, medical professionals, and individuals involved in social work and community health interested in learning how to communicate with French-speaking patients, families, and healthcare professionals. It introduces the basics of French and helps students build the skills necessary to interact in the medical, paramedical, and community health environments; to better serve Francophone patients locally and internationally; and to provide equitable access to healthcare services. No previous knowledge of French is required or expected.

#### **FR 204 Introduction to French and Francophone Studies**

*Instructor: Jeorg Ellen Sauer*

*MWF 10-10:50*

This course engages students in a reflection of what it means to do “French Studies” in an American university and acquaints them with the kinds of activities they will see in more advanced French courses. Specific assignments will help students practice making coherent and eloquent arguments both orally and in writing based on close textual analysis.

#### **FR 215 Visual Cultures**

*Instructor: Jeorg Ellen Sauer*

*MWF 11-11:50*

The purpose of this course is to engage students in a reflection of cultural visual artifacts from Francophone countries while creating interdisciplinary connections with visual forms. By learning to closely examine visual forms (photos, video, art, textiles, drawings, comics, etc), students will be able to analyze and express the relationship between visual "texts" and the culture from which they come.

#### **FR 324 Studies in French Literature: 20th Century French Theater**

*Instructor: Leon Sachs*

*TR 11-12:15*

This course is an introduction to several of the most influential French-language plays of the twentieth century. Students will explore the way playwrights addressed the consequences of World War I, the collaboration with Nazi Germany, colonialism as well as the mid-century philosophical movement of existentialism. Representative authors may include Jean Anouilh, Aimé Césaire, Simone de Beauvoir, Albert Camus and Jean-Paul Sartre. *Prereq: FR 204*

#### **FR 325 French Cinema: Biographical Film**

*Instructor: Jeorg Ellen Sauer*

*MWF 3-3:50*

In this course, we will examine how director's use film to tell life stories. We will examine the lives of famous French figures that captured the imaginations of their audience. Students will be expected to read about the person portrayed and to compare the written biographies with how the film tells the story. We will consider whose story is chosen and who tells the story. Through careful analysis of film techniques, students will be able to interpret storytelling in film within its cultural context. Students will be expected to do readings and watch films for homework. All course discussion will be conducted in French. Students will also write several short papers for the course. May be repeated to a maximum of 6 hours with a different subtitle. *Prereq: FR 204.*

### **FR 350 Francophone Cultures: Multicultural France**

*Instructor: Leon Sachs*

*TR 2-3:15*

This course explores the topic of national identity in France through the study of key literary and filmic works (mostly) from the twentieth century. Our investigation will be guided by the question of how the nation is defined in relation to the ever-changing idea of the “Other.” We will consider Otherness in a variety of forms — linguistic, religious, ethnic, racial regional, sexual, socioeconomic, etc. — and consider the way these components of individual and group identity have been perceived as a threat to, or have been integrated into, the national community. Significant emphasis will be placed on the role of the school as an institution that endeavors to forge a collective French republican identity from the nation’s diversity. Prereq: FR 204

### **FR 504 Topics in French Literature/Culture: Tabous et BD au Maroc**

*Instructor: Nisrine Slitine*

*R 3:30-6*

In this course, we will examine how 20<sup>th</sup>- and 21<sup>st</sup>-century Moroccan writers and artists use visual storytelling to illustrate sensitive issues that are typically considered taboo in Moroccan culture. We will explore how artists use innovative and subversive forms of expression to relay testimonies denouncing the oppressive regime and police corruption, human rights violations, clandestine prisons, and illegal immigration and to address issues related to gender and sexuality, alcoholism, and Arab-Amazigh tensions. Finally, we will examine the emergence of a more contemporary *BD* in Morocco inspired by the cultural and artistic effervescence that the Arab world is experiencing in the wake of the “Arab Spring.”

**[This course will count for FR 470G]**

### **FR 606 Literature of the Middle Ages: Wicked Women: Transgression and Misogyny in Medieval French Literature**

*Instructor: Julie Human*

*M 3:30-6*

In this course we will think about the construction of female characters in twelfth, thirteenth- and fourteenth-century medieval courtly texts as transgressive. We will analyze the boundaries they cross, as well as the reactions of their historical and fictional counterparts to these transgressions. We will also examine ways in which these female characters resist societal norms, even within the texts that construct them. Primary texts include the *Lais* of Marie de France (c. 1170), Jean Renart's *Roman de la Rose ou de Guillaume de Dole* (1204-1228), selections from the *Lancelot-Grail Cycle* (1215-1235), *Heldris de Cornuaille's Roman de Silence* (from the second half of the 13th century), and selections from the *Roman de Mélusine* by Jean d'Arras (1393). Students will have the opportunity to present their research in the form of a conference paper at the end of the semester.