

Spring 2015 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 be a major in French and Francophone Studies in an American university today, and acquaints them with the kinds of activities they will encounter in more advanced French courses. Specific assignments will help students practice making coherent and eloquent arguments both orally and in writing.

**Ms. Jeorg Ellen Sauer
MWF 10:00-10:50**

FR 215

Visual Cultures

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.

**Ms. Jeorg Ellen Sauer
MWF 11-11:50**

FR 307

French for Business and Economics

The objective of this course is to gain technical, as well as cultural understanding, of business procedures in France. The course will provide an overview of the social, historical, and economic background of France as a nation, France's contribution to, and position within, the European Union, and France's role as an international partner in the business world. The course will also address various aspects of intercultural communication and cultural differences underlying culture-specific business practices and behaviors. Particular attention will be devoted to concrete information and practices relating to more functional aspects of the business world such as the structure of French businesses, contract and professional letter writing, banking, insurance, etc., pertinent to successful business in and with France.

**Dr. Sadia Zoubir-Shaw
MWF 9:00-9:50**

FR 311

Introduction to French Linguistics

This course is an introduction to the scientific and historical study of the French language. It will introduce students to the phonetics, phonology, morphology, semantics, and syntax of French and dialects of French. During the course of the semester, students (1) will learn to re-evaluate beliefs concerning Language and languages, (2) will be introduced to the study of language structure, and the evidence for that structure, and (3) will develop analytical skills by applying established techniques to data drawn from French spoken in all parts of the world.

**Dr. Sadia Zoubir-Shaw
MWF 10:00-10:50**

FR 335

War, Literature, Film (taught in English)

This course examines the various strategies that French (as well as some non-French) writers and filmmakers have used to translate the experience and memory of war into literary and cinematic form. Topics treated will include eyewitness testimony, uses of irony and humor, the representation of disfigurement, the question of documentary, collaboration with the enemy, and practices of commemoration. Because of the centenary of the outbreak of World War I, a majority of the works studied will treat this conflict in particular. (Seminar discussion format; Taught in ENGLISH; includes HONORS section).

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

FR 350

Francophone Cultures: La France d'hier et d'aujourd'hui

This course will explore the social, historical, and political situation of France today and its relationship with other French-speaking countries and the European Union. We will study various aspects of contemporary French culture and society, and discuss different forms of representation of the history, heritage, and identity of France from the fourth Republic to the present. History, geography, political institutions, colonialism, immigration, nationalism, education, and the media are a few of the topics analyzed in this course. A close examination of traditional values, new practices and ideologies, and economic and political changes resulting from globalization and technology will help us understand how France has shaped a new identity within a European context and beyond.

**Dr. Sadia Zoubir-Shaw
MWF 2:00-2:50**

FR 425
Media Studies

Dr. Leon Sachs
TR 9:30-10:45

In this course, students will examine the idea of media in its broadest sense. Taking as its starting point the origin of the word (from Latin, *medius* meaning ‘middle’) this course will reflect on the way a variety of media (written, visual, and audio) *mediate* the relationship *between* the self and the world, *between* our ideas about reality and reality itself. A number of questions will guide our inquiry: How does language itself come between our relationship to others and the world? How does literature and film require us to think of art works as media? How do traditional forms of media engage with and incorporate the new media of mass communication? To explore these questions, students will study a number of recent and contemporary works of French literature and film as well as bandes dessinées, news journalism and contemporary music.

FR 471G
Topical Seminar II: Writing a Woman’s Voice

Dr. Suzanne Pucci
TR 11:00-12:15

The novel in France came into prominence and flourished during the Enlightenment, surpassing in popularity all other literary genres. Why were so many of these novels written in the form of letters and memoirs? Why and how did so many of these fictional writers identify themselves much of the time as female even when the author of the fiction was male, such as is the case with the *Lettres portugaises*, *Les Lettres persanes*, *Julie ou la Nouvelle Héloïse*? This course examines such questions of gendered writing practices in eighteenth-century fiction whose function and form intersect with the social, political, cultural concerns of the period. How does the letter novel’s articulation of personal emotion and private sentiment mark intimacy on the one hand and demarcate a new public/social realm on the other? We will read the following novels: *Lettres portugaises*, Guilleragues; *Lettres persanes*, Montesquieu; *Lettres d’une Péruvienne*, Françoise de Graffigny; *Lettres de Mistress Henley*, Isabelle de Charrière; *Les Liaisons dangereuses*, Choderlos de Laclos; *Ourika*, Claire Duras

MCL 495 (formerly FR 495: Senior Paper)
Senior Capstone: Text and Image

Dr. Jeffrey Peters
MWF 1:00-1:50

From ancient rhetoric to medieval tapestries and illuminated manuscripts to later emblem books and fables to William Blake’s illustrated poetry to the invention of graphic narrative, cinema, the internet and social media, words and pictures have always been close artistic companions. In this seminar, we will trace the meeting of text and image in a range of cultural traditions, both Eastern and Western, ancient and modern. Students will approach the topic from the perspective of their own disciplinary and linguistic backgrounds.

FR 609
Seventeenth-Century Studies: The Written World

Dr. Jeffrey Peters
W 3:30-6:00

In early modern Europe, travel to the New World, the invention of artificial perspective, and mathematical innovations in measurement and chronometry brought about a revolution in the human perception of space and, as a result, in Western ideas about humanity’s place in the physical world. More often than not, the early seventeenth century is portrayed as the origin of a rationalist and highly geometric notion of space that relies upon concepts of centeredness and unity. In this course, we will take a somewhat more skeptical view of these matters and consider what literary representation can teach us about the persistently contingent nature of space in the early modern world. To this end, we will explore the fundamental relations that literary writing holds with space. Our approach will be to seek within the notion of writing itself a model of spatial delineation. We will propose that the concept of “space” designates, in a formulation that reaches back to Plato, the metaphorical terms of becoming through which being is given perceptible form. Writing will therefore be exemplary for us in its constant enactment, at the level of myth, of plurality, otherness, division, and paradox – in short, the conceptual movements that emplot space as the product of difference rather than unified essence. In addition to reading parts of novels by Honoré d’Urfé, Madeleine de Scudéry, Cyrano de Bergerac, Paul Scarron, Charles Sorel, and Madame de Lafayette, plays by Corneille and Racine, and writings by Pascal and Boileau, we will look at contemporary maps, geographies, and travel narratives in order to bring a more properly cultural dimension to our understanding of literature and space.

FR 617
Eighteenth-Century Studies: Fictional Foreigners in Early Modern France

Dr. Suzanne Pucci
R 3:30-6:00

This course will explore how and why the *foreigner* assumes an important role in texts of the early modern period and why this motif is especially indicative of the Enlightenment. What does the presence of a stranger contribute to cultural and linguistic understanding? How do themes of voyage and discovery relate to the profile of a society? In the 18th century? Today? We will examine the literary forms that are employed to convey this meeting between the foreigner and a new culture. What happens to the reader’s understanding of her/his own cultural and traditional conventions by reading from the perspective of a foreigner? What is a cultural perspective? Texts will include: Montaigne, “Des Cannibales,” Montesquieu, *Lettres persanes*; Prévost, *Histoire d’une Grecque moderne*, Voltaire, *L’Ingenu*; Françoise de Graffigny, *Lettres d’une Péruvienne*; Claire de Duras, *Ourika*. Work for this course: class presentations, short written papers, a final research paper.

FR 630

Vénus noire

Dr. Jacqueline Couti

M 3:30-6:00

Ce séminaire retracera la généalogie de la mythification du corps de la femme noire du XVIII^e au début du XX^e siècle. Les étudiants seront amenés à dégager la signification du corps et de la sexualisation de ce dernier dans l'imaginaire masculin à la lumière de documents littéraires, historiques et scientifiques. L'exploration des notions d'identité raciale, sexuelle ou ethnique produites par le discours colonial permettra aux étudiants de réfléchir sur les mentalités et la construction de l'idée nationale, ceci à différents moments clefs. Les images érotiques du corps de la femme exotique et la réécriture de ce dernier par le regard masculin comme expression du pouvoir colonial et de son désir retiendront particulièrement notre attention. Nos discussions tourneront aussi autour de la colonisation, du colonialisme, du métissage, du refus de l'assimilation, de la violence et des implications socioculturelles et politiques de l'exotisme, de l'érotisme et de la sexualité.