

Spring 2019 Course Offerings French and Francophone Studies

- FR 204** **Instructor: Ms. Dezirae Shukla**
Introduction to French and Francophone Studies **MWF 10:00-10:50**
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 see 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.
- FR 215** **Instructor: Ms. Dezirae Shukla**
Visual Cultures **MWF 11:00-11:50**
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.
- FR 307** **Instructor: Dr. Sadia Zoubir-Shaw**
Introduction to the French Business World **TR 12:30-1:45**
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, which often result in culture-specific business practices and behaviors. Particular attention will be devoted to concrete information and practice 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.
- FR 311** **Instructor: Dr. Sadia Zoubir-Shaw**
Introduction to Linguistics **TR 9:30-10:45**
This course is an introduction to the scientific and historical study of a variety of languages of the world; as such it will introduce students to various aspects, levels, and components of human language (phonetics, phonology, morphology, semantics, and syntax) as it developed over time. During the course of the semester, students will learn to (1) 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 languages spoken in all parts of the world.
- FR 324 Studies in French Literature** **Instructor: Dr. Suzanne Pucci**
Love and War in the Lyric Tradition **TR 11:00-12:15**
We will explore texts such as *La Chanson de Roland*, the *Lais* of Marie de France, and poetry of writers such as Ronsard, Du Bellay, and Baudelaire to examine modes of intimacy and war that characterize the French poetic tradition and that help us understand the codes and beliefs of such basic social and cultural practices and conventions.
- FR 344: The Literary Text** **Instructor: Ms. Jeorg Ellen Sauer**
Twentieth-Century Poetry **MWF 10:00-10:50**
In this course, we will read and examine politically-engaged, avant-garde, and surrealist poetry from the early to late twentieth century. From the traditional style of Anna de Noailles to Tristan Tzara’s surrealism, from the love poetry of Paul Éluard to the provocative poetry of Raymond Queneau, we will discuss how poetry transformed thought in art and culture.
- FR 350: Francophone Cultures** **Instructor: Mr. Mohamed Outahar**
The Culture and Identity of Morocco **MWF 12:00-12:50**
Examines contemporary Moroccan culture and society, and discusses gender roles, religion, literature, and art, along with other forms of representation of the history, heritage, and identity of Morocco. A close examination of traditional values, new practices, and ideologies in the face of economic and political changes resulting from globalization and technology will provide some understanding of how Morocco has shaped a modern vision based on ancestral values.
- FR 425** **Instructor: Dr. Jeffrey Peters**
Media Studies **MWF 2:00-2:50**
This course examines how the media serve as forms of representation that lie between – in the middle of (“media” come from the Latin *medius*, “in the middle”) – the world and our ideas about the world. We will ask: how do media structure our understanding? Why do media typically mean mass media (TV, film, newspapers, etc.)? How is language study itself a kind of medium? How is language study also the study of media? Where does the modern concept of media come from?
- FR 471G: Topical Seminar II** **Instructor: Dr. Suzanne Pucci**
The Letter Novel **TR 2:00-3:15**
How and why did letters become so important as to form the basis of the French eighteenth-century novel? Many have highlighted the virtues of this kind of novel which can convey emotions and thoughts of characters, of the letter writer, directly and transparently, better than any other narrative. Is this always true? We will examine this first-person form of writing in novels such as the *Lettres portugaises*, *Lettres persanes*, *Lettres d’une Péruvienne*, *Les Liaisons dangereuses*. As a social mode of communication, as a literary form, what does this kind of writing tell us about fiction, about writing, about society?
- FR 609** **Instructor: Dr. Jeffrey Peters**
Seventeenth-Century Studies: La comédie humaine de La Fontaine **M 3:30-6:00**
In “Le bûcheron et Mercure,” Jean de La Fontaine describes the fable genre as “Une ample Comédie à cent actes divers, / Et dont la scène est l’Univers.” In this class, we will ask what La Fontaine means by this. We will read seventeenth-century literary practice and philosophical reflection through the lens of La Fontaine’s *Fables* and his theater metaphor, and consider the theoretical questions they raise. These will include: the nature of the poetic, problems of cosmic scale and its relation to the human situation, La Fontaine’s argument with Descartes over knowledge and the soul (and therefore the debate between Epicureans and rationalists), concepts of artistic originality and agency, the origins of disciplinarity, and the problem of the pictorial in verbal texts.
- FR 621** **Instructor: Dr. Leon Sachs**
Twentieth-Century Studies: Literary Experiments **R: 3:30-6:00**
Playing on the double meaning of the French word “expérience”, this course acquaints students with some of most famous literary “experiments” and “experiences” in twentieth-century French literary and intellectual culture. Students will read representative works of the surrealist movement, existentialism, the *nouveau roman*, and absurd theater as well as other works noted for their creative innovations. Students will also study important theoretical texts that have made a lasting impact on the way we understand literature today. Representative authors will include Aragon, Beckett, Breton, Camus, Céline, Césaire, Colette, Robbe-Grillet, Proust, Sarraute, Duras, and Barthes.