

Spring 2020 Course Offerings French and Francophone Studies

FR 204 **Instructor: Ms. Jeorg Ellen Sauer**
Introduction to French and Francophone Studies **MWF 12:00-12:50**
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 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.

FR 214 **Instructor: Dr. Nisrine Slitine El Mghari**
France Today **MWF 11:00-11:50**
This course examines topical issues faced by Maghrebi populations on both sides of the French Mediterranean. The goal of the course is to give an introduction of contemporary debates on migration, integration and assimilation, clandestinity, marginalization, religion, and identity. Students will expand their awareness of different varieties of French, and will enhance their communicative skills and foster informed debate and discussion regarding the cultures and societies of the Maghreb.

FR 225 (taught in English) **Fulfills UK Core – Inquiry in the Humanities** **Instructor: Dr. Jeffrey Peters**
French Film Noir **MWF 2:00-2:50**
Investigates the crime thriller in French cinema during the 1940s and 1950s. Topics include: French and English detective serials of the 1910s; the impact of French poetic realism on Hollywood in the 1930s; the origins of the crime style in European surrealism, German expressionism, and French existentialism; the role of noir in the cultural values, anxieties, and conflicts that shaped French identity in the wake of World War II. Taught in English. No knowledge of French required.

FR 307 **Instructor: Dr. Sadia Zoubir-Shaw**
***Le Français des affaires*: Introduction to the French Business World** **TR 9:30-10:45**
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 underlying culture-specific business practices and behaviors. Particular attention will be devoted to concrete information and practices relating to functional aspects of the business world (organization of French businesses, contract and professional letter writing, banking, insurance, etc.) as pertinent to successful business in and with France.

FR 324 **Instructor: Ms. Jeorg Ellen Sauer**
Introduction to Literary Studies: A (Novel) Reading **MWF 1:00-1:50**
The novel, once considered a “lower” form of art, has become one of the most prestigious forms of literary writing. The novel also represents one of the main forms of literary consumption in contemporary culture. This course will focus on works from the late 20th and 21st centuries to ask how women writers have used the novel form to challenge and transform.

FR 344 **Instructor: Dr. Nisrine Slitine El Mghari**
The Literary Text: *Lieux de mémoires* **MWF 12:00-12:50**
An exploration of the concepts of text and textuality in relation to the notions of authorship, form and formal experiment, theme and other questions at the heart of literary studies. This course addresses the city as a territory of individual and collective memory in literary texts by Francophone Maghrebi writers. Students will explore vestiges of the history of the Maghreb insofar as they function as sites of memory.

FR 425 **Instructor: Dr. Leon Sachs**
Media Studies **TR 11:00-12:15**
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 do 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 fiction, essays and film.

FR 471G **Instructor: Dr. Sadia Zoubir-Shaw**
Topical Seminar II: *Initiation à la pratique de la traduction* **TR 2:00-3:15**
Translation is the communication of meaning from one language (the source) to another language (the target). Through introductory and basic translation techniques, FR 471G will introduce students to translation exercises from English to French and French to English. Students will learn to interpret the syntactic and lexical structures from the source language to the target language and explore the register, style, tone, and intent of a particular text taking into account the cultural and regional differences between source and target languages. Students will work with a diverse selection of French and English texts of varying lengths and difficulty including billboard slogans, proverbs, colloquialisms, technical instructions, and literary texts.

(continued below)

Spring 2020 Course Offerings French and Francophone Studies

FR 609

Instructor: Dr. Jeffrey Peters

Barthes, Theory, and the Seventeenth Century

W 3:30-6:00

Our goals in this class will be 1) to think about the nature and uses of critical theory by discussing the central writings of Roland Barthes, and 2) to understand how and why Barthes turned to seventeenth-century Classicism as the originating aesthetic with which the literary and social revolutions of modernism – Barthes’s primary interest – broke ranks. We will ask: what is literary theory and what is it for? How does one go about reading theory and then using it to read both literary and non-literary texts? In short, and to pose a question Barthes asked throughout his career, what are we doing when we read?

FR 621

Instructor: Dr. Leon Sachs

Rousseau and the Enlightenment

R 3:30-6:00

This course introduces students to the major writings of Jean-Jacques Rousseau and attempts to understand his unique relationship to the Enlightenment project. Beginning with Immanuel Kant’s dictum that Enlightenment is the release from “self-incurred tutelage,” students will consider the ways different Enlightenment figures conceived of the individual’s break with various religious, political and intellectual authorities of the century. In turning to Rousseau, students will examine his views on the relationship between learning and freedom, his disillusionment with modern civilization, his concept of the state of nature, and his expression of a Romantic sensibility.