

## Spring 2022 Course Offerings French and Francophone Studies

### FR 204

#### Introduction to French and Francophone Studies

This course takes French “to the next level.” It helps students transition from so-called language courses to culture and content courses while building on their knowledge of the French language. Through analysis of film and short literary texts, students will experience the thrill of working in 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. Leon Sachs**

**TR 12:30-1:45**

### FR 214

#### France Today

This course examines topical issues faced by Maghrebi, Sub-Saharan, and Caribbean populations inside and outside of France. The course introduces contemporary debates on migration, integration, assimilation, clandestinity, marginalization, religion, and identity. Students will expand their awareness of different varieties of French, including Verlan and Creole. Students will also enhance their communicative skills and foster informed debate and discussion regarding the cultures and societies of The Maghreb, Sub-Saharan Africa, and the French Antilles. Audio/visual texts from multiple sources are used to help students find, compare, and contrast knowledge in a variety of ways.

**Instructor: Dr. Nisrine Slitine El Mghari**

**TR 9:30-10:45**

### FR 263

**Taught in English**

#### African Caribbean Literature & Culture in Transatlantic Folk Traditions

This course invites students to discover the diverse and rich realm of folklore in the French Atlantic as a site of cultural memory. Students will examine the marginalization of indigenous peoples, local traditions, and popular cultures of the Maghreb, Sub-Saharan Africa, and the French Antilles as an outcome of the long histories of colonization, discrimination, and modernization. In this course, students will discuss how the quest for the past of these regions is crucial for the revival and interpretation of their local popular cultures today. Students will identify themes and how oral and textual cultures interconnect, are transmitted, and sometimes discontinued. By examining folktales and popular songs, but also visual and traditional performing arts as sites of memory, students will explore how folklore constitutes so much more than just a narrative; and stands as a crucial component in the conception of national identities. Taught in English.

**Instructor: Dr. Nisrine Slitine El Mghari**

**TR 11:00-12:15**

### FR 307

#### Le Français des affaires: An Introduction to the French Business World

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.

**Instructor: Dr. Sadia Zoubir-Shaw**

**MWF 9:00-9:50**

### FR 350

#### France et Francophonie: histoire, société et culture

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.

**Instructor: Dr. Sadia Zoubir-Shaw**

**MWF 10:00-10:50**

### FR 425

#### Media Studies: French History through Film

Students will examine major historical events and periods in the French-speaking world through the study of both classic and popular French-language films. Most of the films will represent episodes from the modern and contemporary period: the Revolution, the Dreyfus Affair, the Algerian War, episodes in colonial and post-colonial history, the First World War and the German Occupation. The course will begin with a review of some key film terms that will help facilitate film analysis and class discussion in French.

**Instructor: Dr. Leon Sachs**

**TR 2:00-3:15**

### FR 471G

#### Topical Seminar II: Comic Book Feminism

Examines how French and Francophone comics artists discuss feminism in their comics. We will explore how the artists challenge representations of identity in society that create disparities. The course will consider genres in comics—fantasy, autobiography, biography, fiction, fairy tales, etc.—and ask how the comics form lends itself to considering feminist theories and thought. Students will be expected to actively read and engage with the works. The course grade will be essays and a project at the end of the semester. Some of the artists will include: Catel, Bagieu, Cruchaudet, Thomas, Abouet et Satrapi.

**Instructor: Dr. Jeorg Ellen Sauer**

**MWF 12:00-12:50**

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## Spring 2022 Course Offerings

### French and Francophone Studies

#### FR 606

**Instructor: Dr. Julie Human**

#### **Wicked Women: Transgression and Misogyny in Medieval French Literature**

**M 3:30-6:00**

In this course we will study the construction of female characters in 12th- through 14th-century medieval literature as transgressive. We will analyze the boundaries these characters cross and examine ways in which these female characters resist societal norms, even within the texts that construct them. Texts include the Lais of Marie de France, short poetic texts that focus on love and often magic; selections from Arthurian Lancelot-Grail Cycle featuring the Lady of the Lake, Morgan le Fay, and Guenevere. We will also read about Liénor, who aspires to be empress, and Silence, who becomes a knight and then a king's wife. Finally, we will meet Mélusine, a fairy who passes as a human woman except on Saturday nights, when she turns into a serpent from the waist down. We will use feminist criticism from the twentieth and twenty-first centuries to frame our discussions, and course work will include the opportunity to present a conference paper at the end of the semester.

#### FR 609

**Instructor: Dr. Jeffrey Peters**

#### **Poésie et poiesis à l'époque baroque**

**W 3:30-6:00**

The goal of this class is to ask how the early modern period (sixteenth and seventeenth centuries) informs our understanding of the world today. These were years of incredible innovation: the printing press, artificial perspective, the Columbian explorations, and the scientific revolution all date from this period. Recognizably modern concepts of the self, the human, the world, Europe, perception, materiality, and infinity were established during this era. But transformation breeds uncertainty and alarm; the early years of the seventeenth century, sometimes called the Baroque in France, were marked by intellectual crisis: shock, disbelief, madness, disenchantment, disorder, irregularity, illusion, information overload, irrationality, and anxiety concerning all that did not fit into existing classifications. Our purpose will be to consider how the discovery of a transformed world involved a process of conceptual invention or making (*poiesis*) that often resembled the *poetic* creation of “fictional” worlds.