

## Spring 2023 Course Offerings French and Francophone Studies

### **FR 204**

Instructor: Leon Sachs

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

TR: 12:30-1:45

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.

### **FR 344**

Instructor: Jeorg Ellen Sauer

### **The Literary Text: Reading Novels**

MWF: 11:00-11:50

Reading novels is often a daunting task and requires perseverance and persistence. This course will examine the history of the novel, the respect it garners in literary circles as *Literature*, and why, we as students, often set goals to read this or that novel. During the course, the class will pick three “canonical” novels to read, discuss them in class, analyze their place in literary traditions, and write about them. The course will further the students’ reading skills, aid in analytic writing and critical thinking, and maybe just maybe be a pleasurable reading experience.

### **FR 425**

Instructor: Leon Sachs

### **Media Studies**

TR 2:00-3:15

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 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 fiction, essays and film.

### **FR 471G**

Instructor: Jeorg Ellen Sauer

### **Topical Seminar: Women’s Auto/Biography**

MWF: 10:00-10:50

This course will look to read and understand how women write their own lives, as well as the lives of others. We will consider how the genre of life writing works, functions, and brings to women writers. The course will analyze women writers from the 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> century and consider their contributions to literary thought. We will read works by Beauvoir, Cixous, Duras, Groult, and Ernaux among others.

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**FR 609**

Instructor: 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 630**

Instructor: Nisrine Slitine El Mghari

**Roman et Cinema du Maghreb**

R 3:30-6:00

This course looks at the literary, social, and political issues brought to the fore in twentieth- and twenty-first-century Maghribi literature and film. These works bear witness to the different experiences of Morocco, Algeria, and Tunisia with colonization and repercussion of colonialism, independence, as well as the development of Francophone cultures in North Africa. This course pays particular attention to the ways in which this corpus of literature and selection of films address issues related to language, identity, race, gender, memory, migration, Islamism, and the particular socio-political contexts from which such works emerge. Additionally, the course content will lead us to an investigation of the meaning and implications of the word “Francophonie” and of the transition into littérature-monde.