

Spring 2026 Course Offerings French and Francophone Studies

FR 204

Introduction to French and Francophone Studies

Instructor: Dr. Jeorg Ellen Sauer

MWF 10:00-10:50 a.m.

This course engages students in a reflection of 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 French courses. Specific assignments will help students practice making coherent and eloquent arguments both orally and in writing based on close textual analysis.

FR 307

French for Business and Economics

Instructor: Dr. Nisrine Slitine El Mghari

TR 9:30-10:45 a.m.

Development of specialized conversational and written proficiency necessary to import-export business activities, banking, insurance, business regulation, etc., in the French-speaking world.

FR 344: The Literary Text

Ghost, Vampires, and the Fantastic

Instructor: Dr. Jeffrey Peters

MWF 1:00-1:50 p.m.

Ghosts, vampires, mummies, devils, and werewolves are some of the figures who will make appearances in this seminar devoted to the unknown and the unusual in French literature. We will explore themes of alchemy, madness, and possession, and ask how an aesthetic of the irrational developed alongside the Western European valorization of reason. As we discover that the supernatural event often produces irreconcilable conditions of indeterminacy (for characters and readers), we will have ample opportunity to discuss the way these texts thematize uncertainty in truth, knowledge, and self-hood. We will thus be investigating how the “ghostly” as a textual phenomenon (“What kind of writing is involved?”) relates to the paranormal as a theme (“What happens in these stories?”). More generally, we will also be learning techniques of textual analysis, and asking ourselves what the best ways are to approach literary writing. Authors will include: Balzac, Baudelaire, Cazotte, Gautier, Mérimée, Maupassant.

FR 350

Francophone Cultures

Instructor: Dr. Jeorg Ellen Sauer

MWF 11:00-11:50 a.m.

This course examines the rich tradition of comics/graphic narrative in France where modern comics were invented in the early nineteenth century. Looking at texts like *Tintin*, *Astérix*, *Les Stroumpfs*, *Les Frustrées*, *Barbarella*, and many others, we will explore how image and text combine in a new medium to give rise to a new form of storytelling. The course explores the technical language of graphic story-telling and considers how comics and the graphic novel contribute to understandings of French and Francophone identities. Students will be expected to work on two group projects, write reviews, and do analytic writing. The course will be taught in English with a majority of the readings in French.

MCL 390

The Romcom

Instructor: Dr. Jeorg Ellen Sauer

MWF 12:00-12:50 p.m.

Romcoms as a genre use both romance and comedy as film elements to portray relationship tropes. Over the course of the semester, we will examine and analyze the history of the popular genre, how films portray relationships in different decades and countries, and more specifically what romcoms have to say about love and desire. Some of the questions we will consider during the class are: What can the viewer understand about love and desire? How do these films construct relationship boundaries? What conditions are acceptable as the foundation of a relationship? How do the answers change when the location of the main characters is changed? During the semester students will be expected to watch films, review them, analyze sequences while using an appropriate film vocabulary, and write some compositions/scenarios.

FR 471G: Topical Seminar II

(Meets with FR 606)

Instructor: Dr. Julie Human

Love at the Royal Court

M 3:30-6:00 p.m.

This course focuses on the twelfth-century French romances of Chrétien de Troyes and on the rich feminist scholarship that explores the medieval courtly love tradition. Primary texts include *Erec et Enide*, *Cligès*, *Le Chevalier de la Charrette*, *Le Chevalier au Lion*, and *Le Conte du Graal*. Students will also explore modern adaptations of medieval texts and will have the opportunity to present their research at the end of the semester.

FR 606: Literature of the Middle Ages

(Meets with FR 471)

Instructor: Dr. Julie Human

Love at the Royal Court

M 3:30-6:00 p.m.

This course focuses on the twelfth-century French romances of Chrétien de Troyes and on the rich feminist scholarship that explores the medieval courtly love tradition. Primary texts include *Erec et Enide*, *Cligès*, *Le Chevalier de la Charrette*, *Le Chevalier au Lion*, and *Le Conte du Graal*. Students will also explore modern adaptations of medieval texts and will have the opportunity to present their research at the end of the semester.

FR 630: French Language, Lit & Cult Outside France

Romans et Cinéma du Maghreb

Instructor: Dr. Nisrine Slitine El Mghari

Thursday, 3:30- 6:00 p.m.

This course looks at the literary, social and political issues brought to the fore in 20th- and 21st-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, religion (Islamism and Judaism) 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 en Français* (World Literature in French). The readings and films are works by predominantly very well-known Maghribi Francophone authors and filmmakers. Students in this course will read all of the primary literary texts in French. Films have French/English subtitles.