

FRENCH AND FRANCOPHONE STUDIES (BI-CO)

haverford.edu/french

The Bi-College (Bi-Co) French and Francophone Studies program at Haverford and Bryn Mawr is recognized as one of the top undergraduate French programs in the country. It offers a variety of courses and two options for the major. The major in French lays the foundation for an understanding and appreciation of French language and of French and Francophone cultures through their literatures and the history of their arts, thought, and institutions.

Course offerings serve those with particular interest in French and Francophone literature, literary theory, and criticism, as well as those with particular interest in studying France and French-speaking countries from an interdisciplinary perspective. A thorough knowledge of French is a common goal for both options, and texts and discussion in French are central to the program. The faculty teaches all courses in the program exclusively in French. Our courses adopt a variety of approaches, including literary studies, film and media studies, social history of ideas, and the study of politics and popular culture.

Our program is known for its rigor. Unlike at universities and Ivy League institutions, faculty rather than graduate students teach our undergraduates in French. Study abroad in France or in another Francophone country is an integral part of our students' training. Virtually all majors spend one semester or a full year abroad (see below).

Often our graduates have chosen to double major, in political science, economics, anthropology, comparative literature, or in the natural sciences (chemistry, physics, and mathematics, most recently); some opt to minor or concentrate in a related field, such as art history or international economic relations.

LEARNING GOALS

The purpose of the academic program in French and Francophone Studies is foremost to lay the foundation for an understanding and appreciation of French and Francophone cultures as well as enable students to achieve an advanced

level of linguistic and cultural fluency in French. These goals are achieved through a rigorous training in French language and a comprehensive study of French and Francophone literatures and cultures in courses where students sharpen their analytical skills, hone their ability to critique primary texts and engage scholarship pertinent to the field of French and Francophone Studies.

CURRICULUM

Majors and minors choose between:

- a literature concentration, with courses in periods, genres, thematic clusters, and individual authors, ranging from the Middle Ages to the most recent 21st-century texts; and
- an interdisciplinary concentration, with courses that cover the history of French civilization and particular problems of French and Francophone cultures, such as environmental issues and questions of identity.

Unless they have not previously studied French, all entering students (first-year and transfers) who wish to pursue their study of French must take a placement examination upon entrance to Haverford and Bryn Mawr. Those students who begin French have two options. They may study the language:

- In the intensive sections (the sequence FREN 001–002 of Intensive Elementary French, only at Bryn Mawr); or
- In the non-intensive sections (the sequence FREN 001–002 of Non-Intensive Elementary French, on both campuses).

At the intermediate level students also have the choice to study the language non-intensively (the sequence FREN 003–004), or intensively (FREN 005):

- FREN 003–004 (Non-Intensive Intermediate French) is a year-long course, requiring both semesters for credit. It is open to students who have taken FREN 001–002 or been placed by departmental examination.
- FREN 005 (Intensive Intermediate French):
 - Is open only to students who have been

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specially placed by the departmental placement exam or to students who have taken the year-long Intensive Elementary course (at Bryn Mawr only).

- Requires its graduates to take FREN 102 (Introduction à l'analyse littéraire et culturelle II), or FREN 105 (Directions de la France contemporaine) in semester II for credit.
- FREN 003 and FREN 005 are only offered in the fall semester.

Although it is possible to major in French using either of the two sequences, we encourage students placed at the 001 level who are considering doing so to take the intensive option.

The 100-level courses introduce students to the study of French and Francophone literatures and cultures, and give special attention to the speaking and writing of French.

Courses at the 200 level treat French and Francophone literatures and civilizations from the beginning to the present day. Two 200-level courses are devoted to advanced language training, and one to the study of theory (FREN 213). Students who pursue French to the 200 level often find it useful to take as their first 200-level course, either FREN 212 (Grammaire avancée) or FREN 260 (Atelier d'écriture). **You may not take both 212 and 260.**

Advanced (300-level) courses offer detailed study either of individual authors, genres, and movements or of particular periods, themes, and problems in French and Francophone cultures. For both options, the departments admit students to advanced courses after satisfactory completion of two semesters of 200-level courses in French.

The Department of French and Francophone Studies also cooperates with the departments of Italian (only at Bryn Mawr) and Spanish in the Romance Languages Major at Bryn Mawr.

MAJOR REQUIREMENTS

Majors may choose a concentration in French and Francophone literature or interdisciplinary studies in French. Majors must acquire fluency in the French language, both written and oral. All majors must take FREN 212 or 260, or their equivalent, unless specifically exempted by the department.

French and Francophone Literature

- FREN 005–102 or 005–105; or FREN 101–102 or 101–105.
- FREN 212 or 260 (you may not take both).
- FREN 213 (Approches théoriques/Theory in Practice).
- Three semesters of 200-level literature courses.
- Two semesters of 300-level literature courses.
- The two-semester Senior Experience, comprised of:
 - Senior Conference in the fall semester.
 - In the spring semester, either a senior essay, written in the context of a third 300-level course, or a senior thesis. Both the senior thesis and essay include a final oral defense. (For details, see The Senior Project section.)

Interdisciplinary Studies in French

- FREN 005–102 or FREN 005–105; or FREN 101–102 or FREN 101–105.
- FREN 212 or 260 (you may not take both).
- Two 200-level courses within the French departments: e.g., FREN 255, 291, or 299.
- Two 200-level courses chosen by the student outside the French departments (at Haverford/Bryn Mawr or Junior Year Abroad) that contribute coherently to his/her independent program of study.
- FREN 325 or 326 (Etudes avancées de civilisation).
- Two 300-level courses outside the French departments.
- A thesis of one semester in French or English. (For details, see The Senior Project section.) Students interested in this option must present the rationale and the projected content of their program for departmental approval during their sophomore year; they should have strong records in French and the other subjects involved in their proposed program.

MINOR REQUIREMENTS

- FREN 005–102 or 005–105; or FREN 101–102 or 101–105.
- FREN 212 or 260 (you may not take both).
- Four courses at the 200 and 300 levels. At least one course must be at the 300 level.

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SENIOR PROJECT

The Department of French and Francophone Studies offers two tracks in the major: the French and Francophone Literature track and the Interdisciplinary Studies in French track.

Literature Track:

In the fall semester of the senior year, students majoring in the literature track take FREN 398 (Senior Conference). Senior Conference usually focuses on three texts, one theoretical and two primary texts. Particular attention is paid to research techniques, the assembling of a bibliography, and the types of resources and critical perspectives that constitute and legitimate an advanced research project.

After taking Senior Conference students have two options for the spring semester: they may write a thesis (30-40 pages) under the direction of a faculty member, or they may write an essay (15-20 pages) in the context of a 300-level course. The first option allows students who have already developed a clearly defined subject in the fall semester to pursue independent research and the writing of a thesis with a faculty supervisor.

The second option offers students the opportunity to produce a substantial, but shorter, piece of research within the structure of their 300-level course in the spring semester. Those writing a senior essay do all the readings assigned in the course plus additional readings (identified during research and specifically attached to the individual project). They do not complete the regular written assignments for the course. Instead, the final 15-20 page paper constitutes the writing portion of the grade for the course, as well as the senior project. In order to move research along, students are expected to have done all the assigned reading for the course by spring break.

Interdisciplinary Track:

Students working in the interdisciplinary track are exempt from taking the Senior Conference but may find it useful to do so to help with the writing process of the mandatory spring semester thesis. In this track the student generally combines a discipline from outside of French with an issue relevant to the French or Francophone world. The thesis, which can be written in English or French, is followed by an oral exam.

The thesis advisors are from a) French and b) from the other discipline chosen. Ideally, the

student chooses their subject in the second semester of junior year, identifies their advisors and starts discussing the project with them. Discussion continues in the fall of senior year with the expectation that the student submit a thesis proposal by the end of the term. Students in this track follow a similar timeline as the ones in the literature track.

Senior Project Learning Goals

At the end of their career at Haverford, we expect our students to have achieved an extensive appreciation of French and Francophone literatures and cultures as well as an advanced level of linguistic and cultural fluency in French. We also require that they demonstrate the capacity to analyze a text and critically engage it in a sustained fashion, formulate an argument and present it intelligibly in both oral and written form. Whether writing a thesis or a senior paper they must show that they can conduct research efficiently.

Senior Project Assessment

Both Senior Thesis and Senior Essay include a final oral defense lasting thirty minutes. At this time, the student is expected to speak with authority about the research, the writing process, and some of the intellectual ramifications of the work accomplished.

Students receive a single grade for the Senior Project. The grade for both options is calculated according to the following formula: FREN 398 [Senior Conference] (40%)+spring 300-level course or spring thesis +oral defense (60%). Assessment of students' work in 398 (fall semester) is the sole responsibility of the instructor whereas students' spring work (thesis or essay) is assessed by the first and second readers.

REQUIREMENTS FOR HONORS

Students with a GPA of 3.7 or above are usually recommended for departmental honors.

RELATED PROGRAMS

French Teacher Certification

The Department of French and Francophone Studies offers a certification program in secondary teacher education. For more information, see the description of the Education Program.

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French A.B./M.A. Program

Particularly well-qualified students may undertake work toward the joint A.B./M.A. degree in French. Students may complete such a program in four or five years and undertake it with the approval of the department and of the dean of Bryn Mawr's Graduate School of Arts and Sciences.

STUDY ABROAD

Students minoring or majoring in French may, by a joint recommendation of the deans of the colleges and the department of French, be allowed to spend one or two semesters of their junior year in France or in another Francophone country under one of the junior year programs approved by the College.

Most French majors either study abroad or apply to spend their sophomore or junior summer at the Institut d'Etudes Françaises d'Avignon, held under the auspices of Bryn Mawr. The Institute is designed for selected undergraduate and graduate students who anticipate professional careers requiring knowledge of the language and civilization of France and French-speaking countries. The curriculum includes general and advanced courses in French language, literature, social sciences, history, art, and economics (including the possibility of internships in Avignon). The program is open to students of high academic achievement who have completed a course in French at the third-year level or the equivalent.

FACULTY

At Haverford:

Koffi Anyinefa
Professor

Christophe Corbin
Visiting Assistant Professor

Kathryne Corbin
Lecturer

David Sedley
Associate Professor and Chair

At Bryn Mawr:
Grace Armstrong
Eunice Morgan Schenck 1907 Professor;
Professor and major advisor

Brigitte Mahuzier
Chair and Professor

Rudy Le Menthéour
Associate Professor and Director of the Avignon
Institute

Agnès Peysson-Zeiss
Lecturer

Marie Sanquer
Visiting Assistant Professor

Julien Suaudeau
Lecturer

Corine Ragueneau Wells
Visiting Lecturer

COURSES AT HAVERFORD

FREN H001 ELEMENTARY FRENCH

Kathryne Corbin, Christophe Corbin
Humanities (HU)

The speaking and understanding of French are emphasized particularly during the first semester. The work includes regular use of the Language Learning Center and is supplemented by intensive oral practice sessions. The course meets in intensive (nine hours each week) and non-intensive (five hours each week) sections. This is a year-long course; both semesters (001 and 002) are required for credit. (Offered Fall 2017)

FREN H002 ELEMENTARY FRENCH NON INTENSIVE

Christophe Corbin
Humanities (HU)

The speaking and understanding of French are emphasized particularly during the first semester. The work includes regular use of the Language Learning Center and is supplemented by intensive oral practice sessions. The course meets in intensive (nine hours each week) and non-intensive (five hours each week) sections. This is a year-long course; both semesters (001 and 002) are required for credit. (Offered Spring 2018)

FREN H003 INTERMEDIATE FRENCH NON INTENSIVE

Koffi Anyinefa, Kathryne Corbin
Humanities (HU)

The emphasis on speaking and understanding French is continued, texts from French literature and cultural media are read, and short papers are

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written in French. Students use the Language Learning Center regularly and attend supplementary oral practice sessions. The course meets in non-intensive (three hours each week) sections which are supplemented by an extra hour per week with an assistant. This is a year-long course; both semesters (003 and 004) are required for credit. Prerequisite(s): FREN 001 and 002, or French placement exam. (Offered Fall 2017)

FREN H004 INTERMEDIATE FRENCH

Kathryne Corbin, David Sedley

Humanities (HU)

The emphasis on speaking and understanding French is continued, texts from French literature and cultural media are read, and short papers are written in French. Students use the Language Learning Center regularly and attend supplementary oral practice sessions. The course meets in non-intensive (three hours each week) sections which are supplemented by an extra hour per week with an assistant. This is a year-long course; both semesters (003 and 004) are required for credit. Prerequisite(s): FREN 001 and 002, or French placement exam. (Offered Spring 2018)

FREN H101 INTRODUCTION À L'ANALYSE LITTÉRAIRE ET CULTURELLE I

Koffi Anyinefa, David Sedley

Humanities (HU)

Presentation of essential problems in literary and cultural analysis by close reading of works selected from various periods and genres and by analysis of voice and image in French writing and film. Participation in discussion and practice in written and oral expression are emphasized, as are grammar review and laboratory exercises. Prerequisite(s): FREN 003 and 004, or French placement exam. (Offered Fall 2017)

FREN H102 INTRODUCTION A L'ANALYSE LITTÉRAIRE ET CULTURELLE II

Koffi Anyinefa

Humanities (HU)

Continued development of students' expertise in literary and cultural analysis by emphasizing close reading as well as oral and written analyses of works chosen from various genres and periods of French/Francophone works in their written and visual modes. Readings begin with comic theatre of the seventeenth and eighteenth

centuries and build to increasingly complex nouvelles, poetry, and novels of the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. Participation in guided discussion and practice in oral/written expression continue to be emphasized, as are grammar review and laboratory exercises. Offered in second semester. Prerequisite(s): FREN 005 or 101. (Offered Spring 2018)

FREN H105 DIRECTIONS DE LA FRANCE CONTEMPORAINE

Kathryne Corbin

Humanities (HU)

An examination of contemporary society in France and Francophone cultures as portrayed in recent documents and film. Emphasizing the tension in contemporary French-speaking societies between tradition and change, the course focuses on subjects such as family structures and the changing role of women, cultural and linguistic identity, an increasingly multiracial society, the individual and institutions (religious, political, educational), and les loisirs. In addition to the basic text and review of grammar, readings are chosen from newspapers, contemporary literary texts, magazines, and they are complemented by video materials. Offered in the second semester. Prerequisite(s): FREN 005 or 101. (Offered Spring 2018)

FREN H202 CULTURE, FRANCE, RENAISSANCE

David Sedley

Humanities (HU)

The topic of this course is not only sixteenth-century French culture but also the development of the basic elements that the idea of "French culture" presupposes: that of "culture" and that of "France." How did these notions come about, and how were they fused into one entity? We will study this peculiar process, fundamental to Western modernity, by taking into account a series of Renaissance masterpieces in various genres (novel, story, essay, poetry, painting, architecture) as well as critical perspectives on such works from our own era. Through this exploration, we will attempt to understand how new senses of identity, on national as well as individual levels (France and the self), took shape in a context of political and religious fragmentation (civil war and Reformation). In French. Prerequisite(s): FREN 101 and 102/105, or 005 and 102/105. (Offered Fall 2017)

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FREN H203 PASSION ET CULTURE: LE GRAND SIÈCLE

David Sedley

Humanities (HU)

This course is about seventeenth-century French culture. We will study the tensions that define this period in France—between love and reason, finesse and geometry, gallantry and piety, the environments of cour and salon, among other—in order to see how these tensions made the century “classic” as well as “grand” in the eyes of its successors. We will pay particular attention to: theatre, whose canonical texts are by Corneille, Molière, and Racine; the invention of the novel, in large part by women like Scudéry and Lafayette; and the establishment of a centralized—i.e., modern—state, as represented through the palace of Versailles and its gardens. In French.

Prerequisite(s): FREN 101 and 102/105, or 005 and 102/105. (Not offered 2017-18)

FREN H212 GRAMMAIRE AVANCÉE: COMPOSITION ET CONVERSATION

Kathryne Corbin

Humanities (HU)

The principal objective of this course is to allow its participants to master the techniques of composition and to write with a growing ease in order to express themselves with pertinent and original ideas. Students will contribute to the creation of an online news blog and will experiment with writing different genres of journalism, as well as editing a televised news segment. Assigned readings on current news and films will be the subject of discussion. The course will allow students to improve their written and oral French, to revise certain important aspects of French grammar, to develop their analytical and critical senses, and to develop their knowledge of French and francophone culture. Prerequisite(s): FREN 101 and 102/105, or 005 and 102/105. (Offered Fall 2017)

FREN H213 APPROCHES CRITIQUES ET THÉORIQUES

Koffi Anyinefa

Humanities (HU)

This course provides exposure to influential Twentieth-Century French theorists while bringing these thinkers to bear on appropriate literary texts. It hones students' critical skills while expanding their knowledge of French intellectual history. The explicitly critical aspect of the course will also serve students throughout their coursework, regardless of field.

Prerequisite(s): FREN 101 and 102/105, or 005 and 102/105. (Typically offered every year at HC or BMC; *FREN B213* offered at Bryn Mawr in Fall 2017)

FREN H250 INTRODUCTION À LA LITTÉRATURE FRANCOPHONE

Christophe Corbin

Humanities (HU)

A study of male and female writers of Black Africa, Arab North Africa, and the Caribbean.

Prerequisite(s): FREN 101 and 102/105, or 005 and 102/105. (Not offered 2017-18)

FREN H253 INTRODUCTION A LA LITTÉRATURE ET AU CINÉMA QUEBÉCOIS

Koffi Anyinefa

Humanities (HU)

Objective of the course is to introduce students to Quebecois literature through a representative sample of literary texts (poetry, novel and drama), from the Revolution Tranquille of the 1960s until today: what are its major themes, its main formal features, its cultural specificity? What are the historical and cultural contexts that have shaped it? Prerequisite(s): FREN 101 and 102/105, or 005 and 102/105. (Offered Spring 2018)

FREN H312 ADVANCED TOPICS IN FRENCH LITERATURE: DISCOURS SUR L'ESCLAVAGE TRANSANTLANTIQUE

Koffi Anyinefa

Humanities (HU)

Slavery has profoundly impacted societies on both sides of the Atlantic. Scholars in various fields of inquiry have passionately discussed its origins, history and lasting effects. How have French and Francophone societies engaged with this difficult topic? Starting with the Code noir—a law regulating slavery in French colonies originally passed in 1685 under Louis XIV and reinforced during the ‘Siècle des Lumières’—we will read our way through the centuries, mixing texts by both French and Francophone writers such as Bona, Césaire, Chamoiseau, Condé, Fanon, Montesquieu, Rousseau, and Tocqueville, to name but a few. A field trip to the recently opened National Museum of African American History and Culture in Washington, D.C. to explore its exhibition on “Slavery and Freedom” will supplement material studied in the course. In French. Prerequisite(s): At least one 200-level

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course; Crosslisted: French, Comparative Literature (Offered Fall 2017)

FREN H312 ADVANCED TOPICS IN FRENCH LITERATURE: LAFAYETTE ET LES MONDES DU ROMAN

David Sedley

Humanities (HU)

This seminar is about the phenomenon known as “the rise of the novel,” whose result is the fact that much of the literature we read today consists of prose narratives featuring realistic fictions. At one time, however, the novel was a marginal kind of text compared to other genres, and the worlds it represented had apparently little to do with natural or social realities. How did the novel rise to a preeminent place in the literary world, and how did its worlds come to reflect reality? We will confront these questions through series of objects (novels, film, art, and architecture, along with critical works) centered around Madame de Lafayette’s early modern masterpiece, *La Princesse de Clèves*. In the process, we will explore how the novel found its place in the world of literature, and how literature found its place in the world. In French. Prerequisite(s): At least one 200-level course; Crosslisted: French, Comparative Literature (Offered Spring 2018)

FREN H398 SENIOR CONFERENCE

Staff

Humanities (HU)

(Typically offered every fall at HC or BMC; *FREN B398 offered at Bryn Mawr in Fall 2017*)

FREN H399 SENIOR THESIS

Staff

Humanities (HU)

(Offered every spring)