FRENCH

Mission

The Department’s primary goals are firstly to enable students to develop competence in spoken and written French, and secondly to expose students to the literature and culture of French and French-speaking countries. An important additional objective of the French Department is to encourage students to consider studying in France or a Francophone country.

In regard to students’ linguistic competence, our specific goals are:

1. To enable students to express themselves on a range of topics with an acceptable degree of fluency and accuracy.
2. To facilitate their comprehension of a variety of texts (both from literature and the media) written in French.
3. To foster students’ confidence in the possibility of their living and studying in a French environment.

In the context of the language requirement (the first and second years), this implies a competence premised on students’ ability to achieve, by Intermediate French II, oral and written fluency. Students will be able to use all tenses in the indicative and subjunctive, to deploy pronouns appropriately and understand the expressive and grammatical utility of conjunctions, rhetorical devices, and so on. Students will have the ability to write a cogent essay in French on a literary or cultural topic, and will possess a vocabulary beyond basic French, including rhetorical and conceptual vocabulary. In the context of the major requirement (the third and fourth years), students will progress to a greater competence in French, including advanced speaking skills, particularly in terms of discussing literary and cultural topics, and writing extended analytical essays. The culmination of a student’s progress is the one-semester cap stone experience in the spring semester of the senior year, where she will write a substantial thesis on a topic of her choice, supervised by senior members of the department, and defended before an appropriately selected committee.

Student Learning Outcomes

Students majoring in French are expected to satisfy the following learning outcomes:

- Read literary texts closely and critically (explication de texte).
- Discuss complex ideas in French with satisfactory proficiency.
- Write analytical papers in French using appropriate theoretical and exegetical on given literary or cultural topics with satisfactory proficiency.
- Demonstrate knowledge of French literature and other cultural materials.
- Engage fully with another culture in a variety of intellectually sophisticated ways, including close textual analysis.
- Conduct original research on a literary or cultural topic culminating in a 30 page thesis. For students in the Translation and Literature track the ability to translate a 30 page text from French into English accompanied by an introduction to the work.

All first-year, transfer, and/or returning students who studied French prior to entering Columbia/Barnard must take the placement exam before taking any Barnard French courses. Questions about the exam should be directed to the department chair.

Students entering Barnard in Fall 2016 and thereafter will receive points of credit for Advanced Placement (AP) and International Baccalaureate (IB) credit, but these credits will not exempt students from General Education Requirements. Further information may be found on the Registrar’s website. For additional information about language courses, students should consult the department chair.

Students who have satisfied the language requirement may immediately enroll in literature and culture courses (FREN BC3021 MAJOR FRENCH TEXTS I, FREN BC3022 Major French Texts II, FREN BC3037 Baudelaire, Rimbaud, Mallarmé); and advanced language courses (FREN BC3006 Composition and Conversation-FREN BC3019 Advanced Phonetics).

In cooperation with Columbia College, the department offers a program at Reid Hall in Paris open to majors and non-majors. Visit the Study Abroad website (http://barnard.edu/global/study-abroad/) for more information.

Co-Chairs
Anne Boyman, Senior Lecturer
Peter T. Connor, Professor

Professors
Kaiama L. Glover
Caroline Weber

Senior Lecturer
Brian O’Keeffe
Laurie Postlewate

Lecturer
Karen Santos Da Silva

Term Lecturers
Mélanie Heydari
Elsa Stéphan
Hadley Suter

Requirements for the Major

Students may chose one of three programs for the major, from which eleven (11) courses are required:

- **Language and Literature**: This program emphasizes the language, culture, and literature of France and other French-speaking countries.

- **Translation and Literature**: This program teaches students to translate from French into English and English into French, within a context of French culture and literature.

- **French and Francophone Studies**: This program emphasizes the historical and contemporary interrelationship between France and the French-speaking world in their social, literary, and cultural aspects.

Students are expected to declare an option by the end of the junior year. Programs may include additional courses in French literature, culture, and language, or in other subjects which vary with the interest of the student. Certain courses in the French and Romance Philology Department at Columbia University may be substituted with the approval of the chair.

All students are required to write a thesis in their senior year. This thesis, of about 30 pages in length, will be written while the student is enrolled in FREN BC3091 Senior Thesis Seminar. Thesis specification will vary depending on the major program that has been chosen.
A student who elects French as part of a combined double or interdisciplinary major will establish her individualized program with the departments concerned. All combined or interdisciplinary majors require approval from the Committee on Petitions and Academic Standing.

**Language and Literature**
11 courses are required for the major.

3 language courses, chosen from FREN BC3001 to FREN BC3019

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<td>FREN 1001</td>
<td>Elsa Stephan</td>
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<td>FREN 1102</td>
<td>Hadley Suter</td>
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2 literature courses, chosen from FREN BC3025 - FREN BC3036

3 literature courses, chosen from FREN BC3037 - FREN BC3110

FREN BC3091 | Senior Thesis Seminar

**Translation and Literature**
11 courses are required for the major.

4 language courses, chosen from FREN BC3001 - FREN BC3019

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4 literature courses, chosen from FREN BC3025 - FREN BC3110

FREN BC3091 | Senior Thesis Seminar

**French and Francophone Studies**
11 courses are required for the major.

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**Requirements for the Minor**
Seven courses are required for a minor.

1 of the following sequences:

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<td>FREN BC3022</td>
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FREN UN3420 | Introduction To French and Francophone Studies I
- FREN UN3421 | and Introduction To French and Francophone Studies II

2 language courses, chosen from FREN BC3001 - FREN BC3019

3 courses chosen from FREN BC3025 - FREN BC3110

**Elementary and Intermediate Language Courses**
For satisfactory completion of the language requirement, students receiving a grade of C- or lower will have to repeat the course.

**FREN BC1001 Elementary Full-Year Course. 4 points.**
Basic elements of French grammar. Oral, writing, and reading skills. Students may take either or both of these courses at Columbia.

**FREN BC1002 Elementary Full-Year Course. 4 points.**
Basic elements of French grammar. Oral, writing, and reading skills. Students may take either or both of these courses at Columbia.

**FREN BC1102 Review of French Fundamentals. 3 points.**
Prerequisites: Primarily for students who need further instruction to qualify for the intermediate course. Credit cannot be granted for both FREN BC1002 and BC1102 (or its equivalent). Enrollment limited to 20 students per section.


**FREN BC1203 Intermediate I. 3 points.**
Prerequisites: FREN BC1001, BC1002, BC1102, C1101 and C1102, or an appropriate score on the placement test.
Further development of oral and written communication skills. Readings in French literature.
FREN BC1204 Intermediate II. 3 points.
Prerequisites: FREN BC1203 or an appropriate score on the placement test.
Advanced work in language skills. Readings in French literature.

Fall 2020: FREN BC1204

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<th>Course Number</th>
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<th>Times/Location</th>
<th>Instructor</th>
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<tr>
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<td>Brian O'Keeffe</td>
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Advanced Language and Literature Courses

FREN BC3001 Transatlantic Translation Workshop. 3 points.
Prerequisites: Instructor permission required.
A workshop in which students from the BC/CU community collaborate with a team of students from the École Normale Supérieure-Lyon on two translation projects. In addition to video-conferenced group sessions, students will work virtually with their translation partner in France, and consult in-person with their Barnard instructor.

FREN BC3002 Translating Theatre Workshop. 3 points.
Prerequisites: Application required through Prof Laurie Postlewate
A workshop format course offered at Reid Hall in Paris, France combining hands-on translation (French to English) with study and discussion of theoretical and dramaturgical issues specific to translating theatre. Students will attend performances of the plays from which they are translating. One week of the course will include collaborative work with a student group from the École Normale Supérieure-Paris.

FREN BC3006 Composition and Conversation. 3 points.
Prerequisites: Enrollment limited to 12 students.
Discussions on contemporary issues and oral presentations. Creative writing assignments designed to improve writing skills and vocabulary development. FREN BC1204: French Intermediate II or the equivalent level is required.

Fall 2020: FREN BC3006

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<th>Course Number</th>
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<td>FREN 3006</td>
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<td>Melanie Heydari</td>
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FREN BC3010 Textual Analysis. 3 points.
This course is designed for students who have completed Intermediate French II or its equivalent. The aim is to help you transition from language courses to upper-level literature and culture classes, and specifically to equip you with the tools you will need to analyze literary texts and to comment upon them effectively in both oral and written form. Through close reading of selected texts and practice in the form of analysis known as the explication de texte, you will become familiar with a number of different methods of reading, and develop the critical thinking and interpretive skills you need to analyze arguments, and to speak and write persuasively in French. FREN BC1204: French Intermediate II or the equivalent level is required.

FREN BC3012 Advanced Grammar. 3 points.
Not offered during 2020-21 academic year.
Systematic study of morphology, syntax, and idiomatic expressions. Weekly writing assignments. FREN BC1204: French Intermediate II or the equivalent level is required.

FREN BC3013 Writing Workshop. 3 points.
Prerequisites: The French language requirement and approval of the instructor.
Workshop format course to perfect writing skills in French. Writing formats that will be used over the semester include narration, portrait, essai, dissertation, film and book reviews, and correspondence. FREN BC1204: French Intermediate II or the equivalent level is required.

FREN BC3014 Advanced Translation. 3.00 points.
Translation of French texts--both critical and literary, focusing on particular questions or themes. FREN BC1204: French Intermediate II or the equivalent level is required.

Fall 2020: FREN BC3014

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<th>Course Number</th>
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FREN BC3016 Advanced Oral French. 3 points.
Prerequisites: At least one French course after completion of FREN BC1204: Intermediate II or permission of the instructor.
Oral presentations and discussions of French films aimed at increasing fluency, acquiring vocabulary, and perfecting pronunciation skills.

Fall 2020: FREN BC3016

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<td>Anne Boyman</td>
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FREN BC3019 Advanced Phonetics. 3 points.
Prerequisites: Enrollment limited to 12 students.
Detailed study of all aspects of French pronunciation; theoretical linguistic concepts will be followed up with intensive oral drills. FREN BC1204: French Intermediate II or the equivalent level is required.
FREN BC3021 MAJOR FRENCH TEXTS I. 3 points.
Medieval, Renaissance, and Classical literature in their cultural context. FREN BC1204: French Intermediate II or the equivalent level is required.

Fall 2020: FREN BC3021
Course Number: BC3021
Section/Call Number: 001/00158
Times/Location: M W 10:10am - 12:40pm
Instructor: Laurie Postlewate
Points: 3
Enrollment: 16/16

FREN BC3022 Major French Texts II. 3 points.
Prerequisites: FREN BC3021 may be taken for credit without completion of FREN BC3022.
The Age of Enlightenment, Romanticism, Realism, and Symbolism. FREN BC1204: French Intermediate II or the equivalent level is required.

FREN BC3025 Theater of the Classical Age. 3 points.
Not offered during 2020-21 academic year.
This course will provide a detailed introduction to the three great French dramatists of the seventeenth century, rightly known as the golden age of French theatre. Reading several canonical works by each of these three playwrights-Corneille, Racine, and Molière-students will closely examine the thematic concerns (the relationship between love and duty, the individual and the state, free will and divine providence; the problems of hypocrisy, dishonesty, sexual jealousy, and avarice; the nature of kingship and the extent or the limits of royal control; the differences between prescribed gender roles for men and for women; the recourse to and reworking of mythological and Biblical sources) the plays set forth, and the rhetorical strategies they employ (from classical, Greco-Roman devices such as metaphor, apostrophe, irony, preterition, prosopopeia, and anagnorisis to the specifically French metrical pattern of the alexandrins). FREN BC1204: French Intermediate II or the equivalent level is required.

FREN BC3032 Women and Writing in Early Modern France. 3 points.
Examination of cultural and literary phenomena in 15th through 17th century France, focusing on writings by and about women. FREN BC1204: French Intermediate II or the equivalent level is required.

FREN BC3035 Eighteenth-Century French Fiction. 3 points.
Not offered during 2020-21 academic year.
Prerequisites: FREN BC3021, BC3022, BC3023, BC3024, or the equivalent.
Readings of novels and novellas by Prevost, Rousseau, Diderot, Charrière, Laclos, and Sade, with a particular focus on issues of selfhood, gender, sexuality, authority, and freedom. FREN BC1204: French Intermediate II or the equivalent level is required.

FREN BC3036 The Age of Enlightenment/L'AGE DES LUMIERES. 3 points.
Not offered during 2020-21 academic year.
Prerequisites: FREN BC3021, BC3022, BC3023, BC3024, or the equivalent.
This course examines the phenomenon that dominates and revolutionizes 18th-century philosophical, religious, sociological, and political discourse in the West: the Enlightenment. Calling into question the hitherto uncontested authority of an all-powerful church and state, the Enlightenment calls for the freedom of expression and of worship; condemns religious intolerance and cultural prejudice; denounces societal inequality; examines the merits and shortcomings of different forms of government; and subverts the oppressive and often hypocritical dogmas of the Catholic church and the absolutist monarchy—with far-reaching political and historical consequences (e.g., the American and the French Revolutions). With the exception of one German text (by Immanuel Kant, and assigned in English translation), readings will be limited to texts by the Enlightenment’s leading Francophone authors: Montesquieu, Voltaire, Diderot, and Rousseau, as well as by two ‘dystopian’ novelists, Charrière et Sade. All discussion, coursework, and examinations will be in French.

FREN BC3037 Baudelaire, Rimbaud, Mallarmé. 3 points.
Prerequisites: (FREN BC1204) FREN BC1204: French Intermediate II or the equivalent level is required.
Through close readings of major texts, an examination of how these 19th-century poets brought about a ‘revolution’ in language and thought that gave rise to the Modernism that transformed literature and the arts and whose influence is still with us today.

FREN BC3038 The Nineteenth-Century French Novel. 3 points.
Not offered during 2020-21 academic year.
Prerequisites: FREN BC3021, BC3022, BC3023, BC3024, or the equivalent.
Evolution of the novel, aesthetics of Romanticism, Realism, Naturalism, and Symbolism. Particular attention is paid to the formal problems of narrative, the rhetoric of sentiment, decadence, and issues of sexual identity. FREN BC1204: French Intermediate II or the equivalent level is required.

FREN BC3043 Twentieth-Century French Women Writers. 3 points.
Not offered during 2020-21 academic year.
Prerequisites: FREN BC1204: French Intermediate II or the equivalent level is required.
Writings by women will be analyzed in the changing philosophical and literary contexts of the 20th century: Simone de Beauvoir, Nathalie Sarraute, Marguerite Duras, Hélène Cixous, and others.

FREN BC3044 Theater of the Absurd. 3 points.
Not offered during 2020-21 academic year.
Prerequisites: FREN BC3021, BC3022, BC3023, BC3024, or the equivalent.
Close reading and occasional screening of major plays associated with the Theater of the Absurd. Philosophical and literary origins of the concept of the absurd; social and political context of its emergence; theatrical conventions of early performances; popular and critical reception. Authors include: Jarry, Adamov, Arrabal, Beckett, Genet, Ionesco, Maeterlinck, Sartre, Camus.

FREN BC3047 Topics in French and Francophone Culture. 3 points.
Not offered during 2020-21 academic year.
TBD
FREN BC3054 Translation Through Film. 3 points.
Not offered during 2020-21 academic year.

Prerequisites: Course capped at 15.
Using filmic dialogue as a medium, this course seeks to develop skills in ‘spoken’ or ‘live’ translation from French into English. This practice, close to consecutive interpretation (oral translation), will help students to augment and refine their fluency in French. All aspects of language will be involved: grammar, vocabulary, tone, register and context, but in a manner more ‘immediate’ than with the translation of written texts. Six French films will be chosen from a variety of periods and genres from which segments will be isolated for interpretation (oral translation). A preliminary discussion of each film will precede the work in translation. FREN BC1204: French Intermediate II or the equivalent level is required.

FREN BC3056 Proust. 3 points.
Not offered during 2020-21 academic year.

Prerequisites: FREN BC3021, BC3022, BC3023, BC3024, or the equivalent.
In this course, we will read the whole of Marcel Proust’s 7-volume novel, A la Recherche du temps perdu. One of the greatest novels of all time, the Recherche addresses issues of: romantic and familial love; hetero- and homosexuality; social class; anti-Semitism; social life and friendship; the persistence of memory; and the relationship between art and life.

FREN BC3062 Women in French Cinema since the 60s. 3 points.
Not offered during 2020-21 academic year.

This course traces the evolving nature of the relationship between women and society in French cinema from the New Wave of the 60’s to the present. Attitudes of women and towards women will be examined in the light of the changing social, political, and intellectual context. FREN BC1204: French Intermediate II or the equivalent level is required.

FREN BC3063 Structuralism and Post-Structuralism. 3 points.
Not offered during 2020-21 academic year.

Introduction to the conceptual foundations of structuralism and post structuralism or to what is known as French Theory. Readings include works by Saussure, Levi Strauss, Lacan, Foucault, Cixous, and Deleuze. FREN BC1204: French Intermediate II or the equivalent level is required.

FREN BC3064 France on Film. 3 points.
Not offered during 2020-21 academic year.

Films on and of the period from the 1930s to the present, focusing on the interplay between history, ideology, and culture. FREN BC1204: French Intermediate II or the equivalent level is required.

FREN BC3065 Surrealism. 3 points.
Not offered during 2020-21 academic year.

An examination of the relationship between traditional & avant-garde literature and visual culture; the use of word-play & language games as tools of artistic expression; the thematization of the unconscious and dreams; the vexed relationship between aesthetics & politics; the poetics and politics of sexuality & gender. Authors and artists will include Andre Breton, Louis Aragon, Man Ray, Dorothea Tanning, and Salvador Dali. FREN BC1204: French Intermediate II or the equivalent level is required.

FREN BC3067 Golden Age of Versailles. 4 points.
Explores the cultural production emanating from the court of Louis XIV at Versailles combining the reading of literary texts with consideration of the arts, architecture, dance and music. Special focus on the court as spectacle, women writers of the court, and the classical period as preparation for the Enlightenment. (Seminar + 1 hour Digital lab for project fulfilling Thinking Technologically and Digitally)

FREN BC3070 Negritude. 3 points.
Not offered during 2020-21 academic year.

Prerequisites: FREN BC1204: French Intermediate II or the equivalent level is required.
Analysis of the theoretical and literary precursors of négritude; major figures of the movement; relations with the Harlem Renaissance; and the formulation of creolity by contemporary Caribbean writers and thinkers. Authors will include Gobineau, Maran, Price-Mars, Hughes, McKay, Césaire, Senghor, Dumas, Fanon, Sartre, Glissant, and Chamoiseau. Taught in French. General Education Requirement: Cultures in Comparison (CUL).

FREN BC3071 Major Literary Works of the French-Speaking World. 3 points.
Not offered during 2020-21 academic year.

Introduction to major works of fiction from the French speaking countries of the Caribbean, West Africa, North Africa and Indochina. Considers some of the principal authors of these regions, and examines the sociopolitical, historical, and aesthetic considerations that have influenced Francophone literary production in the twentieth century. FREN BC1204: French Intermediate II or the equivalent level is required.

FREN BC3072 Francophone Fiction: Special Topics. 4 points.
Looks at the portrayal of women as unsettling figures in the Francophone Caribbean literary universe. Examining the uncanny heroines in the novels of both male and female writers, students will identify the thematic commonalities and specific configurative strategies that emerge in the fictional representation of women in the region. The symbolic import of zombies, schizophrenics, and other ‘disordering’ characters will be analyzed as indicators of and reflections on broader social realities. FREN BC1204: French Intermediate II or the equivalent level is required.

FREN BC3073 Africa in Cinema. 3 points.
Not offered during 2020-21 academic year.

FREN BC3074 Women in Francophone Africa: Historical and Cultural Perspectives. 3 points.
Not offered during 2020-21 academic year.

Emphasizes cultural and historical representation of Francophone women by both women and men. Works will include novels, films, and poems, by authors such as Sembéne Ousmane, Mariama Ba, Amadou Kourouma, Camara Laye, Calixthe Beyala.

FREN BC3077 La Jalousie dans la Litterature Francais. 3 points.
Not offered during 2020-21 academic year.

This course takes jealousy-in its psychosexual, socio-political, ontological dimensions, and in its formal implications-as a lens through which to view a series of seminal works of French literature from the Middle Ages to the 21st century. These works include: 12th-century Arthurian legend (Béroul); a late-medieval, proto-feminist short story (Navarre); 17th-century neo-classical tragedy (Corneille); 12th and 17th-century folkloric forms (Marie de France’s lai and Perrault’s fairy tale, respectively); the Enlightenment ‘philosophical’ novel (Montesquieu); the 19th-century realist novel (Balzac); the early 20th-century modernist novel (Proust); and the nouveau roman (Robbe-Grillet). Two contemporary adaptations (Singer’s 2008 novel based on the Navarre story, and Chabrol’s 1996 film based on Proust’s novel) will also be studied. In addition, a selection of highly condensed, relevant secondary readings (excerpts of 10 pages of less) will provide students with an introduction to an array of theoretical approaches to literary study: most notably, psychoanalysis, political philosophy, and literary theory. FREN BC1204: French Intermediate II or the equivalent level is required.

FREN BC3078 Literature of Francophone North America. 3 points.
Not offered during 2020-21 academic year.

Discussion of the literary production in French emanating from Canada, New England, and Louisiana with special consideration of the sociohistorical context of North American Francophone culture. Texts to include fiction, correspondence, historical narrative, theater and poetry. FREN BC1204: French Intermediate II or the equivalent level is required.

FREN BC3079 History of the French Language. 3 points.
Not offered during 2020-21 academic year.

Transformation and evolution of the French languages from the early Middle Ages to the present are studied from a socio-historical perspective. Primary texts include literary, legal, political, scientific, administrative, liturgical, and epistolary documents. Includes consideration of French outside of France and variations on the continent in the 20th century. FREN BC1204: French Intermediate II or the equivalent level is required.

FREN BC3080 Advanced Seminar: Flaubert. 3 points.
Prerequisites: Limited to 15 students; priority given to French majors and seniors.

In depth study of the life and works of Gustave Flaubert (1821-1880). Exploration of ‘literary realism’ and the novelist’s representation of money, marriage, ambition, class, sex, stupidity, and sainthood. While you will be expected to read all of Flaubert’s major works, we will concentrate in class on Madame Bovary (1857), L’Education sentimentale (1869), Trois Contes (1877), Bouvard et Pécuchet (1881), and the Correspondance. We will consider also cinematic adaptations of Madame Bovary and Un Coeur simple. FREN BC1204: French Intermediate II or the equivalent level is required.
FREN BC3105 Existentialism. 3 points.
Prerequisites: Successful completion of Intermediate II French or the equivalent.
In-depth survey of the writers who exemplified French existentialism: Albert Camus, Jean-Paul Sartre, and Simone de Beauvoir. The texts have been chosen for the richness with which they address fundamental philosophical questions about the meaning of life, especially questions of death and suffering, freedom and responsibility, legitimate and illegitimate violence. The first objective of this class is to show how existentialist thought combines literature and philosophy; the second objective is to gain a broad, but also deep familiarity with 20th-century French literature and thought. FREN BC1204: French Intermediate II or the equivalent level is required.

FREN BC3110 French New Wave Cinema. 3 points.
Not offered during 2020-21 academic year.
This course traces the emergence and development of "New Wave" cinema in France in the 60s. Through a detailed analysis of some of its most iconic films: 400 Blows, Breathless, Hiroshima mon amour... the course will examine the radical artistic and social innovations of its major "auteurs", Truffaut, Godard, Resnais et al. FREN BC1204: French Intermediate II or the equivalent level is required.

FREN UN3420 Introduction To French and Francophone Studies I. 3 points.
Prerequisites: FREN UN3405 Advanced Grammar and Composition or an AP score of 5 or the director of undergraduate studies' permission. Examines conceptions of culture and civilization in France from the Enlightenment to the Exposition Coloniale of 1931, with an emphasis on the historical development and ideological foundations of French colonialism. Authors and texts include: the Encyclopédie; the Déclaration des droits de l’homme et du citoyen; the Code noir; Diderot; Chateaubriand; Tocqueville; Claire de Duras; Renan; Gobineau; Gauguin; Drumont.

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Fall 2020: FREN UN3420

FREN UN3421 Introduction To French and Francophone Studies II. 3 points.
Prerequisites: FREN UN3405 Advanced Grammar and Composition or an AP score of 5 or the director of undergraduate studies’ permission. Universalism vs. exceptionalism, tradition vs. modernity, integration and exclusion, racial, gender, regional, and national identities are considered in this introduction to the contemporary French-speaking world in Europe, the Americas, and Africa. Authors include: Aimé Césaire, Léopold Sedar Senghor, Frantz Fanon, Maryse Condé.