

FRENCH STUDIES

Department of Languages, Literatures and Cultures
University at Albany, HU235, 1400 Washington Ave., Albany, NY 12222
(518) 442-4100/4222, www.albany.edu/lc

French MAJOR (36 Credits)

Core Requirements: 21 credits

AFRE 301	Structural Review of French
AFRE 306	Phonetics
AFRE 340Z	Introduction to Writing French
AFRE 341Z	Introduction to Global French Studies
AFRE 355	Contemporary French Society & Culture
AFRE 360	Social and Cultural History of France
AFRE 461Z	Classics of Literature in French

Electives: 15 Credits

Minimum of 6 credits at the 400 level

Study Abroad (France, Quebec, Martinique, Guadeloupe, Tunisia, Sénégal, ...)

Sample courses = 15 credits:

- Impressionism in Paris
- France's Greatest Fiction
- Writing and Speaking Review
- Going to the Theatre
- Internship: Addidas, Danone, etc....

French MINOR (18 credits)

Core Requirement: 3 credits

AFRE 341Z	Introduction to Global French Studies
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Electives: 15 credits

Minimum of 15 credits above AFRE 101

Maximum of 3 credits in AFRE courses in English

Study Abroad (France, Quebec, Martinique, Guadeloupe, Tunisia, Sénégal, ...)

Sample courses = 15 credits:

- Impressionism in Paris
- France's Greatest Fiction
- Writing and Speaking Review
- Going to the Theatre
- Internship: Addidas, Danone, etc....

French Courses of Interest to Students in Business

In English:

AFRE 218 Contemporary France

In French:

AFRE 270 Beginning French for Business

AFRE 470 Business French

Also: Certification by Paris Chamber of Commerce and Industry. Oral and written exam at the University at Albany. Successful candidates receive the "Diplôme Supérieur"

French Courses of Interest to Non-majors

In English:

AFRE 201 Perspectives on the French World

- Cinema of Africa
- French Films and their American Remakes
- Field Course in Haiti
- Medieval Women

AFRE 202 French Literature

- Great French Novels
- Theatre

AFRE 208 Haiti through Film and Literature

AFRE 218 Contemporary France

AFRE 238 Great Classics of French Cinema

AFRE 281 French Canada through Film and Literature

In French:

AFRE 270 Beginning French for Business

AFRE 297 Independent Study in French

Making the Most of Majoring in FRENCH STUDIES

The purpose of this brochure is to help you organize your program and to give you specific suggestions for how to take full advantage of all the opportunities that are available to you so that your educational experience is as rich as it can possibly be. Please note that this document does not replace your Undergraduate Bulletin. The Undergraduate Bulletin sets forth all of the academic regulations of the University and should be studied carefully. Ultimately, you are responsible for knowing this information, asking questions and seeking guidance as needed.

If you are thinking about majoring in French (or if you have already decided to do so), you probably already know that French Studies offers a wide range of courses in language, literature and civilization. In addition to the full BA program, an MA program and a combined BA /MA program are also available.

Do I have to submit an application in order to major in French?

There are no formal admission requirements for students who hope to be French majors. However, if you have not received a B- or better in AFRE 222 (Intermediate French II) or its equivalent (a fourth year high school French class), *you will have difficulty getting started in the major*. Likewise, if you do not earn grades of B- or better in upper level language courses (in particular AFRE 301 and AFRE 340Z, Advance French I and II, respectively), you may be asked to retake these courses. Strong language skills are essential to your success in (and enjoyment of) the courses you will take on literature and the other arts, society and culture, and linguistics.

What if I already speak French?

The language we speak is an extraordinary reflection of our individual, social, regional and cultural identity. Just as there are many varieties of English spoken throughout the world (America, England, Australia, India, etc.), so there are many varieties of French (Quebec, Louisiana, Haiti, and Senegal, to name a few). The variety of French taught in the Department is what is generally termed *Standard French*. It corresponds roughly to the pronunciation, grammar and vocabulary typical of educated, middle class Parisians. However, from a linguistic point of view, all varieties are equally valid, each variety developing in response to the particular circumstances in which it is used. If you use a variety of French other than the "standard" variety, that's great. Your work in French Studies will broaden your knowledge of your language by providing you access to the Parisian norm as well.

How should I organize my program?

The first thing you should do is to think carefully about what courses you are required to take, what courses you will want to elect to take and what sequence you need to follow in order to be sure you have all the necessary prerequisites and requirements. The academic advisor will help you do this.

At the heart of the French Studies major are two key courses:

AFRE 301, Advanced French I, and AFRE 341Z, Introduction to French Studies:

AFRE 301 is an advanced language course. We believe that the successful completion of this course with a B- or better means that you are ready to make the transition from learning the French Language for its own sake to using French to learn about, for example, French poetry or contemporary French society. For this reason, you must complete AFRE 301 before you will be allowed to take any other course whose number is higher than that.

By introducing you to the concepts needed for analyzing French cultural phenomena, AFRE 341 is designed to help you complete the transition from courses about French to courses in French about other topics. It focuses first on the analysis of written texts (both literary and non-literary) and then goes on to the analysis of other cultural document such as mass media and the arts.

Once you have completed AFRE 301, you should enroll in AFRE 341Z.

Successful completion of AFRE 301 means you have also fulfilled the prerequisite for enrollment in French 306, *Applied Phonetics*, and AFRE 340Z, *Advanced French II*, two other language-oriented courses which are part of the core curriculum. You are also permitted to enroll in AFRE 350, *Advanced Conversation and Writing*, which is an elective course.

Completion of AFRE 341 leaves you free to enroll in the remaining core courses.

AFRE 355W, *Contemporary French Society and Culture* and AFRE 360W, the *Evolution of French Literature and Civilization* as well as in several elective courses.

With few exceptions, completion of the core courses (AFRE 310, AFRE 341, AFRE 306, AFRE 340Z, Fre355, AFRE 360 and AFRE 461Z) leaves you free to register for any 300 or 400 level course in the Department.

In addition to the 21 hours of core courses you must complete 15 hours of electives from offerings at the 300 and/or 400 level, including 6 hours at the 400 level.

One other thing to keep in mind is the residency requirement.

Though you may receive transfer credit for courses taken abroad or at other institutions, AFRE 306, AFRE 355 and one 400-level course must be taken at the University at Albany.

What other courses are offered in the Department?

The *Undergraduate Bulletin* (www.albany.edu/undergraduate_bulletin/cas.html) lists all the courses the Department offers and gives brief general descriptions of their content.

When are these courses offered?

As a general rule, AFRE 301, AFRE 341, AFRE 306 and AFRE 461Z, are offered every semester. AFRE 360 is offered in the Fall semester only. AFRE 355 and 461Z are offered in the Spring semester.

To determine which courses listed in the *Bulletin* are offered in a given semester, refer to the *Schedule of Classes* for the semester (www.albany.edu/lc/coursesandschedules.htm). To find out more specific information about course content, requirements, and reading lists, stop by the Languages, Literature and Cultures departmental office (HU 235).

I'm interested in the combined BA/MA program. How should I proceed?

Generally, if you have a cumulative grade point average of 3.2 or higher, you may apply for this program at the beginning of your junior year, or after the successful completion of 56 credits, but no later than the accumulation of 100 credits. For complete details, read the *Undergraduate Bulletin* (www.albany.edu/undergraduate_bulletin/cas.html) and the *Graduate Bulletin* (www.albany.edu/grad/college_arts_sciences.html) and consult with the Undergraduate Advisor.

What else can I do to improve my French besides taking courses?

There are a number of resources available to you that you should be aware of and, more importantly, take advantage of while you are at the University at Albany. Remember that you can never hope to master the French language if the only time you speak it or hear it is in class. Ask the Undergraduate Advisor or the Languages, Literatures and Cultures departmental office staff for current offerings which can include language discussion groups, language film festivals, television programming in the language, conferences, real-time web interactions with native speakers, and a variety of other opportunities such as:

The Interactive Media Center

The Interactive Media Center (IMC) has a wide variety of French audiocassettes, videocassettes, videodisks and some computer software which you can check out for home use or for use right there in one of its 20 workstations located in the basement of the library.

To Develop Your Reading Skills:

The periodicals room in the basement of the library is a good place to go to read French newspapers (such as *Le Monde* and *Liberation* from France or *Le Devoir* from Quebec) and magazines (*L'Express*, *Le Nouvel Observateur*, *Le Point*, *Paris Match*, *Cahiers du Cinema*, *Jeune Afrique*, to name a few).

In General:

You can join the Cercle Français, the official French Club of the University at Albany. Activities of the Cercle vary from year to year, but have included a bi-monthly Table Française, weekly screenings of French movies, a trip to Montreal and a Mardi Gras costume party. The latter two activities have been co-sponsored by the Federation Franco-Americane du New York. This community group, which you are free to join, was created to promote the awareness of the culture and heritage of the North American French. Whether you are a member or not, you are welcome and encouraged to attend the lectures, films and other fine programs which they sponsor in the Capital District throughout the year.

What are the possibilities for foreign study?

You can, and should, take advantage of the opportunities available to you to study abroad for a year, a semester or a summer.

The University at Albany is one of the three SUNY campuses which co-sponsor the Academic Program in Grenoble, France. This program allows qualified students to take a variety of courses offered at the University at Grenoble specially created by SUNY during a semester or a

year. Students pay SUNY tuition and a tuition differential which covers additional program costs.

Another wonderful opportunity is offered by the SUNY-Quebec Exchange. This program permits qualified students to study at one of the seven principal universities in Quebec for either a semester or a full academic year. Tuition is the same as SUNY in rates and students remain eligible for many forms of financial aid including TAP, PELL GRANTS, EOP, NDSL, and NYSHEC. Some additional scholarship money is available, with preference given to those students electing to study at institutions outside metropolitan Montréal or Quebec City.

If these programs do not suit your needs, there are countless others, at least one of which surely will. Dr. Joan N. Savitt, Associate Director of the Office of International Education (591-8177) has information about the many options available to you and is eager to help you find the one you're looking for. For more information you may also wish to visit the University at Albany Study Abroad website at www.albanystudyabroad.com.

Three general considerations to keep in mind:

- (1) If you choose to participate in a SUNY-sponsored program, you are considered to be enrolled at the University at Albany and credits earned abroad transfer automatically.
- (2) If the program you elect to participate in is one of the many fine programs that is not SUNY-sponsored, you must apply for a leave of absence from the University at Albany and upon your return apply for transfer credit for the work you completed abroad. The Undergraduate Advisor will be able to help you with this.
- (3) The Department believes it is preferable for you to have completed AFRE 306 and AFRE 355 at the University at Albany before you study abroad and requires that the residency requirement of one 400-level course in the Department be fulfilled upon your return.

How does the Department recognize superior achievement?

French Studies recognizes exceptional achievement in the following ways:

- **Eleanor Rosalie Bazzoni Fellowship:** This prize, which is in monetary form, is given each year to an outstanding student majoring in a foreign language. It rotates among three language departments and is given to a student in French every three years.
- **Undergraduate Achievement Award:** Each year all the units in the College of Humanities and the Fine Arts are invited to nominate students who have completed an outstanding piece of individual scholarship or creative work in the previous year to be honored at an Undergraduate Achievements Celebration. French Studies is proud to have had several of its candidates selected to receive this award which is in the form of a certificate.
- **Pi Delta Phi:** Junior and Senior French majors whose overall GPA is 3.0 or better, whose GPA in French is 3.3 or better, and who have completed at least two courses at the 300 level or above are eligible for membership in Pi Delta Phi, the French National Honor Society. If you meet these criteria, you should see the Pi Delta Phi Coordinator to apply for admission. There is an initiation fee.
- **Graduation with Departmental Honors:** If you have an overall cumulative grade point average of 3.2 or better at the beginning of your final semester at the University at Albany, you are encouraged to select one of the longer papers or projects that you have completed in

any of your 400 level courses for further development and, eventually, oral presentation to the faculty of the Department. If you have acquitted yourself of this task with distinction, as determined by the faculty members in attendance at the oral presentation, you will be recommended to the Registrar for an honors degree in French.

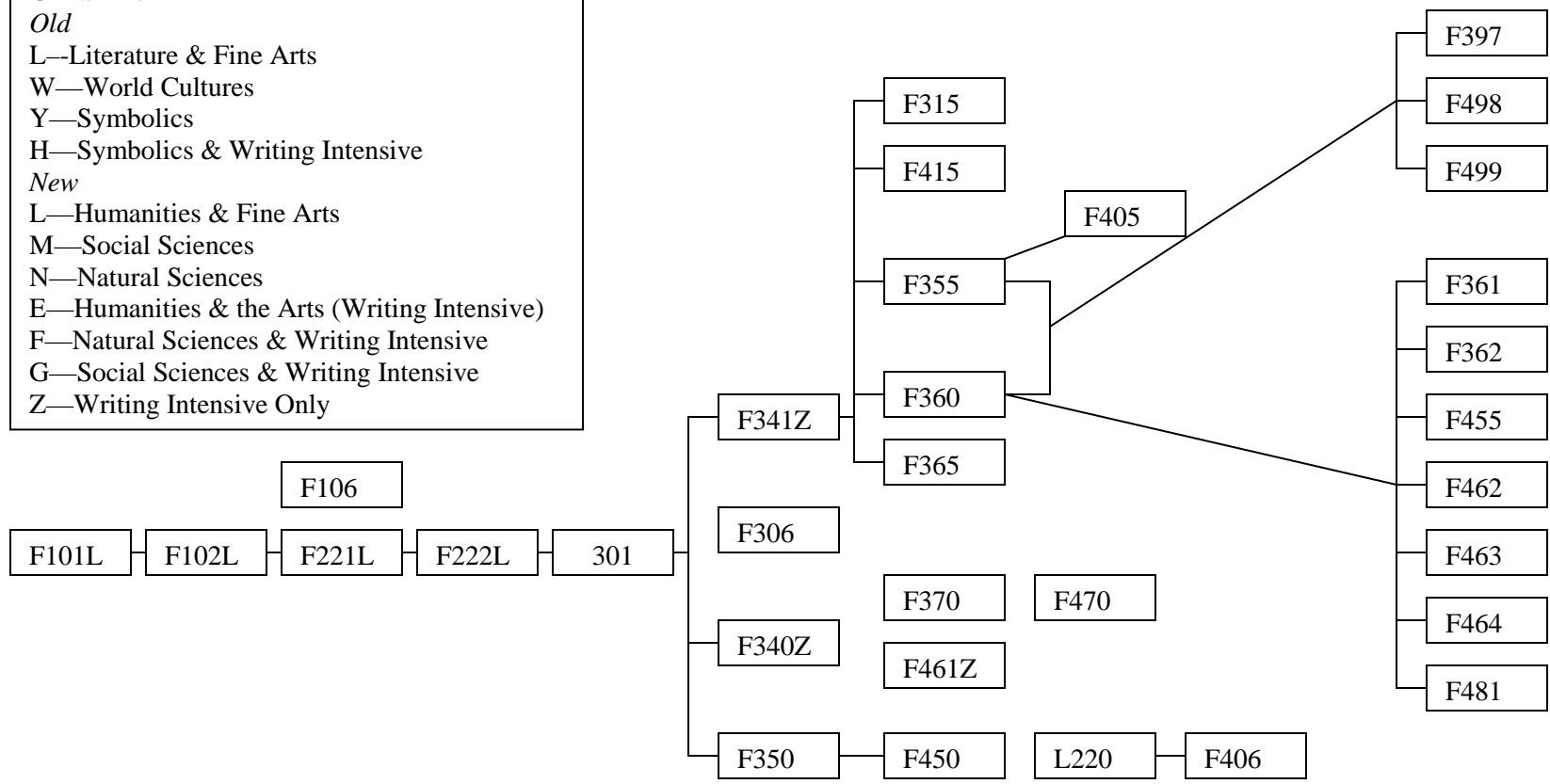
What else should I know?

The Undergraduate Advisor is available to help you with all of the administrative concerns you face in negotiating your way through your academic program. Don't forget, though, that the rest of the faculty is there for you, too. For example, they may be able to suggest courses in other disciplines that can complement the work you've been doing or to give you advice about career options or further study. They're also open to suggestions you may have for how the major could be changed or improved. Take advantage of office hours and departmentally sponsored programs to get to know them, too.

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TAUGHT IN FRENCH

GEN. ED.
Old
 L—Literature & Fine Arts
 W—World Cultures
 Y—Symbolics
 H—Symbolics & Writing Intensive
New
 L—Humanities & Fine Arts
 M—Social Sciences
 N—Natural Sciences
 E—Humanities & the Arts (Writing Intensive)
 F—Natural Sciences & Writing Intensive
 G—Social Sciences & Writing Intensive
 Z—Writing Intensive Only



TAUGHT IN ENGLISH

