

FRENCH STUDIES

Faculty

Professors

Herman P. Salomon, Ph.D.
New York University
David Wills, *Doctorat*
Université de Paris-Sorbonne Nouvelle
Mary Beth Winn, Ph.D.
Yale University

Associate Professors

Susan Blood, Ph.D.
Johns Hopkins University
Eloise A. Brière, Ph.D.
University of Toronto
Jean-François Brière, Ph.D.
York University
Cynthia A. Fox, Ph.D.
Indiana University, Bloomington
George V. Santoni, Ph.D.
University of Colorado

Lecturer

Mark Fisher, M.A.
University of New York at Albany
Mary Jane Highfield, Ph.D.
Cornell University

Professors Emeritae/i

Arnolds Grava, Ph.D.
University of Nebraska
Robert W. Greene, Ph.D.
University of Pennsylvania
Martin Kanes, Ph.D.
University of Pennsylvania
Frederick W. Moore, Ph.D.
Yale University
Carl J. Odenkirchen, Ph.D.
University of North Carolina
Raymond J. Ortali, Ph.D.
University of Michigan

Associate Professor Emeritus

Jack Richtman, Ph.D.
Columbia University

Adjuncts (estimated): 4

Teaching Assistants (estimated): 8

French Studies offers a wide range of courses in language, literature, civilization, mass media, Francophone studies, French cinema as well as in business French. The program combines innovative and traditional approaches leading to teaching, international trade, graduate work or other career objectives requiring a comprehensive background in French studies.

Full B.A. and M.A. and Ph.D. programs in French are available as well as a combined B.A./M.A. program. A combined B.A. in French/M.B.A. is also available.

A number of courses of general interest, given in English and requiring no knowledge of French, are also regularly scheduled.

Careers

Graduates enter careers in teaching, government service, translating, editing, interpreting, library science, international business, foreign service and computer-related technologies. Any field of work that requires a broad liberal education, linguistic skill and a knowledge of French-speaking cultures will offer job opportunities for majors. Combinations with particularly strong employment potential are French Studies and economics, political science and business.

Special Programs and Opportunities

The University maintains summer, semester and year-long exchange programs in France with the University of Montpellier, a program which provides students an opportunity to study French language at any level (no language prerequisite), literature and culture as well as business and economics in either French or English. An array of programs are available for study elsewhere in France, Quebec and other French-speaking parts of the world. The Office of International Programs provides students with guidance in choosing the right program.

The program sponsors a "Face to Face" series which brings to campus an important figure in contemporary French thought, letters, film or art.

Opportunities to use French and to exchange ideas outside of class are provided through *Le cercle français*, lecture and film series, and other activities.

Paris Chamber of Commerce Exam

The French Studies Program trains students to take both the written and oral parts of the international exam offered by the Paris Chamber of Commerce and Industry (Diplôme supérieur français des affaires) on the Albany campus, when numbers warrant it. Recipients of the "Diplôme supérieur" enhance their employment potential in international business and management.

B.A. in French/M.B.A. Dual Degree Program

The French Studies Program and the School of Business offer a five-year B.A./M.B.A. Degree Program in French and Business Administration taken on the Albany campus and at the University of Montpellier. The program is open to students with 4 years of high school French (or A Fre 221 or 222L in the University in the High School Program.) Students fulfill requirements for the French major during their freshman, sophomore and junior year. Students formally apply for admission into the M.B.A. at the end of their sophomore years. The junior year is spent at the University of Montpellier where students take courses in French, European Economics, Management and Marketing, International Management and Finance. They also participate in internship/community service projects. The fourth and fifth years focus on completing the requirements for the M.B.A. degree.

Language Placement

How do I know what level French is for me?

Students wishing to enroll in French for the first time at the University at Albany should enroll in French 101 if they have never studied French before. Any student who has studied French in high school or at another university, or who has grown up in a French-speaking environment, must take the French placement test to determine which course to take. The placement test is given during summer advisement and during the first week of classes in the fall. Students without placement test scores should use the following guidelines in selecting the appropriate course. Please note that students taking a lower level course after having completed a course at a higher level will not receive graduation credits for that course.

A Fre 101L Students who have no previous experience with French or whose experience is the equivalent of less than one year of high school level French; placement test score 0-279.

A Fre 102L Students who have completed one year of high school level French or its equivalent; placement test score 280-340.

A Fre 221L Students who have completed two years of high school level French or its equivalent; placement test score 341-394.

A Fre 222L Students who have completed three years of high school level French or its equivalent. These students should see the Undergraduate Adviser to discuss the possibility of majoring or minoring in French; placement test score 395 and above.

A Fre 240 Students who have completed four years of high school level French or its equivalent. These students should see the Undergraduate Adviser to discuss the possibility of majoring or minoring in French.

Exceptions:

- 1) Students may elect to enroll one level higher or lower than the level suggested by the above guidelines. Factors which could be taken into consideration in making this decision are: the length of time which has elapsed since last formal study of French; additional travel or home experience with the language; quality of previous program of study; grades earned (overall performance) in previous study. Note, however, that the Language Placement rules of the Undergraduate Bulletin state that A Fre 101L may not be taken for credit by students who have taken three years of high school French or passed the Regents examination within the last five years.
- 2) Students who wish to be placed more than one level higher or lower than the placement suggested by these guidelines must have written permission from the Language Program Director.
- 3) Students who have completed A Fre 200L or A Fre 221L through the University in High School Program should enroll in A Fre 222L; students who have completed A Fre 210L or A Fre 222L should enroll in A Fre 240.
- 4) Students who have received Advanced Placement (AP) credit should see the Language Program Director to discuss

their program of study.

- 5) Students whose experience with French has not been primarily through organized study in an American high school setting should consult with the Language Program Director or the Undergraduate Adviser for help in selecting an appropriate class.

Students are strongly encouraged to see the Language Program Director if they feel they are in the wrong class or if they have any questions about placement. Decisions to change courses should be made no later than the fourth week of classes.

Degree Requirements for the Major in French

General Program B.A.: a minimum of 36 credits above A Fre 222L. These include: 21 credits of core courses (A Fre 240, 241E, 306, 340Z, 355, 360, 440Z); 15 credits of elective courses at the 300 level and/or 400 level, including at least 6 credits at the 400 level.

A Fre 306, 355, and at least one 400-level course must be taken in residence at the Albany campus. Credits earned through study abroad programs will not fulfill this requirement.

Teacher Education Program:

As of Fall 2000, the Teacher Education minor will no longer be offered for the incoming freshman class. To obtain teacher certification, students must complete the French major plus an M.A. in Education, due to revisions in the New York State Education Department regulations for teacher certification. Students admitted prior to Fall 2000 and transfer students may still be able to complete the Teacher Education minor. Students interested in teaching as a profession should contact the Academy for Initial Teacher Preparation at 442-5144.

Honors Program in French

The honors program in French is designed to promote opportunities for advanced work to highly motivated, mature undergraduate majors and prepare them to do independent work.

Students may apply for admission to the Honors Program after the beginning of the second semester of their sophomore year. To gain admission to the program students must have formally declared a major in French and have completed at least 12 credits toward their major, including A Fre 241 and 355. In addition, they must have an overall GPA of at least 3.25, and 3.50 in their major, both of which must be maintained in order to graduate with honors.

Students must complete a minimum of:

- (1) 12 credits of courses in the major above A Fre 241 and 355,
- (2) a 3-credit independent study course (A Fre 397), and
- (3) a 6-credit major project or series of projects, to be completed during the junior and senior year. Prior to beginning the project, the student must have written approval from the Academic Committee of French Studies. The project will be evaluated not later than the third quarter of the senior year and submitted in final form by the end of the fourth quarter.

Combined B.A./M.A. Program

The combined B.A./M.A. program in French provides an opportunity for students of recognized academic ability and educational maturity to fulfill integrated requirements of the undergraduate and master's degree programs from the beginning of their junior year. A carefully designed program can permit a student to earn the B.A. and M.A. degrees within nine semesters.

The combined program requires a minimum of 138 credits, of which at least 30 must be graduate credits. In qualifying for the B.A., students must meet all University and college requirements, including the requirements for the major listed previously, the minor requirement, general education requirements, the minimum 90-credit liberal arts and sciences requirement and residency requirements. In qualifying for the M.A., students must meet all University and college requirements as outlined in the Graduate Bulletin, including completion of a minimum of 30 graduate credits, and any other conditions such as a research seminar, thesis, comprehensive examination, professional experience and residency requirements. Up to 12 graduate credits may be applied simultaneously to both the B.A. and M.A. programs.

Students are considered as undergraduates until completion of 120 graduation credits and satisfactory completion of all B.A. requirements. Upon meeting B.A. requirements, students are automatically considered as graduate students.

Students may apply for admission to the combined degree program in French at the beginning of their junior year or after the successful completion of 56 credits, but no later than the accumulation of 100 credits. A cumulative grade point average of 3.20 or higher and three supportive letters of recommendation from faculty are required for consideration. In exceptional cases, students with more than 100 undergraduate credits may apply to the program for exemption from the 100-credit rule.

Combined B.A. in French/M.B.A. in Five Years

Freshmen at the University at Albany who have taken four years of French in high school (or A Fre 222I or 222L through the University in the High School Program) have the unique opportunity to combine a BA in French and a MBA and to receive two degrees in five years. Students formally apply for admission into the MBA at the end of their sophomore year. The junior year is normally spent studying in France. By the end of their junior year, students have completed requirements for the French major. Completion of requirements for the MBA takes place during the fifth year.

In order to complete all requirements for this program in five years, students should plan to enter the program at the beginning of their freshman year and take all courses as scheduled on the BA in the French/MBA program chart (available from the department). They should consult with their undergraduate adviser before registering for courses.

Courses In French

A Fre 101L Beginning French I (4)

For students with no previous study of French. This course emphasizes the development of practical communication skills through a variety of lively, interactive activities. By the end of the course, students should be able to talk about themselves, their immediate world, and their interests. The course also provides an introduction to the culture of France and other French-speaking countries. According to University regulations, this course may not be taken for credit by students who have taken three years of high school French or passed the Regents examination within the past five years. Intended for students with no prior study of French or placed by examination. [FL]-????

A Fre 102L Beginning French II (4)

For students who have completed one semester of college French, such as A Fre 101, or one year of high school French. This course continues to emphasize the development of practical communication skills using a lively and interactive approach. Students expand their proficiency to be able to talk not only about themselves, but about the world. Students also increase their knowledge of French and francophone cultures. By the end of the course, students should have basic survival skills in French. Prerequisite(s): A Fre 101L or placement by examination. [FL]-????

A Fre 106 Pronunciation of French (1)

Practice in sound discrimination and production. Lab work and individualized private sessions. May only be taken in conjunction with A Fre 101L (second quarter only), 102L, 221L, and 240. S/U graded.

A Fre 221I (= A Fre 221L) Intermediate French I (4) (see below)

Prerequisite(s): A Fre 102L or placement. [OD]

A Fre 221L Intermediate French I (4)

For students who have completed one year of introductory college French (such as A Fre 101, 102) or two years of high school French. This course provides a substantial review of the basics while expanding students' knowledge of vocabulary, structure, and allow them to express themselves in a more varied and meaningful way, both orally and in writing. As in the previous levels, students have plenty of opportunity for interaction in class. Culture is explored in greater depths than in preceding levels. Students read a variety of short texts during the semester. [OD]

A Fre 222I (= A Fre 222L) Intermediate French II (3) (see below)

Prerequisite(s): A Fre 221L or equivalent. [OD]

A Fre 222L Intermediate French II (4)

For students who have completed French 221, three semesters of college French, or three years of high school French. Continuing with a functional and thematic approach to building proficiency and a lively, interactive approach to learning, this course builds on students' previous knowledge to expand and refine their ability to express themselves, both orally and in writing. Culture continues to play a central role, as does reading. Students read a variety of short texts as well as a work chosen by the instructor. By the end of French 222, students should be able to express themselves and read with reasonable fluency on a variety of topics. [OD]

A Fre 270 Beginning French for Business (3)

A conversation course with emphasis on learning how business is conducted in French. Successful students will acquire greater fluency, mastery of business vocabulary, knowledge of fundamental work-related cultural differences, and familiarity with basic practices for doing business in France and other francophone countries. Extensive use of film and television. Meets General Education oral discourse requirements. Prerequisite(s): Intermediate standing and permission of the instructor. [OD]

A Fre 297 Independent Study in French (1-3)

This Study in an area of special interest not treated in courses currently offered. Topic must be approved by the undergraduate advisor and directed by a member of the faculty. May be repeated once with approval.

Core Courses for the Major

A Fre 241E Introduction to French Studies (3)

Introduction to the concepts and techniques needed for analyzing French cultural phenomena. Focuses initially on written texts (literary and nonliterary,) then on other cultural documents (e.g., mass media and the arts). Designed to give students tools for more advanced

A Fre 301 (former 240) Structural Review of French (3)

Provides a thorough review of French structure for communication with increased accuracy in both speaking and writing. Students will not only improve their control of French grammar, but will also learn how the grammar functions in specific spoken and written contexts. Prerequisite(s): A Fre 222 or equivalent.

A Fre 341L Introduction to French Studies (3)

A Fre 341E is the writing intensive version of A Fre 341L; only one of the two courses may be taken for credit. May not be offered in 2003-

2004. [HU]

A Fre 306 Comprehension & Pronunciation of French (3)

This course is designed to help students hear and understand French with greater ease and to speak French with greater accuracy. It combines ease and to speak French with greater accuracy. It combines an examination of how sounds are produced, how they are organized into a patterned system, and how they are different from English sounds, with practical exercises in sound discrimination, listening comprehension, and oral practice. Students increase their ability to communicate successfully with French speakers throughout the francophone world.

A Fre 340Z Introduction to Writing French (3)

Builds on the skills acquired in French 301, concentrates on improving written expression through expansion of vocabulary and use of more complex and varied sentence structures. A variety of written texts will provide models for different kinds of writing, with an emphasis on description and narration. Intensive writing practice through formal compositions as well as weekly participation in electronic bulletin board discussions on topics of student's choosing. Fulfills the General Education writing intensive requirement. Prerequisite(s): A Fre 301 (formerly A Fre 240) or placement.

A Fre 355 Contemporary French Society and Culture (3)

A course designed to give students a broad knowledge and understanding of French society today: value orientations, family and education, social and political institutions, leisure and work, and the media. Prerequisite(s): A Fre 341 (formerly A Fre 241), or permission of the instructor.

A Fre 360 Social and Cultural History of France (3)

Provides a broad knowledge and understanding of the political, social, intellectual, literary and artistic history of France from the Middle Ages to the present as well as the historical and conceptual framework required in more advanced courses in French Studies. Prerequisite(s): A Fre 301 (formerly A Fre 241), or by permission of the instructor.

A Fre 440Z Writing French with Style (3)

Intensive practice of written French through close analysis of grammar and stylistic study of selected works. Aims to strengthen and develop competency in different styles of writing: creative, argumentative, and analytical. Meet the General Education writing intensive requirement. Prerequisite(s): A Fre 340Z.

Electives at the 200 Level

A Fre 270 Beginning French for Business (3)

A conversation course with emphasis on learning how business is conducted in French. Successful students will acquire greater fluency, mastery of business vocabulary, knowledge of fundamental work-related cultural differences, and familiarity with basic practices for doing business in France and other francophone countries. Extensive use of film and television. Meets General Education oral discourse requirements. Prerequisite(s): Intermediate standing and permission of the instructor.

A Fre 297 Independent Study in French (1-3)

This Study in an area of special interest not treated in courses currently offered. Topic must be approved by the undergraduate advisor and directed by a member of the faculty. May be repeated once with approval.

Electives at the 300 Level

A Fre 315 Introduction to French Cinema (3)

An introduction with detailed analyses to a dozen of the most well known French classic films as contributions to the art of cinema and as reflections of French society at various historical moments. Only one of A Fre 238 and A Fre 315 can be taken for credit. Prerequisite(s): A Fre 241E.

A Fre 350 French Conversation (3)

Students will learn the strategies, vocabulary, and structures that will allow them to participate more fluently and confidently in a variety of spoken contexts, both formal and informal. Some of the conversational functions and strategies covered include reporting, giving advice, conducting interviews, expressing differences of opinion, expressing aesthetic judgments, and reading out loud. Students will have the opportunity to talk about current events, engage in debate, and talk about their personal interests. This course fulfills the General Education oral discourse requirement. Prerequisite(s): A Fre 301 (formerly A Fre 240).[OD]

A Fre 361 Readings in French Literature (3)

Major works and selections will be studied in the context of the social and cultural structures of a particular period. Can be repeated for credit when the content changes. Prerequisite(s) A Fre 341E. [HU]

A Fre 365 Contemporary French Press (3)

Examines the press through the analysis and discussion of newspapers, magazines and their ideologies. Prerequisite(s): A Fre 341E. May not be offered in 2003-2004.

A Fre 397 Independent Study in French (1-4)

Study in an area of special interest not treated in courses currently offered. Topic must be approved by the undergraduate adviser and directed by a member of the faculty. May be repeated once with approval. Prerequisite(s): A Fre 341E.

Electives at the 400 Level

A Fre 405 Research in French Society and Culture (3)

Aspects of contemporary French culture, French society, politics, economy, education, religion, mass media, the arts. Prerequisite(s): A Fre 341E and 340Z.

A Fre 406 French Linguistics: Morphology and Syntax (3)

Survey of the structure of the French language in light of current linguistic theory. Prerequisite(s): A Lin 220M or permission of instructor. May not be offered in 2003-2004.

A Fre 415 French Cinema and Society (3)

Analysis of selected commercial feature films by major contemporary French directors. Emphasis will be placed on the consideration of each film as a social and cultural document. Only one of A Fre 338 & A Fre 415 can be taken for credit. Prerequisite(s): A Fre 341E and 340Z.

A Fre 430 Translation (3)

This course will deal with both the theoretical and practical aspects of translation, with regular exercises in the translation (from French to English and from English to French) of a wide variety of texts (literary, scientific, journalistic, economic, poetic, etc.) Prerequisite(s): A Fre 341E and 340.

A Fre 450 French Speech Styles (3)

Training in the diversity of francophone speech styles used by various individuals, groups, institutions, and media of diverse social or geographical origins. Grammatical and lexical analysis of these styles, their cultural implications and social contexts. Prerequisite(s): A Fre 341E and 340Z or participation in an overseas program. May not be offered in 2003-2004.

A Fre 455 Life and Letters (3)

Exploration of the historical, cultural and literary aspects of a particular period or movement. May be repeated once for credit when the content changes. Prerequisite(s): A Fre 341E and 340Z or permission of the instructor.

A Fre 462 The Novel (3)

Study of the techniques, forms and themes of the genre as seen through representative works. Prerequisite(s): A Fre 341E and 340Z. May not be offered in 2003-2004.

A Fre 463 Poetry (3)

Study of the techniques, forms and themes of the genre as seen through representative works. Prerequisite(s): A Fre 341E and 340Z. May not be offered in 2003-2004.

A Fre 464 Theatre (3)

Study of the techniques, forms and themes of the genre as seen through representative works. Prerequisite(s): A Fre 341E and 340Z. May not be offered in 2003-2004.

A Fre 470 French For Business (3)

Provides students with the tools needed in a French-speaking business environment: specialized vocabulary, correspondence, business operations in France, the economy of France and the European Union. This course provides preparation for the examinations (on campus) leading to certification by the Paris Chamber of Commerce (Diplôme de Français des Affaires I and II). Prerequisite(s): A Fre 340Z or equivalent.

A Fre 481 Francophone Cultures (3)

An examination of non-European cultures in Africa and the Caribbean as well as French-based cultures in North America. Gives a broad understanding of the political and social impact of French colonization and examines contemporary francophone life through the study of literary and other texts as well as film. Prerequisite(s): A Fre 341 (formerly A Fre 241).

A Fre 498 Face-to-Face (3)

Seminar devoted to the works of a visiting major figure in contemporary French thought, letters, film or art. Taught by a regular faculty member in cooperation with the visiting author or artist. May be repeated for credit with permission of undergraduate adviser. Prerequisite(s): A Fre 341E and 340Z or permission of the undergraduate adviser. May not be offered in 2003-2004.

A Fre 499 Undergraduate Seminar (3)

Intensive study of an author, topic or literary theme not treated in regularly offered undergraduate courses. May be repeated for credit when content differs. Prerequisite(s): A Fre 341E and A Fre 340Z.

Courses in English

A Fre 201 Perspectives on the French World (1-3)

Intensive study of a particular work or works, limited theme or topic, genre, or contemporary issue. Taught in English. May be repeated once for credit when content differs. May not be used to fulfill the requirements of the major in French. [EU HU]

A Fre 202 French Literature (3)

Reading and discussion of selected works of French literature in translation. Taught in English. May be repeated once for credit when content differs. May not be used to fulfill the requirements of the major in French.

A Fre 208 Haiti through Film and Literature (3)

An introduction to the history and culture of Haiti. Gives broad knowledge and understanding of the political, social, intellectual, literary and artistic history of Haiti from 1492 to the present, particularly as it relates to the United States. Main tools of investigation: fiction, essays, film (documentary and fiction), and the arts. Meets General Education requirements for diversity; may be used to complete the French minor.

A Fre 218 Contemporary France (3)

Analysis and comparison of French and American value orientations, family structures, educational, political, economic and cultural institutions. Taught in English. May not be used to fulfill the requirements of the major in French. May not be offered in 2003-2004. [OD]

A Fre 238 (= A Arh 262) Great Classics of French Cinema (3)

An introduction with detailed analyses to a dozen of the most well known French classic films as contributions to the art of cinema and as reflections of French society at various historical moments. Taught in English. May not be used to fulfill the requirements of the major in French. Only one of A Fre 238 and A Fre 315 can be taken for credit.

A Fre 281 French Canada Through Film and Literature (3)

Gives broad knowledge of the French-speaking areas of Canada (mainly Quebec and Acadia) through an examination of the history of the French in North America as well as contemporary literature and cinema. May be taken to complete the French minor.

A Fre 338 French Cinema and Society (3)

Analysis of selected feature films of major contemporary French directors. Emphasis on each film as a social and cultural document. Taught in English. May not be used to fulfill the requirements of the major in French. Only one of A Fre 338 & A Fre 415 may be taken for credit.

Prerequisite(s): junior or senior class standing, or permission of instructor. May not be offered in 2003-2004.

A Fre 398 Face-to-Face (3)

Seminar devoted to the works of a visiting major figure in contemporary French thought, letters, film or art. Taught by a regular faculty member in cooperation with the visiting author or artist. Taught in English. May be repeated for credit with permission of the program chair. May not be used to fulfill the requirements of the major in French. Prerequisite(s): junior or senior class standing, or permission of the instructor. May not be offered in 2003-2004.

A Fre 460 (=A Arh 450) Art and Society in Early Modern France (3)

Seminar examining selected topics in art and architecture produced in France from the sixteenth through eighteenth centuries. Special emphasis upon the cultural significance of art in an era that saw the rise and fall of monarchical power as well as dramatic changes in understanding of social hierarchy, gender, the natural world and philosophy. Taught in English. French majors will do readings and written work in French when possible. Prerequisite(s): A Fre 360 May not be offered in 2003-2004. [OD]

A Fre 460Z (=A Arh 450Z) Art and Society in Early Modern France (3)

A Fre 460Z is the writing intensive version of A 460; only one may be taken for credit. Prerequisite(s): A Fre 360. [WI]