

# French

**MAJOR, MINOR**

**PROFESSORS:** Annette E. Sampon-Nicolas

**ASSISTANT PROFESSOR:** Jeanne Jégouso

**VISITING ASSISTANT PROFESSOR:** Olivier Salès, Sylvain Liotard

**TEACHING ASSISTANT:** Hanna Hadjadj

The French major at Hollins incorporates the rich cultural past of France and the French-speaking world, while bringing to light the tremendously dynamic present of all French-speaking peoples and cultures of the 21st century. By focusing on French language and cultural life, both historical and contemporary, on the global world, using literature, non-fiction, film, and a wide variety of multi-media strategies, our students are prepared to engage in the world as global citizens.

The French major at Hollins strives to give students a strong foundation in all aspects of French language and culture. Students graduating with a major in French from Hollins will be able to express themselves articulately in oral and written French, understand and appreciate cultures and values of the French-speaking world, and exhibit analytical skills.

Hollins French majors are well prepared for careers in fields such as education, business, marketing, government, or tourism. They will also have the solid academic background necessary for graduate school in French, or international business, among other fields. An opportunity for internships reinforces the experiential side of the French major.

A French major can complete her degree requirements by taking courses that focus on language and literature, or on business, international relations, and current events. Another track of study leads to certification to teach French at the secondary school level.

## REQUIREMENTS FOR A MAJOR IN FRENCH:

9 courses (36 credits) above the 100 level

- FREN 271: French Culture and Civilization (4) **or** FREN 274: The Francophone World (4)
- FREN 376: Advanced French Grammar (4)
- Three electives at the 200 or 300 level (12)
- Three electives at the 300 level (12), at least one of which must be a literature course
- Senior Seminar or Thesis (4) (invitation by the department is necessary for senior thesis)

Senior majors must demonstrate that they express themselves articulately in oral and written French, understand and appreciate cultures and values of the French-speaking world, and exhibit analytical skills by either completing FREN 470 or writing and defending a senior thesis.

The French department requires that all French majors spend at least one semester, and preferably one year, in Paris. Under extenuating circumstances, students can appeal this requirement to the Academic Policy Committee.

Majors are required to take at least one 300-level course during their senior year. We strongly recommend that senior majors take a course each semester of their senior year.

Only independent studies approved by the chair of the department will count toward the major. It is recommended that students round out the French major with complementary courses in appropriate areas such as art, business, economics, history, philosophy, and political science.

A language placement test determines each student's placement in French language courses. Qualified first-year students may enter at the 200 level or above. All new students who want to take French classes at any time during their years at Hollins must take the French Placement Test given before fall and spring orientations.

## REQUIREMENTS FOR A MINOR IN FRENCH:

6 courses (24 credits)

- Four or more courses at the 200 level or above
- At least two courses at the 300 level

## FRENCH HOUSE

La Maison Française is intended especially for practice in speaking French. A native French graduate student resides in the house, aiding in conversation and facilitating use of French at mealtimes. Students who reside in the French House for a semester and participate in activities receive one credit (FREN 231 or FREN 232). French Club also gives students the opportunity to participate in a variety of French cultural events. All students living in the

French House must be enrolled in at least one French course each semester during their residence, unless French Department members approve otherwise.

### **COURSES IN FRENCH:**

Unless otherwise specified in the course listing, all courses are conducted in French. French literature courses emphasize, in a comprehensive approach, the relationship of literature to the historical, political, cultural, artistic, and philosophical events and trends of the respective centuries.

#### **FREN 101, 102: ELEMENTARY FRENCH (4, 4)**

**Salès**

A year-long introduction to the basic elements of the French language. Students will study major vocabulary categories, verb tenses, and other fundamental components of French grammar. All four language skills of listening, speaking, reading, and writing will be covered using internet and various audio-visual multi-media resources, and weekly conversation groups with a French assistant. Prerequisite: No more than three units of high school French, or departmental placement test. Fulfills the language requirement for those students who have not previously studied French. 101 offered Term 1; 102 offered Term 2. (LAN)

#### **FREN 110: ACCELERATED ELEMENTARY FRENCH (4)**

**Department**

This elementary-level course condenses one year of French into one semester and is designed for students who have studied French previously but who need a comprehensive review of grammar and vocabulary at the introductory level. In addition to traditional class time, students spend one hour each week with our French Language assistant. Prerequisite: placement or permission. Not offered in 2021-22. (LAN)

#### **FREN 111, 112: INTERMEDIATE FRENCH (4, 4)**

**Jégouso, Liotard**

A year-long systematic review of the fundamentals of French language. Students will review the basic elements of French grammar and expand their communicative abilities by acquiring a higher functional level of grammar competence and vocabulary acquisition. All four language skills of listening, speaking, reading, and writing will be covered using internet and various audio-visual multi-media resources, and weekly conversation groups with a French assistant. Prerequisite: FREN 102 or FREN 110, or departmental placement test. Fulfills the language requirement for those students who have previously studied French. 111 offered Term 1; 112 offered Term 2. (LAN)

#### **FREN 117, 118: ADVANCED INTERMEDIATE FRENCH (4, 4)**

**Jégouso**

A year-long course featuring training in listening comprehension, speaking, reading and writing, using internet and various audio-visual multi-media and weekly conversation groups with a French assistant. Study of French life and culture with an emphasis on contemporary France. Strongly recommended for students planning on going on the Hollins Abroad–Paris program. Prerequisite: FREN 102 or equivalent, or departmental placement test. Fulfills the language requirement for those students who have previously studied French. 117 offered Term 1; 118 offered Term 2. (LAN)

#### **FREN 121: ACCELERATED INTERMEDIATE FRENCH (4)**

**Department**

This course is an expansion of verbal and writing skills. In addition to three hours per week in class, students practice conversational skills for one hour per week with the language assistant. Fulfills the language requirement for those who have previously studied French. Prerequisite: departmental placement test. Not offered in 2021-22. (LAN)

#### **FREN 203: ADVANCED INTENSIVE PRACTICES OF SPOKEN FRENCH (2)**

**Department**

This two-credit course is offered to students who have progressed beyond the level of intermediate French. Students will identify individual problem areas in their spoken French, which they will strengthen through the study of elements of French phonetics and conversational French. Prerequisite: FREN 112, FREN 118, FREN 121, or departmental placement in a 200-level course. Open to first-year students. Not offered in 2021-22.

#### **FREN 231, 232: CONVERSATIONAL FRENCH (1, 1)**

**Jégouso**

One credit per term is awarded to students who live in the French House. To receive credit with a grade of P (pass), students are required to participate in regular events with residents of the French House. A maximum of two credits are allowed during the four years at Hollins. Prerequisite: student must live in the French House and be enrolled in an intermediate French course or have departmental permission. Offered both terms.

#### **FREN 237: UNDERSTANDING CONTEMPORARY FRANCE (4)**

**Jégouso**

Development of conversational and writing skills through discussion and analysis of an aspect of French literature, language, society, or culture. The topic changes from year to year. This year's course focuses on hip hop, rap, and reggae - dance hall culture as a way to learn, examine and understand contemporary French culture. Thanks to a wide selection of French and Francophone artists, students will learn about French history, politics, modern challenges and issues. Materials for the class will include song lyrics, analysis of music videos, movies, newspaper,

and academic articles, Prerequisite: FREN 112, FREN, 118, FREN 121, or departmental placement in a 200-level course. Open to first-year students. Not offered in 2021-22. (o, AES, MOD)

**FREN 261: TOPICS IN FRENCH I (4)**

**Department**

Development of conversational and writing skills through discussion and analysis of an aspect of French literature, language, society, or culture. The topic changes from year to year. Prerequisite: FREN 112, FREN 118, FREN 121, or departmental placement in a 200-level course. Open to first-year students. May be repeated for credit with a different topic. Not offered in 2021-22 (o, MOD)

**FREN 262: TOPICS IN FRENCH II (4)**

**Salès**

Development of conversational and writing skills through discussion and analysis of an aspect of French literature, language, society, or culture. The topic changes from year to year. Prerequisite: FREN 112, FREN 118, FREN 121, or departmental placement in a 200-level course. Open to first-year students. May be repeated for credit with a different topic. Offered Term 2. (o, DIV, AES)

**FREN 271: FRENCH CULTURE AND CIVILIZATION (4)**

**Jégouso**

An introduction to the history, geography, literature, art, political, economic, and social aspects of France from the beginning of French culture to the present. Open to first-year students. Prerequisite: FREN 112, FREN 118, FREN 121 or departmental placement in a 200-level course. Open to first-year students. Offered Term 1. (GLO, MOD)

**FREN 290: INDEPENDENT STUDY (2 or 4)**

**Jégouso**

Independent study conducted below the advanced level. Application must be made with and approved by faculty prior to registration. Offered any term.

**FREN 324: INTRODUCTION TO FRENCH & FRANCOPHONE WOMEN AUTHORS (4)**

**Jégouso**

This course will provide students with an overview of the literary representation of gendered experiences in personal stories authored by a range of leading female French-speaking writers. From Marie de France or Madeleine de Scudery to Virginie Despente, from Suzanne Césaire or Mariama Bâ and Shenaz Patel. By reading a selection of various texts (poetry, short stories, novels), we will explore the relation between sexual identity and literary practices and between gender and genre. How do stories shape our understanding of gender roles? How do they reveal stereotypes about femininity, masculinity, sexuality and ethnicity? What is the role of women's writing in contemporary France in reimagining and reshaping sexual and racial identities? During the Fall, *The French Film Series* will be an extension of this course and will focus exclusively on women directors, giving the students the opportunity to engage in interdisciplinary analysis. Prerequisite: Senior French majors or permission. Not offered in 2021-22. (AES, GLO).

**FREN 345: NINETEENTH-CENTURY FRENCH LITERATURE (4)**

**Department**

Masterpieces of French theatre, prose, and poetry of the 19th century with emphasis on the social, political, and artistic backgrounds of the time. Prerequisite: 200-level course. Not offered in 2021-22. (AES, MOD)

**FREN 346: TWENTIETH-CENTURY FRENCH LITERATURE (4)**

**Department**

Masterpieces of French theatre, prose, and poetry of the 20th century with emphasis on the social, political, and artistic backgrounds of the time. Prerequisite: 200-level course or permission. Not offered in 2021-22.

**FREN 350: SPECIAL TOPICS: FRANCO-ASIAN CULTURAL ENCOUNTERS (4)**

**Sampon-Nicolas**

This course studies the cultural contacts between French and Asian writers, film makers, and artists who have chosen to write in French or to make films in France. Following an overview of French presence in Asia, we will examine the socio-historical context of Franco-Asian contact through literary, artistic, and cinematographic cultural productions. Among the works studied will be novels, poetry, paintings of François Cheng, Fabienne Verdier, Anna Moï, Kim Lefèvre, Amélie Nothomb, Dai Sijie, and Tran Anh Hung. This course takes an interdisciplinary approach which encourages students to delve into areas of research which include politics, literature, history, and the arts. Prerequisite: 200-level course or permission. You must be able to read French novels in their entirety in French and be able to lead and participate in discussions. This course, conducted entirely in French, counts for the French major and/or the International Studies major. This class meets concurrently with French 470. Offered Term 2. (AES, GLO)

**FREN 374: ADVANCED CONVERSATION AND COMPOSITION (4)**

**Sampon-Nicolas**

Intensive practice in speaking and writing French. The theme this spring will be Reading and Writing the City in French. In *Species of Spaces*, Georges Perec states "We can never explain or justify the city. The city is there." The word city is personal to each individual and evokes: sounds, scents, crowds, chaos, beauty, art, architecture, trees, fountains, and parks. To some a city is a nightmare to others, a dream. The city is coexistence, meeting, interacting, greeting. In this course, students will read a variety of texts and use different writing techniques to study the

movements, images, voices, neighborhoods, streets, buildings, doors, windows, and communities that form a city. What makes cities livable, healthy, and sustainable? How do people live in community in urban areas? How are cities being transformed into new sustainable habitats for the present and for the future? Through literature, film, non-fiction, and personal experience, students will write and talk about the cities they know as well as study cities across the French-speaking world. Prerequisite: 200-level French course or permission. Offered Term 1. (o)

**FREN 375: FRENCH FILM (4)****Jégouso**

An examination of French cinema in relation to literary, philosophical, social, psychological, and cultural issues. Prerequisite: 200-level course or permission. Not offered in 2021-22.

**FREN 376: ADVANCED FRENCH GRAMMAR (4)****Department**

Comprehensive review of French grammar with emphasis on recurrent grammar problems in second-language learning. Intensive practice in language analysis and written French. Prerequisite: 200-level course or permission. Not offered in 2021-22.

**FREN 388: TEACHING FOREIGN LANGUAGES (4)****Salès**

An examination of language classroom techniques and methodologies of the national standards for foreign language meaning, and of assessment techniques for foreign language skills. Students study pedagogical models (Total Physical Response, the Monitor Model, Rational Direct Method, Communicative Competence, the Proficiency Movement, etc.), and develop individualized approaches for the elementary and secondary level. Students demonstrate practical applications of pedagogical models, review articles on techniques and ideas, receive hands-on training in video, audio, CD-ROM, and Internet resources, and complete a final project on a methodological topic. Taught in English, with examples in other languages. Also listed as GRMN 388 and SPAN 388. Prerequisite: junior or senior standing. Offered Term 1.

**FREN 390: INDEPENDENT STUDY (2 or 4)****Jégouso**

Independent study conducted at the advanced level. Application must be made with faculty prior to registration. Offered any term.

**FREN 399: INTERNSHIP (4)****Jégouso**

Application must be made with faculty prior to registration. May be proposed in any term.

**FREN 470: SENIOR SEMINAR (4)****Sampon-Nicolas**

A capstone experience and culminating academic achievement for French majors and minors. The topic changes each year. This year's topic is Franco-Asian Cultural Encounters. This course studies the cultural contacts between French and Asian writers, film makers, and artists who have chosen to write in French or to make films in France. Following an overview of French presence in Asia, we will examine the socio-historical context of Franco-Asian contact through literary, artistic, and cinematographic cultural productions. Among the works studied will be novels, poetry, paintings of François Cheng, Fabienne Verdier, Anna Moï, Kim Lefèvre, Amélie Nothomb, Dai Sijie, and Tran Anh Hung. This course takes an interdisciplinary approach which encourages students to delve into areas of research which include politics, literature, history, and the arts. Students are introduced to investigative techniques and research tools necessary for the completion of a major paper in French or Francophone cultures or literatures. Successful completion of this course counts as one means of demonstrating the skills that senior majors must exhibit before leaving Hollins. Prerequisite: senior standing or permission. This class meets concurrently with French 350. Offered Term 2. (AES, GLO)

**FREN 480: SENIOR THESIS (4)****Jégouso**

A research paper based upon an inquiry into a specific area of French language, literature, or civilization. Prerequisite: Senior standing and permission of instructor. Application must be made with faculty prior to registration. Invitation by the department is necessary for senior thesis. Offered both terms upon consultation with department. May count for major credit.

**FREN 490: SENIOR HONORS THESIS (4, 4)****Jégouso**

Offered to qualified French majors. Research begins during First Term, continues during Short Term, and is completed during Second Term. Prerequisite: senior standing and permission. Invitation by the department is necessary for senior thesis. Offered upon consultation with department. Application must be made with faculty prior to registration. May count for major credit.