

French

MAJOR, MINOR
ASSISTANT PROFESSOR: Jeanne Jégouso

VISITING ASSISTANT PROFESSOR: Matthew Trumbo-Tual

LANGUAGE ASSISTANT: Marie Lebec

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 program 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 their 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:

8 courses (32 credits) above the 100 level

- FREN 271: French & Francophone Culture and Civilization (4)
- FREN 211: Rendez-vous with the Classics Part 1 **or** FREN 212 Rendez-vous with the Classics Part 2 (4)
- Two electives at the 200 or 300 level (8)
- 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)
- FREN 111+112 or FREN 121 may count towards the major (4 credits maximum)

*Students who use 4 credits of intermediate French towards the major, will only need to complete one elective at the 200 or 300 level.

Senior majors must demonstrate that they can 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 program strongly encourages all French majors to spend at least one semester, and preferably one year, in France or a French-speaking country.

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 wish to take French classes 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
- FREN 111+112 or FREN 121 may count towards the minor (4 credits maximum)

*Students who use 4 credits of intermediate French towards the minor, will only need to complete three courses in this category.

FRANCOPHONE HOUSE

The Francophone House is a living-learning option open to students while studying at Hollins. A welcoming and inclusive space, La Maison is open to those who love the French language, French-speaking cultures, and/or are preparing for study abroad, as well as a space for native speakers to be surrounded by a familiar language. Each year, a graduate student from a French-speaking country joins the Hollins community through the Fulbright program and lives in the Francophone House. Residents hold house meetings and participate in house events to learn and appreciate Francophone cultures and share that with the greater Hollins community. In the House, residents converse in French as much as possible and to the best of their abilities. Each resident enrolls in one French class and plans one social each semester. They should also attend at least two resident-led socials and attend monthly house meetings. Students can earn one credit in French per semester (max two) for living in the House. If you have questions about *notre maison* please do not hesitate to reach out to the House President or Professor Jégouso.

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 historical, political, cultural, artistic, and philosophical events and trends.

FREN 101, 102: ELEMENTARY FRENCH (4, 4)**Trumbo-Tual**

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: listening, speaking, reading, and writing will be covered using online and audio-visual multi-media resources, and in weekly conversation groups with a French assistant. Prerequisite: No more than three units of high school French, or departmental placement test. FREN 101-102 fulfills the ESP language requirement (LAN) for those students who have not previously studied French and the Core WL requirement. 101 offered Term 1; 102 offered Term 2. (LAN or WL)

FREN 110: ACCELERATED ELEMENTARY FRENCH (4)**Trumbo-Tual**

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 2024-25. (partially fulfills LAN or WL)

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

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: listening, speaking, reading, and writing will be practiced using online and audio-visual multi-media resources, and in weekly conversation groups with a French assistant. Prerequisite: FREN 102 or FREN 110, or departmental placement test. FREN 111-112 fulfills the ESP language requirement (LAN) for students who studied French in high school and the Core WL requirement. 111 offered Term 1; 112 offered Term 2. (LAN or WL)

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

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 ESP language requirement (LAN) for students who studied French in high school and the Core WL requirement. Prerequisite: departmental placement test. 121 offered Terms 1 and 2. (LAN or WL)

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 or FREN 121, or departmental placement in a 200-level course. Open to first-year students. Not offered in 2024-25.

FREN 211: RENDEZ-VOUS WITH THE CLASSICS PART 1 (4)**Trumbo-Tual**

“Rendez-vous with the Classics I” is a course of literary, cultural, and historical studies ranging from the Middle Ages to the French Revolution. This course is designed to develop cultural competence in French and includes strong historical and literary components. It will also emphasize proficiency in the four basic communicative skills of speaking, listening, reading, and writing French. Prerequisite: FREN 112 or FREN 121, or departmental placement in a 200-level course. Prerequisite: FREN 121 or departmental placement in a 200-level course. Not offered in 2024-25.

FREN 212: RENDEZ-VOUS WITH THE CLASSICS PART 2 (4)**Jégouso**

"Rendez-vous with the Classics 2" is a course of literary, cultural, and historical studies ranging from the French Revolution to the present. This course is designed to develop cultural competence in French and includes strong historical and literary components. It will also emphasize proficiency in the four basic communicative skills of speaking, listening, reading, and writing French. Open to first-year students. Prerequisite: FREN 112 or FREN 121, or departmental placement in a 200-level course. Not offered in 2024-2025. (WL)

FREN 231, 232: CONVERSATIONAL FRENCH (1, 1)**Trumbo-Tual**

One credit per term is awarded to students who live in the Francophone House. To receive credit with a grade of P (pass), students are required to participate in regular events with residents of the House. A maximum of two credits are allowed during a student's tenure at Hollins. Prerequisite: student must live in the Francophone House and be enrolled in an intermediate French course (or higher) 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. Prerequisite: FREN 112 or FREN 121, or departmental placement in a 200-level course. Open to first-year students. Not offered in 2024-25. (o, AES, MOD, WL)

FREN 261: TOPICS IN FRENCH I (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. May be repeated for credit with a different topic. Open to first-year students. Not offered in 2024-25.

FREN 262: TOPICS IN FRENCH II (4): UNDERSTANDING THE FRENCH CARIBBEAN: THOUGHTS & LITERATURES**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, the course explores the unique cultural identity of the French Caribbean through an analysis of its literature and historical context. Students will examine the historical roots of colonization, slavery, and resistance in the French Caribbean, as well as the ongoing impact of these legacies on contemporary society. Through a close reading of key texts from authors such as Aimé Césaire, Maryse Condé, Edouard Glissant, and Patrick Chamoiseau, students will gain a deep understanding of the complexities of Caribbean identity, diaspora, and post-colonialism. By engaging with a range of literary and theoretical perspectives, students will develop critical thinking skills and learn to critically analyze the intersection of history, culture, and literature in the French Caribbean. This is a stacked course with FREN 262. Prerequisite: FREN 112 or 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 1. (o, DIV, AES)

FREN 271: FRENCH & FRANCOPHONE CULTURE AND CIVILIZATION (4)**Jégouso**

An introduction to the history, geography, literature, art, political, economic, and social aspects of France and the Francophone world. Open to first-year students. Prerequisite: FREN 112 or FREN 121, or departmental placement in a 200-level course. Open to first-year students. Not offered in 2024-25. (GLO, MOD, WL)

FREN 275: SOCIAL JUSTICE AND THE FORGOTTEN FRANCOPHONIES (4)**Jégouso**

This course explores the socio-historical legacies of French colonialism in Asia, Oceania, and the Pacific, focusing on regions often overlooked in Francophone studies, such as Indochina (Vietnam, Cambodia, Laos), the French Establishments in India (Pondicherry), French Polynesia, New Caledonia, and Wallis and Futuna. Through the lens of social justice, we will examine the complex histories of colonization, decolonization, and the ongoing struggles for recognition and equity in these regions. By integrating a wide range of materials-including films, short stories, poetry, songs, and novels, students will engage critically with the narratives of resistance, resilience, and cultural survival in these "forgotten" Francophone communities. We will explore topics such as the impacts of colonial rule on indigenous populations, environmental degradation, economic exploitation, and cultural erasure, alongside contemporary movements for independence, social equality, and cultural revival. Prerequisite: placed into a 200-level FREN course or has successfully taken FREN 112 or 121. Open to first-year students. Offered Term 2. (DJP)

FREN 290: INDEPENDENT STUDY (2 or 4)**Jégouso, Trumbo-Tual**

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

FREN 303: SPECIAL TOPIC: THE FRENCH NOVELLA**Trumbo-Tual**

We will study the emergence of the French novella over more than 500 years as a distinct genre with its own national characteristics, exploring the interaction of individual and social dramas while blending realism and fantasy. Texts will vary, but include work by authors such as Marguerite de Navarre, Honore de Balzac, Gustave Flaubert, Colette, Albert Camus, and Marie Ndiaye. Prerequisite: 200-level FREN course or permission. Offered Term 2. (SMN)

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, and from Suzanne Césaire or Mariama Bâ to Shenaz Patel. By reading a selection of 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 authors in reimagining and reshaping sexual and racial identities? Prerequisite: Senior French majors or permission. Not offered in 2024-25. (AES, GLO)

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

Intensive practice in speaking and writing French. The topic changes from year to year. Prerequisite: 200-level French course or permission. Not offered in 2024-25. (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 2024-25.

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

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 2024-25.

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

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 and described as GRMN 388 and SPAN 388. Prerequisite: junior or senior standing. Not offered in 2024-25.

FREN 390: INDEPENDENT STUDY (2 or 4)**Jégouso, Trumbo-Tual**

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)**Trumbo-Tual**

A capstone experience and culminating academic achievement for French majors and minors. The topic changes each year. 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, SMN)

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)

Jégousso

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.