FRENCH (FREN)

FREN 110 Elementary French I
French 110 is the first semester of the elementary-level sequence designed to develop functional proficiency in the four skills and gain familiarity with French and Francophone culture. The primary emphasis is on the development of the oral-aural skills, speaking and listening. Readings on topics in French culture as well as frequent writing practice are also included in the course. As in other French courses, class will be conducted entirely in French. You will be guided through a variety of communicative activities in class which will expose you to a rich input of spoken French and lead you from structured practice to free expression. You will be given frequent opportunity to practice your newly acquired vocabulary and grammatical structures in small group and pair work which simulate real-life situations. The course will introduce you to French and Francophone culture through authentic materials including written documents, simple articles, songs, films, videos, and taped conversations between native speakers. Out-of-class homework will require practice with the online component of the textbook (MyFrenchLab) as well as regular writing practice. The course will also invite you to explore the Francophone world on the Internet.
For BA Students: Language Course
One-term course offered either term
Activity: Seminar
1 Course Unit

FREN 112 Accelerated Elementary French
French 112 is an intensive elementary language course for students who have not studied French, but who have met the language requirement in another foreign language. This course will provide an introduction to the basic structures of French, with intensive work on speaking and listening designed to prepare students to take Intermediate French. Due to the nature of the course, the first half will progress rapidly with the more difficult material presented after the midterm period. As in other French courses, class will be conducted entirely in French. You will be guided through a variety of communicative activities in class which will expose you to a rich input of spoken French and lead you from structured practice to free expression. You will have frequent opportunities to practice your newly acquired vocabulary and grammatical structures in small group and pair work that simulate real-life situations, so please prepare each day’s lesson attentively. See "Preparation for each class" below for additional details. The course will introduce you to French and Francophone culture through authentic materials including written documents, simple articles, songs, films, videos, and conversations between native speakers. Homework will consist of aural comprehension exercises in the online SAM as well as regular writing practice. The course will also invite you to explore the Francophone world by completing an engaging, interactive project in the final stage of the semester.
For BA Students: Language Course
Course usually offered in fall term
Activity: Seminar
2 Course Units

FREN 120 Elementary French II
French 120 is the second semester continuation of the elementary-level sequence designed to develop functional proficiency in the four skills and gain familiarity with French and Francophone culture. The primary emphasis is on the development of the oral-aural skills, speaking and listening. Readings on topics in French culture as well as frequent writing practice are also included in the course. As in other French courses, class will be conducted entirely in French. You will be guided through a variety of communicative activities in class which will expose you to rich input of spoken French and lead you from structured practice to free expression. You will be given frequent opportunity to practice your newly acquired vocabulary and grammatical structures in small group and pair work which simulate real-life situations. The course will introduce you to French and Francophone culture through authentic materials including written documents, simple articles, songs, films, videos, and taped conversations between native speakers. Out-of-class homework will require practice with the online component of the textbook (MyFrenchLab) as well as regular writing practice. The course will also invite you to explore the Francophone world on the Internet.
For BA Students: Language Course
One-term course offered either term
Prerequisite: FREN 110
Activity: Seminar
1 Course Unit

FREN 121 Accelerated Elementary French for "False Beginners"
French 121 is an intensive one-semester language course for students who have had some French before but who can benefit from a complete review of elementary French. This course will provide a re-introduction of the basic structures of French, with intensive work on speaking and listening designed to prepare students to take Intermediate French. Due to the nature of the course, the first half of the semester will progress rapidly, with much more difficult material being presented after the midterm period. As in other French courses, class will be conducted entirely in French. You will be guided through a variety of communicative activities in class that will expose you to a rich input of spoken French and lead you from structured practice to free expression. You will be given frequent opportunity to practice your newly acquired vocabulary and grammatical structures in small group and pair work activities that simulate real-life situations, so please prepare each day’s lesson attentively. See "Preparation for each class" below for additional details. The course will introduce you to French and Francophone culture through authentic materials including written documents, simple articles, songs, films, videos, and conversations between native speakers. Out-of-class homework will consist of aural comprehension exercises in the online SAM as well as regular writing practice. The course will also invite you to explore the Francophone world by completing an engaging, interactive project in the final stage of the semester.
For BA Students: Language Course
Course usually offered in fall term
Activity: Seminar
1 Course Unit
FREN 130 Intermediate French I
French 130 is the first half of a two-semester intermediate sequence designed to help you attain a level of proficiency that should allow you to function comfortably in a French-speaking environment. You are expected to have already learned the most basic grammatical structures in elementary French and you will review these on your own in the course workbook. This course will build on your existing skills in French, increase your confidence and ability to read, write, speak and understand French, and introduce you to more refined lexical items, more complex grammatical structures, and more challenging cultural material. As in other French courses at Penn, class will be conducted entirely in French. In addition to structured oral practice, work in class will include frequent communicative activities such as role-plays, problem-solving tasks, discussions, and debates, often carried out in pairs or small groups. Through the study of authentic materials such as articles, poems, songs, films, videos, you will deepen your knowledge of the French-speaking world. Daily homework will require listening practice with audio and video material, in addition to regular written exercises in the workbook and frequent composition practice.
For BA Students: Language Course
One-term course offered either term
Prerequisites: Completion of FREN 120 or 121, or placement into third-semester French.
Activity: Seminar
1 Course Unit

FREN 134 Accelerated Intermediate French
An intensive two-credit course covering the first and second semester of the intermediate year. See descriptions of French 130 and 140. Students must have a departmental permit to register. Also offered in the summer Penn-in-Tours program in France.
For BA Students: Last Language Course
Course usually offered in spring term
Activity: Seminar
2 Course Units

FREN 140 Intermediate French II
French 140 is the second half of a two-semester intermediate sequence designed to help you attain a level of proficiency that should allow you to function comfortably in a French-speaking environment. You are expected to have already learned the most basic grammatical structures in elementary French and you will review these on your own in the course workbook. This course will build on your existing skills in French, increase your confidence and ability to read, write, speak and understand French, and introduce you to more refined lexical items, more complex grammatical structures, and more challenging cultural material. This course focuses on the culture of French-speaking countries beyond the borders of France. Along with your classmates, you will explore the cities of Dakar, Fort-de-France and Marrakesh, investigating the diversity of the Francophone world through film, literature and music. As in other French courses at Penn, class is conducted entirely in French. In addition to structured oral practice, work in class will include frequent communicative activities such as problem-solving tasks, discussions, and debates, often carried out in pairs or small groups. Daily homework will require researching in the library and on the Internet, listening practice with video clips, in addition to regular written exercises in the workbook.
For BA Students: Last Language Course
One-term course offered either term
Prerequisites: Completion of French 130 or placement into fourth-semester French.
Activity: Seminar
1 Course Unit

FREN 180 Advanced French in Residence
Open only to residents in La Maison Francaise. Participants earn 1/2 c.u. per semester.
Two terms. student may enter either term.
Corequisite: Residence in Modern Language House
Activity: Seminar
0.5 Course Units

FREN 202 Advanced French
FREN 202 is a third-year level course aimed at better understanding contemporary French society, language and culture, with a special focus on today's young generation. What defines a generation in the first place, and how do the lives of young people in France compare to those of their American counterparts? To answer these questions, students in 202 will delve into numerous aspects of French youth experience from the school system to family life, and from the workplace to the political arena, with the aid of resources including contemporary films, news articles, songs, literary texts, and the recent sociological project "Generation Quoi." In addition, they will forge connections with the French community on Penn's campus, as they embark on a journey of cultural exploration and reflexive self-discovery. While 202 is not a grammar-focused course, particular attention will be given to recognizing and employing the different registers of spoken and written French. The course constitutes excellent preparation for study abroad in a French-speaking region.
For BA Students: Advanced Language Course
One-term course offered either term
Prerequisites: Open to students who have completed the language requirement. Students who are continuing from French 134 or 140 should take French 202 before moving on to more advanced French courses.
Activity: Seminar
1 Course Unit

FREN 211 French for Business I
This content-based language course, taught in French, introduces economic, business and professional terminology through the study of the following topics: financial institutions (banking, stock market and insurance); business practices (business letters and resumes); trade and advertising; the internal structure and legal forms of French companies. The course also emphasizes verbal communication through three components: 1) In-class activities such as problem-solving tasks, discussions and debates. 2) The study of authentic materials such as newspapers and magazines' articles, video clips, and radio shows. 3) A series of students' presentations. Finally, in order to use and practice the new economic and business terminology studied in this course, and to also further explore the structure, the management, and the operations of the French companies, students will work in pairs on a research project about a major French company of their choice.
One-term course offered either term
Prerequisites: Advanced level of French (FREN 202 highly recommended). No business background necessary.
Activity: Seminar
1 Course Unit
FREN 212 Advanced French Grammar and Composition
Intensive review of grammar integrated into writing practice. A good knowledge of basic French grammar is a prerequisite (French 202 or equivalent is recommended). Conducted entirely in French, the course will study selected grammatical difficulties of the French verbal and nominal systems including colloquial usage. Frequent oral and written assignments with opportunity for rewrites. Articles from French newspapers and magazines, literary excerpts, and a novel or short stories will be used as supplementary materials in order to prepare students to take content courses in French in disciplines other than French.
For BA Students: Advanced Language Course
One-term course offered either term
Prerequisites: Advanced level of French (French 202 or equivalent highly recommended).
Activity: Seminar
1 Course Unit

FREN 214 Advanced French Composition and Conversation
Entitled "Contemporary French Society through its Media," this course is intended to improve communicative skills through extensive practice in a variety of styles and forms. It aims to enhance student understanding of contemporary French culture, thought and modes of expression by promoting both cross-cultural understanding and critical thinking and developing students' communicative abilities (in the presentational, interpretive, and interpersonal modes). The specific language functions we will focus on are: narration; description; offering and soliciting advice and opinions; expressing feelings; critique and analysis; argumentation. It is organized around the themes of current events, identity and art. Activities include the study, analysis and emulation of model texts as well as discussion and debates about events and social issues as covered by the French news media (television, print, Internet sources). The oral work include video blogs and group presentations on selected topics and current events. Written practice will comprise reflective journals, essays and collaborative work on Web projects. On completing this course, students will feel more confident and be able to speak and write effectively on a range of contemporary issues. Recommended for students who are planning to study abroad in France.
For BA Students: Advanced Language Course
One-term course offered either term
Prerequisites: Advanced level of French (French 202 or equivalent highly recommended).
Activity: Seminar
1 Course Unit

FREN 217 French Phonetics
This course is designed to provide students with a solid foundation in French phonetics and phonology. Part of the course will be devoted to learning how to produce discourse with native-like pronunciation and intonation. The course will also focus on improving aural comprehension by examining stylistic and regional differences in spoken French.
For BA Students: Advanced Language Course
One-term course offered either term
Prerequisites: Advanced level of French (French 202 or equivalent highly recommended).
Activity: Seminar
1 Course Unit

FREN 225 History, Memory, Culture
This course explores the history of the dark years of the French collaboration with Nazi Germany during WWII. In the first part, it examines the rise of the myths of an "eternal France" and the "true French" promoted by Marechal Petain's National Revolution, as well as the myth of the resistance fighters that arose after the Liberation. The Holocaust adn the holes left in national memory will hold a pivotal place in our reading of the national narrative. The second part of the course is dedicated to the study of literary works written by post-memory writers or survivors of the Holocaust who tried to fill in the blanks and confronted the linguistic challenge posed by Auschwitz. Paris will play a connecting role, as both witness to history and as tangible trace of the forgotten. This study of French history, its silences and (non-) memory will shed light on the legacy of the Occupation for contemporary France. Assessment consists of a semester-long creative writing project and a final oral exam. Reading assignments include works by Pierre Assouline, Marcel Cohen, Georges Didi-Huberman, David Foenkinos, Sarah Kofman, Marceline Loridan-Ivens, Patrick Modiano, Georges Perec.
Course not offered every year
Prerequisites: Two 200-level French courses taken at Penn or equivalent.
Activity: Seminar
1 Course Unit

FREN 226 French History and Culture until 1789
This civilization course presents the fabric/fabrication of the so-called national memory through its places of memory (lieux de memoire), as well as its places of non-memory (lieux de non-memoire), going from the Gauls to the Enlightenment. As the course tells the story of the rise and fall of the French monarchy, one is encouraged to envision it as a palimpsest and to become aware of the roles played by myths and legends. It helps see how French history has been manipulated by the collective memory, how retrospection often redefines, fabricates events and people depending on the needs of the moment. This course is taught in French.
For BA Students: History and Tradition Sector
Course usually offered in fall term
Prerequisites: Two 200-level French courses taken at Penn or equivalent.
Activity: Seminar
1 Course Unit

FREN 227 French History and Culture 1789-1945
This civilization course presents the creation of modern France from 1789 to 1945 through the omnipresence of the myth of Perseus and Medusa in the historical narrative. The objective of the course is to introduce students to a period in France's history that begins with the French Revolution and ends with Marechal Petain's National Revolution. It also helps them discover the intricacies of the slow construction of modern France. In this course, students are led to reflect on the contemporary French culture and society that are the result and the remnants of the Revolution, and to make connections with the American history. This course is taught in French.
For BA Students: Humanities and Social Science Sector
Course usually offered in spring term
Prerequisites: Two 200-level French courses taken at Penn or equivalent.
Activity: Seminar
1 Course Unit
FREN 228 Contemporary France
In this course we will be exploring the transformations of French society since the Second World War and into the Millennium. From the legacy of decolonization to the multicultural fervor of the 1998 Soccer World Cup, from the May 1968 civil protests to the Republican marches of 2015, we’ll be delving into the major historical and cultural movements that have marked the contemporary period. How did France recover from German occupation and cope with further wars in its colonial territories? How did unprecedented rates of urbanization and immigration change the face of the country over the ensuing decades? Who have been the major players on the historical stage? And what are the political, cultural, and socioeconomic challenges facing France at the outset of the 21st century? These are some of the questions that will guide our investigation into the past 70 years of French history, a period as turbulent as it is rich in cultural production, and as complex as it is fascinating. Throughout the semester we will be especially attentive to images, in every sense of the word: the images of national identity that France projects to the world and to itself, but also pictorial representations of the country, its people and its territory. These images, and the stories they tell, will help us envision the kaleidoscopic portrait of a nation. The course will be conducted entirely in French.
Course usually offered in fall term
Prerequisites: Two 200-level French courses taken at Penn or equivalent.
Activity: Seminar
1 Course Unit

FREN 229 French in the World
Where and how is French spoken in the world? Which variety (or varieties) of French represents “good” or standard language use? What does it mean to have an accent or to experience linguistic insecurity? To what extent have political forces and movements historically affected the evolution of French? How do language attitudes differ among French- and English-speaking regions of the world and what is the status of French in an era of globalization? In what ways does language shape our identities? Le Francais dans le monde/French in the World examines these questions by providing a survey of the sociolinguistics of the French language in the contemporary world. We will explore how societal changes influence the manner and contexts in which the French language is spoken. Case studies focus on various parts of the Francophone world, including Europe (Belgium, Switzerland), New World (Quebec, Caribbean, Louisiana), Africa (North Africa, Sub-Saharan Africa), etc. Readings and class discussions are in French.
Course usually offered in spring term
Prerequisites: Two 200-level French courses taken at Penn or equivalent.
Activity: Seminar
1 Course Unit

FREN 230 Masterpieces of French Cinema
This course will introduce students to key films of the French film canon, selected over a period ranging from the origins of French cinema to the present. Students will also be introduced to the key critical concepts (such as the notion of the “auteur” film genre) informing the discussion of films in France. The films will be studied in both a historical and theoretical context, related to their period styles (e.g. “le realisme poétique,” “la Nouvelle Vague,” etc.), their “auteurs,” the nature of the French star system, the role of the other arts, as well to the critical debates they have sparked among critics and historians. Students will acquire the analytical tools in French to discuss films as artistic and as cultural texts. Please note: This course follows a Lecture/Recitation format. The Lecture (FREN 230-401/CIMS 245-401) is taught in English. For French credit: please register for both FREN 230-401 (lecture) and FREN 230-402 (recitation); the FREN 230-402 recitation is conducted in French. For Cinema Studies credit: please register for CIMS 245-401 (lecture) and CIMS 245-403 (recitation); both are taught in English.
Course usually offered in fall term
Prerequisites: Two 200-level French courses taken at Penn or equivalent.
Activity: Lecture
1 Course Unit

FREN 231 Perspectives in French Literature: Love and Passion
This basic course in literature provides an overview of French literature and acquaints students with major literary trends through the study of representative works from each period. Students are expected to take an active part in class discussion in French. French 231 has as its theme the presentation of love and passion in French literature. This course was previously offered as French 221.
For BA Students: Arts and Letters Sector
Course usually offered in fall term
Prerequisites: Two 200-level French courses taken at Penn or equivalent.
Activity: Seminar
1 Course Unit

FREN 232 Perspectives in French Literature: The Individual and Society
This basic course in literature provides an overview of French literature and acquaints students with major literary trends through the study of representative works from each period. Special emphasis is placed on close reading of texts in order to familiarize students with major authors and their characteristics and with methods of interpretation. Students are expected to take an active part in class discussion in French. French 232 has as its theme the Individual and Society.
For BA Students: Arts and Letters Sector
Course usually offered in spring term
Prerequisites: Two 200-level French courses taken at Penn or equivalent.
Activity: Seminar
1 Course Unit
FREN 233 Francophone Literature and Film
French 233 is designed to give students a basic historical and theoretical groundwork in Francophone and postcolonial studies, and to help them develop their skills in literary and filmic analysis. It will provide an introductory survey of the richly diverse literature and film of the French-speaking world, from the 1950s through to the 21st century. Beginning with the gradual breakup of the French colonial empire, we will investigate the construction of individual and collective Francophone identities in such regions as the Caribbean, Africa, and the Maghreb, while exploring an equally wide range of literary and cinematic genres. Other histories and regions such as Quebec and Lebanon will also be discussed. Throughout the course we will remain especially attentive to questions of space—public and private spheres, urban and rural topographies, borders and migrations, as well as the complex dynamics between the Francophone regions and France itself—and to the ways in which these tensions are mapped onto the textual and visual surfaces of the works studied.

For BA Students: Arts and Letters Sector
Course usually offered in spring term
Prerequisites: Two 200-level French courses taken at Penn or equivalent.
Activity: Seminar
1 Course Unit

FREN 250 French Literature in Translation
The content of the course will vary from semester to semester. All works read in English. Please check the department’s website for a description. https://www.sas.upenn.edu/french/pc
Course not offered every year
Prerequisites: Two 200-level French courses taken at Penn or equivalent.
Activity: Seminar
1 Course Unit

FREN 258 Modernisms & Modernities: All of Beckett
Course not offered every year
Activity: Lecture
1 Course Unit

FREN 259 Modernism and the Theory of Fashion
Course not offered every year
Activity: Seminar
1 Course Unit

FREN 300 The Making of Modern Paris
Paris, Ville-Lumiere, has long been renowned for its urbanity, architecture, and city design. This course will trace the people, ideas, and projects that contributed to this reputation, through an exploration of the city’s built environment as expressed in literature and urban planning projects of the 19th and 20th centuries. The class will analyze literary readings, including texts by Hugo, Baudelaire, Zola, and Breton, in conjunction with historical and visual materials covering works from Viollet-le-Duc to Napoleon III and Haussmann to Mitterand and Sarkozy. This seminar has four goals:
One-term course offered either term
Activity: Seminar
1 Course Unit

FREN 301 French Identity in the Twentieth Century
Topics vary. Please see the department’s website for a description of the current offerings: https://www.sas.upenn.edu/french/pc
One-term course offered either term
Activity: Seminar
1 Course Unit

FREN 308 Topics in French Culture
Please see the department’s website for the course description: https://www.sas.upenn.edu/french/pc
Course not offered every year
Activity: Seminar
1 Course Unit

FREN 310 Literary History
Please see the department’s website for the course description: https://www.sas.upenn.edu/french/pc
Course not offered every year
Activity: Seminar
1 Course Unit

FREN 311 French Thought After 1968
In American academia, French thought after May '68 is often referred to as "French Theory," a heterogeneous corpus of philosophical and critical texts compacted into a set of poststructuralist premises, first introduced by and grew within humanities departments, then identified as a luxury by-product of the "literary" people. This course proposes to unpack the notion of "French Theory" and re-anchor it into its original social/historical background. We will read some of the most influential texts of its key figures, study how a post May 68 revolutionary energy is transformed into various innovative but also destabilizing ways of rethinking power relations, gender, language and subjectivity, and finally, consider in what capacities and limits these diverse critical approaches go beyond the simple label of "post-structuralism" and relate to our own epoch and personal experiences. The readings and discussions will be divided into four axes: 1. Philosophy of Desire (Lacan, Deleuze/Guattari); 2. Sexual Revolt and Body Politics (Foucault, Hocquenghem, Barthes); 3. Deconstruction and Its Impact on Feminism (Derrida, Cixous, Irigaray); 4. Consumer Society and Society of the Spectacle (Lipovetsky, Baudrillard, Debord). Several documentaries and feature films will be shown outside class time. Taught in English. Reading knowledge of French is welcome but not required.
One-term course offered either term
Activity: Seminar
1 Course Unit

FREN 313 French for Business II
The course, conducted entirely in French, emphasizes verbal communication in business professional situations through three components. First, a series of student's presentations, in-class activities (using newspapers' articles, technical readings, radio shows and films), and debates on the following topics (list not exhaustive) related to France's economy and society. The role of the State in France's economy; the French fiscal system; Labor (impact of the 35-hour work week, "conges," women in the workplace, etc.); Regions of France (production); major French industries/companies/brands; France's major imports/exports; "Green business"; Business of pop culture. Second, as effective communication is based not only on linguistic proficiency but also on cultural proficiency, cultural differences mostly between Americans and French will be explored.
Course usually offered in spring term
Prerequisites: Advanced level of French. French for Business I (211) highly advisable.
Activity: Seminar
1 Course Unit
FREN 322 France and the European Union
This course aims to provide an understanding of the European Union as a complex entity: its history, institutions, challenges and future. After reviewing the history of European integration and learning about the Community’s institutions, common programs and market, we will consider a wide variety of themes important to Europe: economics, education, immigration, the environment, social issues, national and European identities, the debate over a Federal Europe vs. a Europe of nations, European social/cultural models vs. American liberalism, relations between the EU and the rest of the world. Considering the acute and ongoing challenges facing the European community, we will focus on current events and discuss issues that are critical to the EU in general and to France in particular. Students will be responsible for pursuing substantive research on these and other topics and participating actively in debates. This class will be conducted entirely in French and is designed to improve cross-cultural understanding and communicative skills in the presentational, interpretive and interpersonal modes. Course usually offered in spring term
Prerequisites: Two 200-level French courses taken at Penn or equivalent.
Activity: Seminar
1 Course Unit

FREN 325 Advanced French Translation
This course provides an introduction to the theory and practice of translation and is designed to help foster a critical understanding of differences between French and English syntactical and lexical patterns. It will introduce students to theoretical concepts and problems of translation, with the ultimate goal being to improve their ability to communicate in more authentic-sounding French. Students will have the opportunity to practice translation individually and to work with their peers on a variety of projects (advertising, journalistic and literary texts, movie and broadcast news subtitling) and to engage in critique and discussion of others' translations. This course will help students refine their language skills and navigate more proficiently between these cultures and language systems. (Designed for students who already have a solid foundation in French and English grammar)
For BA Students: Advanced Language Course
Course usually offered in spring term
Prerequisites: Two 200-level French courses taken at Penn or equivalent. French 212 or equivalent highly recommended.
Activity: Seminar
1 Course Unit

FREN 330 Medieval Literature
An introductory course to the literature of the French Middle Ages. French literature began in the 11th and 12th centuries. This course examines the extraordinary period during which the French literary tradition was first established by looking at a number of key generative themes: Identity, Heroism, Love, Gender. All readings and discussions in French.
Course not offered every year
Prerequisites: Two 200-level French courses taken at Penn or equivalent.
Activity: Seminar
1 Course Unit

FREN 341 Boys Will Be Boys: Masculinity in French Literature
Why was a portrait depicting the Renaissance king Francois I as half-man, half-woman made with royal approval, and moreover intended to represent the king as the perfect embodiment of the ideal qualities of a male sovereign? And why, in what is now regarded as the official portrait of Louis XIV, does the king prominently display his silk stockings and high heels with diamond-encrusted buckles? These are just two examples of the questions that lead us to the point of departure for this course: the idea that masculinity is not a fixed essence that has existed since time immemorial, but rather a flexible concept that changes across and even within historical periods. We will examine how masculinity has evolved from the Middle Ages and the chivalric ideal to the present day, how it has been defined, and its implications for gender relations, politics, and religion in different eras. In addition to literary works, we will study how masculinity is represented across a range of media, including visual arts, music, and film. Discussions will be in English, and assignments will be available in translation, but students who wish to receive credit in French will be able to do coursework in French.
One-term course offered either term
Prerequisites: Two 200-level French courses taken at Penn or equivalent.
Activity: Seminar
1 Course Unit

FREN 360 French Literature of the 18th Century
Topics vary. For current course description, please see the department’s webpage: https://www.sas.upenn.edu/french/pc
Course not offered every year
Prerequisites: Two 200-level French courses taken at Penn or equivalent.
Activity: Seminar
1 Course Unit

FREN 370 French Literature of the 19th Century
Topics vary. For current course description, please see the department’s webpage: https://www.sas.upenn.edu/french/pc
Course not offered every year
Prerequisites: Two 200-level French courses taken at Penn or equivalent.
Activity: Seminar
1 Course Unit

FREN 371 Poe’s French Legacies
Edgar Allan Poe was considered a vulgar hack by many of his fellow Americans, but in 19th-century France, he was touted as a misunderstood poetic genius, the original poete maudit. Through the translations of Charles Baudelaire, who found in Poe a kindred spirit in the “gout de l’infini,” French intellectuals came to know the American writer as a fount of aesthetic wisdom, diabolical sensibility, and mystic mastery. In this course, we will study Baudelaire’s poetry as well as the many literary and artistic movements in France that were directly inspired by Poe’s uncanny mix of the macabre and the methodical: Symbolist poetry (Valery, Mallarme), the Scientific Fantastic (Maupassant, Villiers de l’Isle-Adam), fin-de-siecle Decadence (Huysmans, Odilon Redon), Science Fiction (Verne), the detective novel (Gaboriau), and 20th-century Surrealism (Breton, Max Ernst).
Course not offered every year
Prerequisites: Two 200-level French courses taken at Penn or equivalent.
Activity: Seminar
1 Course Unit
FREN 380 Literature of the Twentieth Century
This course, the theme of which changes from semester to semester, provides an introduction to important trends in twentieth-century literature. Please check the department's website for the course description: https://www.sas.upenn.edu/french/pc
Course not offered every year
Prerequisites: Two 200-level French courses taken at Penn or equivalent.
Activity: Seminar
1 Course Unit

FREN 382 Horror Cinema
The purpose of this course is to provide an introduction to the history and main themes of the supernatural/horror film from a comparative perspective. Films considered will include: the German expressionists masterworks of the silent era, the Universal classics of the 30's and the low-budget horror films produced by Val Lewton in the 40's for RKO in the US, the 1950's color films of sex and violence by Hammer studios in England, Italian Gothic horror or giallo (Mario Brava) and French lyrical macabre (Georges Franju) in the 60's, and on to contemporary gore. In an effort to better understand how the horror film makes us confront our worst fears and our most secret desires alike, we will look at the genre's main iconic figures (Frankenstein, Dracula, Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde, etc.) as well as issues of ethics, gender, sexuality, violence, spectatorship through a variety of critical lenses (psychoanalysis, socio-historical and cultural context, aesthetics...).
Taught by: Professor Met
Course not offered every year
Prerequisites: Two 200-level French courses taken at Penn or equivalent.
Activity: Lecture
1 Course Unit
Notes: The course will be taught in English. French credit by arrangement with instructor.

FREN 384 The French Novel of the Twentieth Century
Topics vary. Please check the department's website for the course description: https://www.sas.upenn.edu/french/pc
Course not offered every year
Prerequisites: Two 200-level French courses taken at Penn or equivalent.
Activity: Seminar
1 Course Unit

FREN 385 Modern French Theater
A study of major movements and major dramatists from Giraudoux and Sartrre to the theater of the absurd and its aftermath.
Course not offered every year
Prerequisites: Two 200-level French courses taken at Penn or equivalent.
Activity: Seminar
1 Course Unit

FREN 386 Paris in Film
Latter-day examples like Christophe Honore's Dans Paris, Cedric Klapisch's Paris or the international omnibus Paris, je t'aime (with each director paying homage to a distinctive "arrondissement" of the capital), not to mention American blockbusters like The Da Vinci Code and Inception or Woody Allen's Midnight in Paris, are there to remind us that there is something special -- indeed, a special kind of magic -- about Paris in and on film. Despite the extreme polarization between Paris and provincial France in both cultural and socio-economic terms, cultural historians have argued that Paris is a symbol of France (as a centralized nation), more than Rome is of Italy and much more than Madrid is of Spain or Berlin of Germany, for example. The prevalence of the City of Lights on our screens, Gallic and otherwise, should therefore come as no surprise, be it as a mere backdrop or as a character in its own right. But how exactly are the French capital and its variegated people captured on celluloid? Can we find significant differences between French and non-French approaches, or between films shot on location that have the ring of "authenticity" and studio-bound productions using reconstructed sets?
Do these representations vary through time and perhaps reflect specific historical periods or zeitgeists? Do they conform to genre-based formulas and perpetuate age-old stereotypes, or do they provide new, original insights while revisiting cinematic conventions? Do some (sub)urban areas and/or segments of the Parisian population (in terms of gender, race, or class, for example) receive special attention or treatment? These are some of the many questions that we will seek to address...with a view to offering the next best thing to catching the next non-stop flight to Paris!
Taught by: Professor Philippe Met
Course usually offered in spring term
Prerequisites: Two 200-level French courses taken at Penn or equivalent.
Activity: Lecture
1 Course Unit

FREN 389 France and Its Others
A historical appreciation of the impact of the exploration, colonization, and immigration of other peoples on French national consciousness, from the 16th century to the present. Emphasis is on the role of the Other in fostering critiques of French culture and society. Readings include travel literature, anthropological treatises, novels, and historical documents. Oral presentations and several short papers are included in the course.
Course not offered every year
Prerequisites: Two 200-level French courses taken at Penn or equivalent.
Activity: Seminar
1 Course Unit

FREN 390 Francophone Postcolonial Cultures
A brief introduction about the stages of French colonialism and its continuing political and cultural consequences, and then reading in various major works -- novels, plays, poems -- in French by authors from Quebec, the Caribbean, Africa (including the Maghreb), etc. Of interest to majors in International Relations, Anthropology and African Studies, as well as majors in French. Taught in French.
Course not offered every year
Prerequisites: Two 200-level French courses taken at Penn or equivalent.
Activity: Seminar
1 Course Unit
FREN 391 Global France
Please check the department's website for the course description:
https://www.sas.upenn.edu/french/pc
Course not offered every year
Prerequisites: Two 200-level French courses taken at Penn or equivalent.
Activity: Seminar
1 Course Unit

FREN 398 Honors Thesis
One-term course offered either term
Activity: Independent Study
1 Course Unit

FREN 399 Independent Study
See instructor for permission.
One-term course offered either term
Activity: Independent Study
1 Course Unit

FREN 490 Black France: History/Representation
Please check the department’s website for the course description:
https://www.sas.upenn.edu/french/pc
One-term course offered either term
Activity: Seminar
1 Course Unit

FREN 500 Proseminar
This course will provide a forum for collective preparation for the Master’s exam.
Course not offered every year
Activity: Seminar
1 Course Unit

FREN 537 The Novel and Marriage
Please check the department’s website for the course description:
https://www.sas.upenn.edu/french/pc
Activity: Seminar
1 Course Unit

FREN 550 Etudes sur le XVII siecle
The specific topics of the seminar vary from semester to semester, depending on the instructor and his/her choice. Among the topics previously covered, and likely to be offered again, are the following: The Theatre of Jean Racine, Fiction of Mme de Lafayette, The Moralists (La Bruyere, La Rochefoucauld, Perrault ), Realistic Novels (Sorel’s Francion, Scarron’s Le Roman Comique, Furetiere’s Le Roman Bourgeois). Students give oral and written reports, and write a term paper.
Course not offered every year
Activity: Seminar
1 Course Unit

FREN 560 Studies in the 18th Century
Please check the department’s website for the course description:
https://www.sas.upenn.edu/french/pc
One-term course offered either term
Activity: Seminar
1 Course Unit

FREN 580 Studies in 20th-Century French Literature
Topics vary. For current course description, please see the department’s webpage:
https://www.sas.upenn.edu/french/pc
Course not offered every year
Activity: Seminar
1 Course Unit

FREN 582 Fantastic Literature 19th/20th Centuries
This course will explore fantasy and the fantastic in short tales of 19th- and 20th-century French literature. A variety of approaches — thematic, psychoanalytic, cultural, narratological — will be used in an attempt to test their viability and define the subversive force of a literary mode that contributes to shedding light on the dark side of the human psyche by interrogating the "real," making visible the unseen and articulating the unsaid. Such broad categories as distortions of space and time, reason and madness, order and disorder, sexual transgressions, self and other will be considered. Readings will include "recits fantastiques" by Merimee, Gautier, Nerval, Maupassant, Breton, Pieyre de Mandiargues, Jean Ray and others.
Course not offered every year
Activity: Seminar
1 Course Unit

FREN 590 Introduction to Francophone Studies
An introduction to major literary movements and authors from five areas of Francophonie: the Maghreb, West Africa, Central Africa, the Caribbean and Quebec.
Course not offered every year
Activity: Seminar
1 Course Unit

FREN 591 Francophone Postcolonial Studies
Please see the department’s website for current course description:
https://www.sas.upenn.edu/french/pc
Course not offered every year
Activity: Seminar
1 Course Unit

FREN 595 Travel Literature
Within the context of the ill-defined, heterogeneous genre of the travelogue and of today’s age of globalization, CNN and the Internet, this seminar will examine the poetics of travel writing based largely albeit not exclusively on travel notebooks, or journaux/carnets de voyage, spanning the 20th century from beginning to end. One of the principal specificities of the texts studied is that they all evince to a lesser or greater degree a paradoxical resistance both to the very idea of travel(ing) as such and to the mimetic rhetoric of traditional travel narratives. We will therefore look at how modern or postmodern texts question, revisit, subvert or reject such key notions of travel literature as exoticism, nostalgia, exile, nomadism, otherness or foreignness vs. selfhood, ethnology and autobiography, etc. Authors considered will include Segalen, Morand, Michaux, Leiris, Levi-Strauss, Butor, Le Clezio, Baudrillard, Bouvier, Jouanard, Leuwers.
Course not offered every year
Activity: Seminar
1 Course Unit

FREN 601 Language Teaching and Learning
Please check the department’s website for the course description.
https://www.sas.upenn.edu/french/pc
Course not offered every year
Activity: Seminar
1 Course Unit

FREN 602 Theory and Criticism
Please see the department’s website for current course description:
https://www.sas.upenn.edu/french/pc
Course not offered every year
Activity: Seminar
1 Course Unit
FREN 603 Poétique Du Recit
Please see the department's website for current course description: https://www.sas.upenn.edu/french/pc
Course not offered every year
Activity: Seminar
1 Course Unit

FREN 606 Postcolonial Theory
Please see the department's website for current course description: https://www.sas.upenn.edu/french/pc
Course not offered every year
Activity: Seminar
1 Course Unit

FREN 609 Global France
The purpose of this course is to examine the various modalities of interaction between anthropology and literature in modern French culture. Our guiding thesis is that the turn toward other cultures has functioned as a revitalizing element in the production of cultural artifacts while providing an alternative vantage point from which to examine the development of French culture and society in the contemporary period. The extraordinary innovations of "ethnosurrealism" in the twenties and thirties by such key figures of the avant-garde as Breton, Artaud, Bataille, Caillois, and Leiris, have become acknowledged models for the postwar critical thought of Barthes, Derrida, and Foucault, as well as inspiring a renewal of "anthropology as cultural critique in the United States." Besides the authors just indicated, key texts by Durkheim, Mauss and Levi-Strauss will be considered both on their own terms and in relation to their obvious influence. The institutional fate of these intellectual crossovers and their correlative disciplinary conflicts will provide the overarching historical frame for the course, from the turn of the century to the most recent debates.
Course not offered every year
Activity: Seminar
1 Course Unit

FREN 610 Introduction to French Cinema
Please see the department's website for current course description: https://www.sas.upenn.edu/french/pc
Course not offered every year
Activity: Seminar
1 Course Unit

FREN 611 Topics in Cinema Studies
Please see the department's website for current course description: https://www.sas.upenn.edu/french/pc
Course not offered every year
Activity: Seminar
1 Course Unit

FREN 612 Film Noir
Topics vary. Please see the department's website for the current course description: https://www.sas.upenn.edu/french/pc
Course not offered every year
Activity: Seminar
1 Course Unit

FREN 619 East/West Medieval Europe
Please see the department's website for current course description: https://www.sas.upenn.edu/french/pc
Course not offered every year
Activity: Seminar
1 Course Unit

FREN 620 Paris and Philadelphia: Landscapes and Literature of the 19th Century
This course explores the literal and literary landscapes of 19th-century Paris and Philadelphia, paying particular attention to the ways in which the built environment is shaped by and shapes shifting ideologies in the modern age. Although today the luxury and excesses of the "City of Light" may seem worlds apart from the Quaker simplicity of the "City of Brotherly Love," Paris and Philadelphia saw themselves as partners and mutual referents during the 1800s in many areas, from urban planning to politics, prisons to paleontology. This interdisciplinary seminar will include readings from the realms of literature, historical geography, architectural history, and cultural studies as well as site visits to Philadelphia landmarks, with a view to uncovering overlaps and resonances among different ways of reading the City. We will facilitate in-depth research by students on topics relating to both French and American architectural history, literature, and cultural thought.
Taught by: Professors Andrea Goulet and Aaron Wunsch (Design)
Course usually offered in fall term
Activity: Seminar
1 Course Unit

FREN 630 Introduction to Medieval French Literature
Topics vary. Previous topics include The Grail and the Rose, Literary Genres and Transformations, and Readings in Old French Texts. Please see the department's website for current course description: https://www.sas.upenn.edu/french/pc
Course not offered every year
Activity: Seminar
1 Course Unit

FREN 631 Epic and Romance
Topics will vary. Please see the department's website for current course description: https://www.sas.upenn.edu/french/pc
Course not offered every year
Activity: Seminar
1 Course Unit

FREN 638 Topics: Medieval Culture
Topics will vary. Please see department's website for current course description: https://www.sas.upenn.edu/french/pc
Course not offered every year
Activity: Seminar
1 Course Unit

FREN 640 Studies in the Renaissance
Topics vary. Previous topics have included Rabelais and M. de Navarre, Montaigne, and Renaissance and Counter-Renaissance. Please see the department's website for the current course description: https://www.sas.upenn.edu/french/pc
Course not offered every year
Activity: Seminar
1 Course Unit
FREN 650 Studies in the 17th Century
Topics of discussion will vary from semester to semester. One possible topic is "The Royal Machine: Louis XIV and the Versailles Era." We will examine certain key texts of what is known as the Golden Age of French literature in tandem with a number of recent theoretical texts that could be described as historical. Our goal will be to explore the basis of "the new historicism," a term that is designed to cover a variety of critical systems that try to account for the historical specificity and referentiality of literary texts. Please see department's website for current course description: https://www.sas.upenn.edu/french/pc
Course not offered every year
Activity: Seminar
1 Course Unit

FREN 660 Studies in the Eighteenth Century
Topics of discussion will vary from semester to semester. One possible topic is "Masterpieces of the Enlightenment." We will read the most influential texts of the Enlightenment, texts that shaped the social and political consciousness characteristic of the Enlightenment—for example, the meditations on freedom of religious expression that Voltaire contributed to "affaires" such as the "affaire Calas." We will also discuss different monuments of the spirit of the age—its corruption (Les Liaisons dangereuses), its libertine excesses and philosophy (La Philosophie dans le boudoir). We will define the specificity of 18th-century prose (fiction), guided by a central question: What was the Enlightenment? Please see department's website for current course description: https://www.sas.upenn.edu/french/pc
Course not offered every year
Activity: Seminar
1 Course Unit

FREN 670 19th-Century Studies
Topics will vary. Please see department's website for current course description: https://www.sas.upenn.edu/french/pc
Course not offered every year
Activity: Seminar
1 Course Unit

FREN 672 Major Authors 19th Century
Topics will vary. Please see department's website for current course description: https://www.sas.upenn.edu/french/pc
Course not offered every year
Activity: Seminar
1 Course Unit

FREN 673 19th Century Literature and the Arts
Topics will vary. Please see department's website for current course description: https://www.sas.upenn.edu/french/pc
Course not offered every year
Activity: Seminar
1 Course Unit

FREN 675 Topics in 19th Century Literature
Topics will vary. Please see department's website for current course description: https://www.sas.upenn.edu/french/pc
Course not offered every year
Activity: Seminar
1 Course Unit

FREN 680 Studies in the 20th Century
Topics will vary. Please see the French department's website for current course description: https://www.sas.upenn.edu/french/pc
Course not offered every year
Activity: Seminar
1 Course Unit

FREN 681 Studies in Modern French Poetry
How does one approach the modern poetic text which ever since the Mallarmean "crise de vers" appears to have cut loose from all referential anchoring and traditional markers (prosody, versification, etc.)? This course will present an array of possible methodological answers to this question, focusing on poetic forms and manifestations of brevity and fragmentation. In addition to being submitted to precise formal and textual inquiries, each text or work will be the point of departure for the analysis of a specific theoretical issue and/or an original practice - e.g., genetic criticism, translation theory, the poetic "diary", aphoristic modes of writing, quoting and rewriting practices, etc. Texts by key modern poets (Ponge, Chazal, Du Bouchet, Jourdan, Jabes, Michaux).
Course not offered every year
Activity: Seminar
1 Course Unit

FREN 684 The French Novel of the 20th Century
Topics vary. Please check the French department's website for the course description. https://www.sas.upenn.edu/french/pc
Course not offered every year
Activity: Seminar
1 Course Unit

FREN 686 Major Authors 20th/21st Century
Topics vary. For current course description, please see French Department's webpage: https://www.sas.upenn.edu/french/pc
Course not offered every year
Activity: Seminar
1 Course Unit

FREN 687 Studies in 21st Century
Topics vary. For current course description, please see French Department's webpage: https://www.sas.upenn.edu/french/pc
Course not offered every year
Activity: Seminar
1 Course Unit

FREN 688 Contemporary French Culture
Topics will vary. Please see department's website for current course description: https://www.sas.upenn.edu/french/pc
Course not offered every year
Activity: Seminar
1 Course Unit

FREN 690 Francophone Studies
Topics will vary. Please see department's website for current course description: https://www.sas.upenn.edu/french/pc
Course not offered every year
Activity: Seminar
1 Course Unit

FREN 692 Caribbean Studies
Topics vary. For current course description, please see French Department's webpage: https://www.sas.upenn.edu/french/pc
Course not offered every year
Activity: Seminar
1 Course Unit

FREN 694 Francophone Africa
Topics vary. For current course description, please see French Department's webpage: https://www.sas.upenn.edu/french/pc
Course not offered every year
Activity: Seminar
1 Course Unit
FREN 696 Postco Theory Francophon
Topics vary. For current course description, please see French Department’s webpage: https://www.sas.upenn.edu/french/pc
One-term course offered either term
Activity: Seminar
1 Course Unit

FREN 701 Topics in Cultural Studies
Topics will vary. Please see French department’s website for current course description: https://www.sas.upenn.edu/french/pc
Course not offered every year
Activity: Seminar
1 Course Unit

FREN 702 Topics in Popular Culture
Topics will vary. Please see department’s website for current course description: https://www.sas.upenn.edu/french/pc
Course not offered every year
Activity: Seminar
1 Course Unit

FREN 703 Representing Paris
Topics will vary. Please see department's website for current course description: https://www.sas.upenn.edu/french/pc
Course not offered every year
Activity: Seminar
1 Course Unit

FREN 704 The French Atlantic
Topics will vary. Please see department's website for current course description: https://www.sas.upenn.edu/french/pc
Course not offered every year
Activity: Seminar
1 Course Unit

FREN 850 Field Statement
PhD Exam Preparation
Course not offered every year
Activity: Independent Study
1 Course Unit

FREN 851 Dissertation Proposal
Course not offered every year
Activity: Independent Study
1 Course Unit

FREN 999 Independent Study
Designed to allow students to pursue a particular research topic under the close supervision of an instructor.
One-term course offered either term
Activity: Independent Study
1 Course Unit