FRENCH LANGUAGE COURSES

FRENCH 111 - 3
MTWH 9-9:50A (NGUYEN)
MTWH 10-10:50A (TASEVKSA)
MTWH 12-12:50P (BREHM)
MTWH 1-1:50P (JACKSON)
MTWH 3-3:50P (MCLoughin)

FRENCH 121 - 3
MTWH 9-9:50A (RAYMOND)
MTWH 10-10:50A (DEMPSTER)
MTWH 11-11:50A (DEMPSTER)
MTWH 1:50P (GRIMM)
MTWH 3:50P (DELAFFON)

FRENCH 125 - 1
MTWH 10-10:50A (VIOT-SOUTHARD)
This course is designed to develop and improve writing skills through a variety of classroom activities: discussion, writing, editing. Students will learn how to write a college-level analytical paper. Selected grammar points will be discussed in class, and course content will be provided by a novel and two films. Homework will include short writing exercises and compositions as well as the preparation of grammar exercises related to the writing objectives. This course serves as prerequisite for most other 200 and 300-level French classes.
This course is designed to build fluency in speaking and understanding French. Classes will concentrate on increasing listening comprehension through viewing of videos and films, building vocabulary and idiom use, and enhancing oral communication skills. One group project based on a play.
An introduction to French Caribbean culture through the study and analysis of major themes, issues and debates that characterize or preoccupy contemporary French Caribbean thought and society, this course will help students understand Francophone society and mentality in today’s world. Conducted entirely in French, the course is designed to increase students’ ability to speak, read and write in French, and improve their aural comprehension.
This course will introduce students to the close reading and analysis of French poetry, from the Middle Ages to the present. We will discuss the evolution of various forms, genres, themes and strategies within their historical contexts and with a focus on several different eras when poetry flourished in France. Examples of forms and genres include Lais, Sonnets, Epic poetry, romance, lyric forms, prose poetry and contemporary hip-hop. This course will additionally incorporate creative elements. We will also explore poetry’s relationship with other art forms, music and painting in particular. When and how do poetry and music intersect? How are painting and poetry imagined as ‘sister arts,’ as some critics have claimed? The seminar format will emphasize student participation in class discussion.
This course focuses on the systematic development of written expression in French, organized according to language functions (describing, summarizing, persuading, hypothesizing, etc.) and communicative needs (social and business correspondence such as applications, invitations, etc.). Emphasis is placed on developing vocabulary, ease of expression, and especially an awareness of appropriate styles of writing. Writing practice will be carried on: portrait, correspondence, summary, explication de textes, interview, editorial and documentary research. Grammar will be reviewed as needed. Final grades will be based on weekly written assignments, the final project, attendance and participation.
The goal of this course is the development of oral proficiency through speech functions, conversational routines and patterns, so as to build confidence in the practice of the French language. In order to achieve this goal, emphasis will be put on extensive examination of French press and French television news, French movies, the reading of a book related to the author studied this quarter, and spontaneous expression through dialogues and discussion, and even debates. Special emphasis will be placed on group work and culturally appropriate usage. The students will participate actively in the choice of the materials.
This course is designed to create opportunities for students to:
1) Develop an understanding of business structures and practices in France. 2) Acquire essential skills towards proficiency in speaking, writing and general comprehension of commercial French. 3) Explore culture and appreciate linguistic and cross-cultural differences that affect communication between speakers in the world of business. Students will practice their writing, speaking, reading and listening skills in relationship to the French job market. They will learn, for example, how to write a CV and a cover letter, how to write business correspondence, how to interact with professionals and how to conduct themselves during a job interview. Upon completion of the course the students will have created a personalized job portfolio that may be used as a model when entering the French job market.
This course will focus on some major works and important genres of literature produced during the 17th and 18th centuries: we will read three plays, a short novel, and a philosophical essay, with a view to understanding the development of literary forms and ideas from the 17th century to the Enlightenment. A particular focus will be the critique of the social model based on a refined court culture in the 17th century and the gradual evolution of society towards a more open, egalitarian culture in the 18th century. In addition we will read short excerpts from other major authors of the period, and short modern descriptions of court society.
The purpose of the seminar is to explore in depth the writings of Michel de Montaigne and some of his important interlocutors, in the context of the emergence of modern subjectivity in the period we call “Renaissance”. We will consider a set of problems relative to the constitution of the self, especially in terms of historical, rhetorical, and epistemological paradigms. We will use Montaigne’s writings as a gateway into a turbulent and transformative period of history, in which Old World confronted New World, and long-held religious and moral beliefs gave way to doubt and critical reconfiguration. All classes, papers and readings will be entirely in French. We will be engaging in detailed close readings and critical analyses both in writing and in class.
Victor Hugo’s *Les Misérables* (published 1862) was one of the 19th century greatest blockbusters; it was also harshly judged by many French authors and literary critics of Hugo’s time. This pattern has lasted for a long time: while serious literary criticism continued to disparage *Les Misérables* for nearly a century, the huge number of adaptations—not only the musical, but radio plays, films, and graphic novels—and its translation into many languages testify to its continuing popular appeal. In this course we will try to understand both what constitutes the novel’s enduring appeal and the ways in which it defies long-established novelistic standards and proposes an unorthodox view of social injustice and social change. We will use the novel’s many adaptations in order to illuminate some of the novel’s most important features as well as to reflect on the difference between novelistic writing and representation in other media. The discussion of the novel will enable students to better understand the historical specificity of 19th century France while at the same time showing that many of the problems it raises continue to exist in our world. Taught in English.
In this course, we will develop and apply a translation methodology to French and English texts. We will begin with prose and poetry, then expand our scope to graphic novels, the performing arts (theater and opera), cinema, and advertising. Translating such a wide variety of texts will familiarize us with abstract, idiomatic, highly technical, and colloquial French, and it will enhance our cultural and linguistic competence by teaching us to capture intended implications, judgements, subtleties and nuances. To complement our examination of the issues pertaining to each genre or medium, we will read translation theory and criticism, and we will evaluate published translation works. Coursework will include regular translation exercises (from French to English, and from English to French) and a final project.