

French Catalog, 2025-26

MAJOR, MINOR

- **ASSISTANT PROFESSOR:** Jeanne Jégouso
- **VISITING ASSISTANT PROFESSOR:** Matthew Trumbo-Tual
- **INSTRUCTOR:** Marie Mallet
- **LANGUAGE ASSISTANT:** Marianne Richard

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 include FREN courses focused on language, literatures, and cultures, or on business, international relations, and current events. French majors can also pursue a minor in secondary education, if they plan to become high-school teachers.

REQUIREMENTS FOR A MAJOR IN FRENCH:

8 courses (32 credits) above FREN 111: Intermediate French I:

CORE COURSES:

- FREN 271: French & Francophone Culture and Civilization (4)
- FREN 211: Rendez-vous with the Classics Part 1 (4) OR FREN 212: Rendez-vous with the Classics Part 2 (4)

- FREN 470: Senior Seminar (4) OR FREN 480: Senior Thesis (4), OR FREN 490: Senior Honors Thesis (4,4)*

ADDITIONAL COURSES:

- Three courses at the 300 level, at least one of which must be a literature course (identified as such in the course descriptions below). (12)
- Two electives above FREN 111: Intermediate French I. Courses include FREN 112: Intermediate French II OR FREN 121: Accelerated Intermediate French, and any 200- or 300-level FREN courses. (12)**

*Students who are invited to do a year-long honors thesis only have to take two 300-level classes. Please note that enrollment in either FREN 480 or FREN 490 is by invitation only. See the course descriptions below for more information.

**Preapproved courses on our study abroad programs can also count towards the major.

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. Senior majors will demonstrate they have achieved these three goals in one of the following ways: 1) by completing the Senior Seminar (FREN 470), handing in a senior portfolio, and participating in an exit interview; or 2) by writing and defending a senior thesis (FREN 480 or 490), handing in a senior portfolio, and participating in an exit interview.

The French program strongly encourages all French majors to spend at least one semester, and preferably one year, in Paris.

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. 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)

- Six FREN courses of the student's choosing in consultation with their minor advisor (24 credits total). Two courses must be at the 300 level. The other four courses can come from any of the following: FREN 112 OR FREN 121 and any courses at the 200 level or above.*

*Preapproved courses on our study abroad programs can also count towards the minor.

FRANCOPHONE HOUSE

The Francophone House is a living-learning community. A welcoming and inclusive space, La Maison is open to those who love the French language, the cultures of the French-speaking world, and/or are preparing for study abroad. It is also a space for native speakers of French 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 more about Francophone cultures and share that knowledge 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. 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 the historical, political, cultural, artistic, and philosophical events and trends of the respective centuries.

FREN 101: ELEMENTARY FRENCH I (4); FREN 102: ELEMENTARY FRENCH II (4)

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 the Fulbright French language assistant. Prerequisite: Placement or permission. FREN 101-102 fulfills the ESP language requirement (LAN) for those students who have not previously studied French and the CORE World Languages requirement. FREN 101 offered every fall; FREN 102 offered every spring. (LAN or WL)

FREN 110: ACCELERATED ELEMENTARY FRENCH (4)

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 Fulbright French language assistant. Prerequisite: Placement or permission. (partially fulfills LAN or WL)

FREN 111: INTERMEDIATE FRENCH I (4); FREN 112: INTERMEDIATE FRENCH II (4)

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 the Fulbright French language assistant. Prerequisite: FREN 102 or FREN 110, placement or permission. FREN 111-112 fulfills the ESP language requirement (LAN) for students who studied French in high school and the CORE World Languages requirement. FREN 111 offered every fall; FREN 112 offered every spring. (LAN or WL)

FREN 121: ACCELERATED INTERMEDIATE FRENCH (4)

This course is an expansion of oral and writing skills. In addition to three hours per week in class, students practice conversational skills for one hour per week with the Fulbright French language assistant. Fulfills the language requirement. Prerequisite: Placement or permission. Offered in both fall and spring term. (LAN or WL)

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

This two-credit course is offered to students who have progressed beyond the level of intermediate French and wish to take a class focused just on improving their speaking abilities. 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, placement in a 200-level course, or permission. Open to first-year students. Does not count towards the CORE World Languages requirement.

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

“Rendez-vous with the Classics 1” is a course of literary, cultural, and historical studies spanning 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 placement in a 200-level FREN course, or permission. Open to first-year students. (WL or SMN)

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

“Rendez-vous with the Classics 2” is a course of literary, cultural, and historical studies spanning 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. FREN 112 or FREN 121, or placement in a 200-level FREN course, or permission. (WL)

FREN 237: UNDERSTANDING CONTEMPORARY FRANCE (4)

Development of conversational and writing skills through discussion and analysis of an aspect of French literature, language, society, or culture. The topic changes each time the course is taught. Prerequisite: FREN 112 or FREN 121, or placement in a 200-level FREN course, or permission. Open to first-year students. (o, AES, MOD, WL)

FREN 244: AFRICAN LITERATURE IN FRENCH (4)

In this course, students will study major cultural movements, political events, and environmental issues in African countries where French is widely spoken. Through literary and historical texts, journalism, and film, students will gain a better understanding of the diversity of African cultures impacted by French and Belgian colonialism while improving their ability to analyze texts and express themselves in French. Prerequisite: FREN 112 or FREN 121, or placement in a 200-level FREN course, or permission. Open to first-year students. (WL or DJP)

FREN 247: UNDERSTANDING THE FRENCH CARRIBBEAN, THOUGHTS & LITERATURES (4)

This 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 course is taught in French. Prerequisite: FREN 112 or FREN 121, placement in a 200-level FREN course, or permission. Open to first-year students. (o, DIV, AES, WL)

FREN 248: LITERATURES AND CULTURES IN THE FRENCH SPEAKING INDIAN OCEAN (4)

This course will examine Francophone literatures and cultures in the Indian Ocean, exploring the diverse range of cultures and literary works produced by writers and artists from the region. We will explore themes such as coloniality, decoloniality, creolization, cosmopolitanism, oceanic poetics, and language, with a focus on how these themes are reflected in the cultural production of the Indian Ocean. Students will watch and analyze movies, read and analyze texts from various genres, including novels, poetry, short stories, and comic books with a special emphasis on works produced in Mauritius, Reunion Island, Seychelles, and Madagascar. Throughout the semester, students will gain a deeper understanding of the complex historical, cultural, and social contexts in which these works were produced. The course will be conducted in French, and all the readings will be in French. Prerequisite: FREN 112 or FREN 121, placement in a 200-level FREN course, or permission. Open to first-year students. (o, MOD, WL)

FREN 249: FRENCH AND FRANCOPHONE FILM (4)

An examination of French and Francophone cinema in relation to literary, philosophical, social, psychological, and cultural issues. Prerequisite: FREN 112 or FREN 121, placement in a 200-level FREN course, or permission. Open to first-year students. (WL)

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

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 placement in a 200-level FREN course, or permission. (GLO, MOD, WL)

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

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: FREN 112 or 121, placement in a 200-level FREN course, or permission. Open to first-year students. (WL or DJP)

FREN 290: INDEPENDENT STUDY (2 OR 4)

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 (4)

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: A 200-level FREN course or permission. Counts as a 300-level literature course in the major. (SMN)

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

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? The French Film Series will be an extension of this course when it is offered in the fall term and will focus exclusively on women directors, giving students the opportunity to engage in interdisciplinary analysis. Counts as a 300-level literature course in the major. Prerequisite: Senior French majors and minors or permission. (AES, GLO).

FREN 344: AFRICAN LITERATURE IN FRENCH (4)

Please see the description for FREN 244 above. FREN 344 is a 300-level version of FREN 244, and the two courses meet at the same time. Students enrolled in FREN 344 will

complete all the requirements for FREN 244 as well as additional work as assigned by the instructor. This work might include longer or additional papers, more in-depth research, additional presentations, being a discussion leader, or serving as a mentor to students enrolled at the lower level. The instructor will make clear what the additional responsibilities are in the syllabus for the course. Counts as a 300-level literature course in the major. Prerequisite: A 200-level FREN course or permission. (DJP)

FREN 347: UNDERSTANDING THE FRENCH CARIBBEAN, THOUGHTS & LITERATURES

Please see the description for FREN 247 above. FREN 347 is a 300-level version of FREN 247 and the two courses meet at the same time. Students enrolled in FREN 347 will complete all the requirements for FREN 247 as well as additional work as assigned by the instructor. This work might include longer or additional papers, more in-depth research, additional presentations, being a discussion leader, or serving as a mentor to students enrolled at the lower level. The instructor will make clear what the additional responsibilities are in the syllabus for the course. Counts as a 300-level literature course in the major. Prerequisite: A 200-level FREN course or permission.

FREN 348: LITERATURES AND CULTURES IN THE FRENCH SPEAKING INDIAN OCEAN (4)

Please see the description for FREN 248 above. FREN 348 is a 300-level version of FREN 248, and the two courses meet at the same time. Students enrolled in FREN 348 will complete all the requirements for FREN 248 as well as additional work as assigned by the instructor. This work might include longer or additional papers, more in-depth research, additional presentations, being a discussion leader, or serving as a mentor to students enrolled at the lower level. The instructor will make clear what the additional responsibilities are in the syllabus for the course. Counts as a 300-level literature course in the major. Prerequisite: A 200-level FREN course or permission.

FREN 349: BLACK FRANCE: LIBERTÉ, ÉGALITE, RACISÉ? (4)

This course will explore the complex relationship between French citizens of African descent and the French nation, and study how this relationship manifests itself in literature & the arts. This course focuses on the experience of Afro-French citizens in twentieth & twentieth-first century France. We will also address the topics of ethnicity, religion, and national identity in France, comparing them to the American understanding of citizenship and race. This course explores these and other questions over the course of the semester through a close consideration of the literature, arts, culture, history and politics emanating from or dealing with Black France. Prerequisite: A 200-level FREN course or permission.

FREN 375: FRENCH FILM (4)

Please see the description for FREN 249 above. FREN 375 is a 300-level version of FREN 49 and the two courses meet at the same time. Students enrolled in FREN 375 will complete all the requirements for FREN 249 as well as additional work as assigned by the instructor. This work might include longer or additional papers, more in-depth research, additional presentations, being a discussion leader, or serving as a mentor to students enrolled at the lower level. The instructor will make clear what the additional responsibilities are in the syllabus for the course. Counts as a 300-level literature course in the major. Prerequisite: A 200-level FREN course or permission. (SMN)

FREN 362: ADVANCED FRENCH TRANSLATION (4)

Advanced French Translation provides students with a grammatical, cultural, and theoretical foundation for translation between French and English, which we will practice through in-class exercises, workshops, and projects. We will also explore the applications of translation in different professional, cultural, and political settings to consider the central, albeit often invisible, role of translation in our highly interconnected, global society. The course will primarily be conducted in French, with some discussions in English. Prerequisite: A 200 level FREN course or permission.

FREN 390: INDEPENDENT STUDY (2 OR 4)

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

FREN 399: INTERNSHIP (4)

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

FREN 470: SENIOR SEMINAR (4)

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 a 300-level FREN course and carries the ESP or CORE designations assigned to that course. Offered spring term.

FREN 480: SENIOR THESIS (4)

A one-term research paper based upon an inquiry into a specific area of the French language or Francophone literatures or civilizations. Prerequisite: Senior standing and invitation by the department. Offered in fall and/or spring upon consultation with department.

FREN 490: SENIOR HONORS THESIS (4, 4)

A year-long thesis based on a specific area of the French language or Francophone literatures and civilizations. Research begins during the fall term, continues during Short Term, and is completed during spring term. Prerequisite: Senior standing and invitation by the department.