

Langue

Littérature

Culture



French Course Offerings

UD Dept. of Languages, Literatures and Cultures, Fall 2018

SELECT FROM AN EXCITING ARRAY OF THREE-CREDIT COURSES! UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED, ALL COURSES ARE TAUGHT IN FRENCH.

FREN 200 French Grammar and Composition

Ali Alalou (alalou@udel.edu)

This course enhances students' writing and comprehension skills through French grammar activities. Contextualized in contemporary Francophone literary texts, French grammar is taught using a blend of descriptive grammar and discourse analysis. For example, students will be able to recognize the functions of pronouns and their role in the comprehension of a text. Students write micro-themes and rewrite compositions based on topics studied in the readings.

Prerequisite: FREN107. May be taken for Honors credit.

FREN 209 French Conversation through Film

Edgard Sankara (esankara@udel.edu)

A conversation course contextualized in mainstream films, animated shorts, and popular short documentaries, this class invites you to build and to practice your oral and aural skills in French while watching a variety of cinematic products from the French-speaking world. Some films are as close as your nearest laptop.

Prerequisite: FREN 107 or one 200-level course taught in French, with a suggested

minimum grade of B. May be taken for Honors credit. Not intended for native speakers of French.



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https://international.udel.edu/DB/PUB_Program.aspx?Pgm=2353

FREN 211 Reading and Composition

Edgard Sankara (esankara@udel.edu)
Judy Celli (celli@udel.edu)

This course includes reading and discussion of French and Francophone literature and the writing of compositions. The emphasis is on improving critical reading skills and on writing formal academic essays. Therefore, a close reading of the text (with regard to character development, historical or social context, and narrative voice, for example) encourages the student to move beyond the level of plot summary to analyze the works under study. Students will be introduced to literary movements such as Naturalism and Existentialism. Grammar review is incorporated to accompany the readings.

Prerequisite: FREN 107 with a minimum grade of A- or FREN 200 with a minimum grade of C. Satisfies **Group A** CAS breadth requirement. May be taken for Honors credit.

FREN301 Self and Society

Bruno Thibault (thibault@udel.edu)

What did Montaigne have in mind when he wrote his famous *Essais* and attempted to depict his own self? What was Voltaire's vision of enlightenment and of an ideal society when he wrote *Micromégas*? What makes Chateaubriand's René a typically Romantic hero and social pariah? Is Proust's egotism the same as egomania, and his writing style as meandering and insidious as you've always heard? This course explores a few masterpieces in French prose from the Renaissance through the twentieth century. Along the way, you'll experience science fiction and humor with Voltaire, exoticism and solitude with Chateaubriand; you'll meet a humble servant and a colorful parrot in Flaubert's *Un Coeur simple*; and you'll reflect on civil war, death and phenomenology in Sartre's *Le Mur*. Furthermore, you will learn various methods of literary analysis through close readings and *explications de texte*.

Prerequisites: FREN 211 and any 200-level course taught in French, both with a suggested minimum grade of B-. May be taken for Honors credit. Satisfies **Group B** CAS breadth requirement.

FREN 302 Love, Passion, Faith, DeathDeborah Steinberger (steind@udel.edu)

Unlock the mysteries of poetry, and learn to read between the lines of a play! This course explores verse and drama from the Renaissance through the twentieth century through close readings and class discussion. This semester we will focus on the motif of war and conflict, both literal (*les Guerres de Religion, la Commune, la Grande Guerre*) and metaphorical (ideological and literary battles, spiritual turmoil). We will study works by some of France's best-loved poets—Ronsard, La Fontaine, Hugo, Baudelaire, Rimbaud, Valéry—and classic theater by Corneille, Molière, Racine, and Anouilh. In the company of such illustrious writers, you are sure to see your own style and vocabulary improve!

Prerequisites: FREN 211 and any 200-level course taught in French, both with a suggested minimum grade of B-.

May be taken for Honors credit.

Satisfies **Group B** CAS breadth requirement.

**FREN 326 French Civilization II**

Ana Oancea

(anaoancea21@gmail.com)

Aimed at enhancing students' understanding of modern France, this course investigates issues of central cultural significance to the period defined by the French Revolution and the Second World War. A survey of diverse topics that touch on French identity and define the French worldview, it draws on journalism, film, music and other sources. Our discussions will bear on the dynamics of French society, popular culture, the arts and sciences, historical events and figures, regional identity, as well as political and intellectual debates.

Prerequisites: Any two 200-level courses taught in French. May be taken for Honors credit.

Satisfies **Group B** CAS breadth requirement.

FREN 403 Structure of FrenchAli Alalou (alalou@udel.edu)

Have you ever wondered why French words need to be either feminine or masculine? Would you like to know the difference

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<http://international.udel.edu/DB/PUB/Program.aspx?Pgm=2267>

between "On arrive dans une heure" and "Nous arrivons dans une heure"? This course will help you answer these questions, and many more. Offering a modern linguistic approach, FREN 403 examines several aspects of standard French and builds on what you have learned in previous grammar courses. In particular, we will look at the morphological categories that make up French, and how French words are put together. We will discuss syntactic features of French along with its semantics, and explore the sociolinguistics of form and communication. Audio and online resources will supplement the textbook and deepen our understanding of the French language today.

Prerequisites: Two 300-level French courses (FREN314 recommended). May be taken for Honors credit. Satisfies **Group C** CAS breadth requirement.

FREN 451/651 20th-Century French Literature: The Age of Anxiety and the AbsurdBruno Thibault (thibault@udel.edu)

What is the meaning of the absurd? Can one truly shape one's existence through free will, thoughtful choices and personal responsibility? Without religion, are men and women always led to immorality? When is rebellion or social violence justified? Is authentic art the expression of subconscious drives? These are some of the themes we will discuss this semester through close readings of some of the masterpieces of 20th century French literature. Special attention will be devoted to Surrealism (Apollinaire, Breton, Éluard, Michaux) and Existentialism (Sartre and Camus).

Prerequisites: Any two 300-level French literature courses (FREN 301, 302, or 355).

FREN455/655 Selected Authors, Works and Themes**19th-Century Classics: From Text to Film**Ana Oancea (anaoancea21@gmail.com)

Why does literature fuel film? And what can we learn from an adaptation? To answer such questions, this course approaches key 19th century texts including Flaubert's *Madame Bovary*, Zola's *Thérèse Raquin* and Maupassant's short stories through their adaptations in other media (film, graphic novels and video games). As we delve into



the complexity of these classics, students will analyze the process through which a particular narrative changes



"Those, honey? Those are books. That's what they make movies from."

medium. Our explorations will lead to a better understanding of the social changes, cultural differences, and commercial imperatives that motivate such work.

Prerequisites: Any two 300-level French literature courses (FREN 301, 302, or 355).

FREN 875 Francophone AutobiographiesEdgard Sankara (esankara@udel.edu)

This is an invitation to the inner selves of various authors of the Francophone world from Africa, the Caribbean and Asia. Students will acquire a detailed understanding of the relevant strands of current theoretical thinking, and through a close analysis of the texts themselves, will examine recurrent themes and forms in autobiographical writings, including: the representation of identity; the concepts of origins; colonialism and post-colonialism; the intersection of race, class and gender; and the textual strategies underpinning these considerations. Finally, we will examine the different ways in which these authors are responding to the Western genre of autobiographical writing: we will assess whether they are conservative in their approaches, innovative or revolutionary. Of significant importance, we will contrast the reception of their autobiographies in their respective countries and in France to understand the failure or success of their enterprise.

Restrictions: Open only to MA students.