

French

The major and minor in French are administered by the Department of French: Professors Gadjigo, Gelfand (on leave spring 2012), Le Gouis, Rivers (*chair*), Vaget; Senior Lecturer Holden-Avard; Visiting Professor Margolis; Visiting Lecturers Bloom, Matta, and Shread.

Contact Persons

TBA, *senior administrative assistant*
Chris Rivers, *chair*

The French curriculum is intended to develop skills in the language and provide a broad and varied acquaintance with French and Francophone cultures and literatures. Taking as its premise that language gives access to new and different cultures, the program makes available to students the textual, oral, and visual products of the French-speaking world. It also offers familiarity with the interdisciplinary exchanges—art, literature, history, politics, music, philosophy—that inform French studies today.

The department offers courses in language, culture, and literature at all levels. All courses are conducted in French with the exception of the first-year seminar (120) and the Romance Language and Literatures Seminar (321). The Romance Language seminar is taught in English but all reading and writing are done in French.

In language courses students work with native French and Francophone assistants in small supplementary conversation groups. Many culture and literature courses are either speaking-intensive or writing-intensive, and in some, writing mentors are provided. Students are encouraged to attend weekly language tables held in a private dining room of one of the dorms and have access to weekly drop-in tutoring sessions in addition to one-on-one tutoring for more in-depth remediation. Technological resources—Web-based and computer-assisted applications, video-conferencing, iMovie, and various multimedia tools—are used in courses at all levels to foster individual learning and to promote

communication with the international community. A comprehensive library of DVDs and classic French texts is maintained in the department office.

Designing the Major

A student may design her French major around a particular topic, century, theme, or area such as French or Francophone studies; gender/women's studies; medieval studies; eighteenth-, nineteenth-, and twentieth-century studies; theatre studies; film studies; classicism; symbolism; travel literature, etc. She should work closely with a faculty advisor to select appropriate courses in other departments, which may include independent study that would complement her course work in French. Whenever graduate study in French is contemplated, the major should include courses covering several centuries of French culture and literature.

The major program should provide continuity in the study of French. To this end, at least one 4-credit course taught in French must be elected each semester of the junior and senior years. Independent study (295 and 395) will not be counted among these courses.

Study Abroad

Mount Holyoke College has its own study abroad programs in Montpellier, France, and Dakar, Senegal (spring only), and is also affiliated with the Sweet Briar College Junior Year in France Program. A student spending her junior year in France or a Francophone country with a program approved by the department will normally meet some of the requirements of her major through study abroad. The programs are open to both majors and nonmajors.

Students must have successfully completed at least one 4-credit course each semester they are enrolled at Mount Holyoke prior to departure for study abroad (excluding independent study). They also should have completed at least one course in culture and literature at the 200 level (215, 219, 225, or

230). By taking appropriate courses, a student who studies abroad for a year may bring back the equivalent of 4 Mount Holyoke credits in advanced language study (in phonetics, grammar, composition, or stylistics) as well as three courses at the 300 level to count toward the major and two courses toward the minor. A student who studies abroad for one semester may bring back the equivalent of 4 Mount Holyoke credits in advanced language study as well as two courses at the 300 level to count toward the major and one course at the 300 level toward the minor. Additional courses in French taken abroad will normally receive credit at the 300 level but will not count toward the minimum requirement for the major.

Please consult the French department and the McCulloch Center for Global Initiatives for details about these and other programs. Eligible students who are selected to participate in the Montpellier and Dakar programs may use their Mount Holyoke financial aid to do so. Mount Holyoke financial aid for Sweet Briar, as well as for other approved study abroad programs, is awarded on a competitive basis. Scholarships, specifically for study in France or Italy, are available to qualified undergraduates from the Mary Vance Young Scholarship Fund. Information about financing study abroad may be obtained from the McCulloch Center for Global Initiatives. See www.mtholyoke.edu/go/global.

Department Website

<http://www.mtholyoke.edu/acad/french/>

Requirements for the Major

Credits

- A minimum of 32 credits

Courses

- Two intermediate courses in culture and literature (215, 219, 225, or 230)
- One 4-credit elective in culture and literature at the 200 or 300 level
- Three courses in culture and literature at the 300 level. At least one must deal (in whole or substantial part) with culture

and/or literature prior to 1800, and at least one other must deal (in whole or substantial part) with culture and/or literature after 1800. Independent study (295 and 395) and courses taught in English translation will not be counted among these courses.

- One advanced-level seminar (370)
- Advanced language study in phonetics as well as in grammar, composition, or stylistics, equivalent to 4 Mount Holyoke credits and subject to approval by the French department. Typically, majors spending a year or semester in France or another Francophone country will fulfill this requirement through appropriate course work abroad. Majors who do not study abroad may fulfill the requirement in advanced language study by doing appropriate course work within the Five College Consortium or independent study arranged through the Mount Holyoke Department of French.
- Students should also consider complementing the French major with courses in other disciplines dealing with France, Francophone countries, or Western Europe, such as international relations, art history, English, European studies, geography, history, language, music, philosophy, politics, or religion.

Graduates of Mount Holyoke who have majored in French have used the analytical skills and means of expression acquired during their studies to pursue a wide range of career options: education, government service, law, international banking, publishing, and marketing, among others. Each spring, the department sponsors a Major Tea and Career Panel inviting to campus three or four alumnae with diverse occupations to speak about the benefits and opportunities that their French major has brought to their careers.

Requirements for the Minor

Credits

- A minimum of 16 credits

Courses

- Two intermediate courses in culture and literature (215, 219, 225, 230)
- Two advanced courses in culture and literature (300 level)

Other

- Independent study (295 or 395) does not count toward the minor.
- Students spending their junior year in France or a Francophone country with a program approved by the department may bring back two courses at the 300 level. Students spending a semester abroad may bring back one course at the 300 level.

Honors Work

The French department is pleased to support senior independent study projects during the fall semester undertaken by students with exceptional course work in French. However, continuation of these projects toward completion of a thesis to be considered for possible honors is not guaranteed and is contingent upon approval of the department.

Teacher Licensure

Students interested in pursuing licensure in the field of French can combine their course work in French with a minor in education. In some instances, course work in the major coincides with course work required for licensure; in other cases, it does not. For specific course requirements for licensure within the major of French, please consult your advisor or the chair of the French department. For information about teacher licensure consult Sarah Frenette, Teacher Licensure Coordinator in the Psychology and Education Department. Licensure also requires a formal application as well as passing scores on the Massachusetts Test of Educator Licensure (MTEL) in both the literacy component and the subject matter component. Copies of the test objectives for the MTEL are available in the French department and in the Department of Psychology and Education. Licensure application information and materials are

available in the Department of Psychology and Education.

Course Selection/Foreign Language Requirement

Students who have never studied French should enroll in French 101f–102s, a two-semester course for beginners. Those who have previously studied French at Mount Holyoke and who wish to continue must have the prerequisites stipulated for specific courses.

Students who have never taken French at Mount Holyoke, but have studied French at another institution, must take a placement test before registering for a French class. The test is available online at

http://www.mtholyoke.edu/acad/french/placement_exam.html.

In order to fulfill the College's foreign language requirement, students beginning French at the 100 level must successfully complete two semesters of course work: i.e., either 101–102 or 199 plus 201. Students who begin in 201 (or any course above 201) will have fulfilled the language requirement by the successful completion of one semester of course work.

If you enroll in French 101 as a first-year student, and are interested in studying in a French-speaking country during your third year, you will need to accelerate your French language studies. Your advisor will assist you in working out a plan of study, which may include altering your course sequence, for example going directly to French 201 after French 101 if you have made sufficient strides in acquiring elementary French or French 203 instead of French 201 after completing French 102. See Acceleration at: http://www.mtholyoke.edu/acad/french/study_abroad.html.

Course Offerings

101f Elementary French

An introduction to understanding, speaking, reading, and writing French. The videotape-based method "French in Action" provides a lively story line and cultural context for the acquisition of basic grammatical structures

with a conversational focus. The course includes frequent composition writing. French 101/102 is recommended for students with no previous training in French or a maximum of one year of French at the high school level.

Does not meet a distribution requirement
C. Bloom, N. Holden-Avard

Prereq. no previous study of French or a placement score of 0 - 100; NOTE: Does not meet the language requirement. In order to meet the language requirement, a student must successfully complete both French 101 and 102.; 4 credits

102s Elementary French

Continuation of French 101, an introduction to understanding, speaking, reading, and writing French. The videotape-based method "French in Action" provides a lively story line and cultural context for the acquisition of basic grammatical structures with a conversational focus. The course includes frequent composition writing and a weekly conversation lab with a native speaker.

Meets language requirement; does not meet a distribution requirement
C. Bloom, N. Holden-Avard

Prereq. French 101; NOTE: Students must complete both French 101 and French 102 to fulfill the language requirement.; 4 credits

120f African Cinema

(First-year seminar; speaking-intensive course; taught in English; Same as Film Studies 101f-01) This seminar will explore the genesis, evolution, and different themes of African cinema. We will also discuss the current issues and challenges facing the production, distribution, and critique of films made by Africans in Africa and about Africa. Lectures will be coupled with screening of films.

Meets Humanities I-A requirement
S. Gadjigo

Prereq. fy; 4 credits

199f Advanced Elementary French

A course in language and culture for elementary-level students with some previous study of French. The videotape-based method French in Action provides a lively story line and cultural context for a thorough review of grammar, and the development of listening and speaking skills. The course concentrates

on vocabulary building, writing, and developing ease and competence in spoken French.

Does not meet a distribution requirement
C. Shread

Prereq. placement score of 100-200; NOTE: Does not meet the language requirement. In order to meet the foreign language requirement, a student who begins in French 199 must successfully complete both French 199 and 201.; 4 credits

201fs Intermediate French

A comprehensive grammar review aimed at developing language skills in context and providing a foundation for continued study of writing, speaking, reading, and listening in French. Using French in Action and various methods and multimedia tools, all sections will concentrate on: study of grammatical structures as means of communication; frequent compositions to develop effective writing strategies; reading short literary and non-literary texts; and, guided oral expression through structured discussions and exercises. Meetings in small groups with French or Francophone assistants will provide additional practice using the language in cultural contexts.

Meets language requirement; does not meet a distribution requirement

L. Matta, C. Bloom, J. Pons, C. Shread

Prereq. French 102 or 199, or placement score of 200 - 350, or department placement; NOTE: Students registering for this course must also register for a required weekly conversation lab.; 4 credits

203fs Advanced Intermediate French

This course will improve students' writing and speaking skills in French and develop their ability to read and analyze texts. Course materials include authors and films representing cultures of the French-speaking world. Written and oral expression are strengthened through weekly essays, class discussion, and comprehensive grammar review. Students spend an additional hour each week with native French and Francophone assistants in small supplementary conversation groups.

Meets language requirement; does not meet a distribution requirement

C. Shread, C. LeGouis, N. Vaget, L. Matta
 Prereq. French 201, or placement score of 350 - 450, or department placement; NOTE: Students registering for this course must also register for a required weekly conversation lab.; 4 credits

215fs Intermediate Level Courses in Culture and Literature

Introduction to the Literature and Culture of France and the French-Speaking World
 (Writing-intensive course) This course introduces students to literature and culture from a variety of perspectives. It will increase confidence and skill in writing and speaking; integrate historical, political, and social contexts into the study of literary texts from France and the French-speaking world; and bring understanding of the special relevance of earlier periods to contemporary French and Francophone cultural and aesthetic issues. Students explore diversified works - literature, historical documents, film, art, and music - and do formal oral and written presentations.

Meets either language requirement or Humanities I-A requirement

E. Gelfand, C. Rivers, S. Gadjigo, C. LeGouis
 Prereq. French 203, or placement score of 450+, or department placement; 4 credits

219fs Intermediate Level Courses in Culture and Literature

Introduction to the French-Speaking World
 This course introduces the literatures of French-speaking countries outside Europe. Readings include tales, novels, plays, and poetry from Africa, the Caribbean, Canada, and other areas. Discussions and short papers examine the texts as literary works as well as keys to the understanding of varied cultures. Students will be asked to do formal oral and written presentations.

Meets multicultural requirement; meets either language requirement or Humanities I-A requirement

S. Gadjigo
 Prereq. French 203, or placement score of 450+, or department placement; 4 credits

225fs Intermediate Level Courses in Culture and Literature

The primary purpose of this course is to familiarize students with contemporary issues in French culture as they are represented in French-speaking media of today.

Introduction to Contemporary Culture and Media of France and the French-Speaking World

(Speaking-intensive course) This course will introduce students to contemporary popular culture in France and the French-speaking world, largely through the study of recent (post-1990) best-selling novels, popular music, and feature films. Students will be asked to give formal oral presentations based on up-to-date materials gathered from the Internet and/or French television and to participate actively in class discussion.

Meets either language requirement or Humanities I-A requirement

C. Rivers

Prereq. French 203, or placement score of 450+, or department placement; 4 credits

230fs Intermediate Courses in Culture and Literature

In order to explain the complexity of present-day France, this course will explore its most conflictual historical moments—feudalism, absolute monarchy, political and social revolutions. Students will learn the social and historical context of French art and architecture.

Introduction to the Civilization of France
 (Speaking-intensive course) While exploring the decisive periods of France's past, students will also examine the development of art and architecture, from the Middle Ages to the twentieth century, and familiarize themselves with the mentality of each period (emphasis on medieval cathedrals and Renaissance castles, Baroque and Rococo works of art, and nineteenth-century paintings). Course content can be found at

<http://www.mtholyoke.edu/courses/nvaget/>.

Meets either language requirement or Humanities I-A requirement

N. Vaget

Prereq. French 203, or placement score of 450+, or department placement; 4 credits

295fs Independent Study

Does not meet a distribution requirement

The department

Prereq. soph with permission of department; 1-4 credits

Advanced Courses

The department's 300-level courses represent a variety of approaches to advanced work in French studies and thus reflect the diversity within the field of French today. Specific offerings under the general rubrics change from year to year. Prerequisites for all 300-level courses (except 370) are two of the following: 215, 219, 225, or 230. Students who do not have the stipulated prerequisites must consult the department chair and the course instructor. Specific courses that satisfy the pre-1800 requirement for the major are indicated in parentheses after the course title. All courses that do not bear this indication satisfy the post-1800 requirement.

311fs Period Courses

The usual periodization of French literature and culture is by century. Some period courses focus on the characteristics of specific centuries. Others focus on artistic or intellectual movements: gothic, Renaissance, romantic. All period courses, whatever their conceptual framework, integrate texts and historical contexts.

Fall 2011

311f(1) *Marvelous Places: Desire and Deceit*

An exploration of why literary heroes and heroines traveled and where they went—whether for love, escape, or education—from the Middle Ages to the Enlightenment. Readings: Marie de France's *Lais*, Mandeville's *Livre des Merveilles*, Christine's *Chemin de longue étude*, Du Bellay's sonnets, Marguerite de Navarre's *Heptaméron*, Montaigne's *Essais* and *Journal de Voyage*, Fénelon's *Aventures de Télémaque*, Crébillon fils's *Egarements du coeur et de l'esprit*.

Meets either language requirement or

Humanities I-A requirement

N. Margolis

Prereq. two of the following courses: French 215, 219, 225, or 230, or permission of department chair and course instructor; Note:

Class format will involve introductory lectures for background, while students should expect to participate actively in open discussion of each text, to submit a midterm paper and somewhat longer final research paper.; 4 credits

Spring 2012

311s(1) *Eros, Intrigue, and Adventure*

This course will examine varied interactions of amorous desire, ingenuity, and adventure (including gender bending) in medieval and Renaissance poetry and prose. Readings include: selections from the troubadours and trouvères, Marie de France's *Lais*, Chrétien's *Lancelot*, Heldris's *Roman de Silence*, some *fabliaux*, Guillaume de Lorris's and Jean de Meun's *Roman de la rose*, Christine de Pizan's *Cité des Dames*, and Marguerite de Navarre's *Heptaméron*.

Meets either language requirement or

Humanities I-A requirement

N. Margolis

Prereq. two of the following courses: French

215, 219, 225, or 230, or permission of

department chair and course instructor; Note:

Class format will involve introductory lectures for background, while students should expect to participate actively in open discussions and debate on each text, to submit a midterm paper and somewhat longer final research paper.; 4 credits

311s(2) *Enlightenment and Revolutions in Films*

Using contemporary films, multimedia material and texts, we will approach the ideas and events that rocked France in the eighteenth century. We will study revolutionary luminaries such as Rousseau, Voltaire, Diderot, Robespierre, Napoléon, Toussaint L'Ouverture, and will study the French revolution of 1789 and its consequences on the Haitian revolution of 1804. We will discuss each film in class, and students will give PowerPoint presentations on topics relevant to French art of the Ancient Regime and historical events of the period. Using visual documentation from artists such as Watteau, Boucher, Fragonard, Chardin, and David, students will produce an iMovie as a term paper.

Meets either language requirement or

Humanities I-A requirement

N. Vaget

Prereq. two of the following courses: French 215, 219, 225, or 230, or permission of department chair and course instructor; 4 credits

321s Seminar in Romance Languages and Cultures: Topic: The Mind of the Traveler: Journeys, Expeditions, Tours

This interdisciplinary seminar will focus on a comparative study of Romance languages or literatures. Topics will vary from semester to semester. Seminar discussions will be conducted in English, but students are expected to read works and write papers in French. (Taught in English; Same as Romance Languages 375, Spanish 360, Italian 361) Travel literature has always been a precious source for the study of culture, politics, arts and, last but not least, people. From Tacitus to Marco Polo, from Stendhal to Camilo Jose Cela, we will read and discuss authors who traveled for political, personal, and recreational reasons. We will also pay special attention to tales of emigration and immigration in the third millennium.

Meets Humanities I-A requirement
O. Frau

Prereq. Two of the following courses: French 215, 219, 225, or 230, and permission of course instructor; NOTE: To receive 300-level credit in French, students must write all papers and do appropriate course readings in French.; 4 credits

331f Courses on Social and Political Issues and Critical Approaches: Writing and Politics: Literature as Social Engagement

These courses examine a definable phenomenon—an idea, a movement, an event, a mentality, a cultural structure or system, an historical problem, a critical mode—relevant to the civilization of France or of French-speaking countries. Readings from a variety of disciplines shed light on the particular aspect of thought or culture being studied. Study of French and Francophone writers, filmmakers, and artists, in their specific contexts, whose works engage with important political and social issues of their time and place. Preliminary readings theorize how texts can communicate, explicitly or implicitly, an ideological stance. We will then con-

sider imaginative works, from the Middle Ages to the present, whose thematic, narrative, cinematic, stylistic, or linguistic techniques connect with movements for social or cultural change.

Meets either language requirement or Humanities I-A requirement
E. Gelfand

Prereq. 12 credits including two courses at the advanced level, or permission of department chair and course instructor; 4 credits

341f Courses in Francophone Studies

These courses study nonmetropolitan French-speaking cultures and literary works written in French outside Europe. Areas of focus are one or more of the following regions: Africa, the Caribbean, or Canada.

Women and Writing in French-Speaking Africa

This course explores writings by women in French-speaking Africa from its early beginnings in the late 1970s to the present. Special attention will be given to social, political, gender, and aesthetic issues.

Meets either language requirement or Humanities I-A requirement
S. Gadjigo

Prereq. 12 credits including two courses at the advanced level, or permission of department chair and instructor; 4 credits

351s Courses on Women and Gender

These courses explore cultural, literary, and social issues relating to women and gender identities in France and French-speaking countries. Topics may include women's writing, writing about women and men, the status of women, feminist criticism, and theories of sexuality and sexual difference.

Disease, Destruction, and Death: The Figure of the Femme Fatale in French Narrative Fiction

(Same as Gender Studies 333) An examination of vivid literary incarnations of the *femme fatale*, female characters eerily and inextricably linked to untimely, unseemly, or tragic death. Characters fall roughly into two categories: women who directly or indirectly bring about someone else's death; or women who serve as scapegoats, whose symbolically sacrificial death, at the conclusion of the novel, allows the other characters to continue their own lives. We will discuss these works as

expressions of misogyny and fear of female sexuality while also attempting to reach broader conclusions about the implications of both individual texts and the *femme fatale* novel as a sub-genre.

Meets either language requirement or Humanities I-A requirement
C. Rivers

Prereq. two of the following courses: French 215, 219, 225, or 230, or permission of department chair and course instructor; 4 credits

370fs Advanced Level Seminar

The seminar is intended to challenge students at the highest level. A regular rotation of topics ensures a variety of perspectives across genre and period, encompassing linguistic, literary, theoretical, and cultural issues of French and Francophone studies. Development of critical skills is stressed through classroom discussion and critique of writing projects, drawing on individual student interests and experiences as they relate to the topic of the course.

Fall 2011

370f(1) The Detective Novel in France

The French detective novel found its origins in Poe and in the disillusionment and malaise of the increasingly urban universe of the nineteenth century. It generally centered on a dark, mysterious Parisian atmosphere that spoke to a growing public awareness of the worlds of crime and of the police. Realist novelists, in particular Dostoevsky, enriched the genre's conventions, but the detective novel evolved beyond realism as it moved into the twentieth century, combining unsettling social critique with reassuringly flawless reasoning.

Meets either language requirement or Humanities I-A requirement
C. LeGouis

Prereq. 12 credits including two courses at the advanced level, or permission of department chair and instructor; 4 credits

Spring 2012

370s(1) Proust: À la Recherche du temps perdu
À la Recherche du temps perdu is the greatest literary masterpiece of the twentieth century

and is both rooted in a specific past and universal in its analysis of human intellect and emotion. We will concentrate on themes of love and desire in three relationships:

Swann's adoration of Odette; the narrator's fixation on Albertine; and the Baron de Charlus's homosexual passions. Assignments will include most of *Du Côté de chez Swann*, *Sodome et Gomorrhe*, and *Le Temps retrouvé*; excerpts from the other four novels; selections from important criticism; and film. Analysis of construction of the entire work will facilitate reading unassigned sections for ambitious Proustians.

Meets either language requirement or Humanities I-A requirement
C. LeGouis

Prereq. 12 credits including two courses at the advanced level, or permission of department chair and instructor; 4 credits

395fs Independent Study

Does not meet a distribution requirement

The department

Prereq. jr, sr with permission of department; 1-8 credits