In the Department of French and Italian Studies

Chair, Associate Professor Audrey Brunetaux (French)
Professors Bénédicte Mauguière and Adrianna Paliyenko; Associate Professors Audrey Brunetaux, Valérie Dionne, and Mouhamédoul Niang; Visiting Assistant Professors Flavien Falantin and Thomas Muzart; Language Assistant Stéphane Veniant

Unless otherwise specified, all courses are conducted in French.

Achievement Test: Students seeking entrance credit in French and wishing to pursue French at Colby must have taken either the College Board SAT Subject Test in French or the French Department’s online placement test.

The major in French studies promotes the acquisition of superior language skills along with an opportunity to explore, via a set of multidisciplinary approaches, the richness of French and Francophone cultures. Emphasis is placed on developing skills in critical analysis that enhance appreciation of print and visual texts while also broadening and deepening students’ understanding of values foreign to their own. Advanced competence in French and a heightened reflection about cultural differences offer students a fuller grasp of the world in an era of globalization and the opportunity to secure employment that will allow them to develop further their foreign language skills.

Requirements for the Major in French Studies

Students must successfully complete a minimum of 10 courses in French, including French 231, two other 200-level courses, six 300-level courses, and a senior seminar. All 200-level courses must be taken prior to senior year. Students who begin their French studies in the 125-126-127 sequence, however, may elect to count FR128 or FR131 toward the major. Majors fulfill the senior seminar (493) requirement by electing the seminar section of a 300-level course, either in the fall or spring of their senior year, with supplementary work authorized by the instructor.

The 10 (or nine) courses completed on campus or abroad must include

- one course focusing on early modern France, pre-1800 (such as French 232 and select 300- or 400-level courses)
- one course focusing on the Francophone world (such as French 236, 237, 238, 297, and select 300- or 400-level courses)
- one course focusing on the acquisition of critical tools and methods and/or the application of theory (such as French 237, 252, and select 300- or 400-level courses)

One course conducted in English in a department such as art, government, or history, in which the principal focus is France or Francophone countries, may be counted toward the major; it must be approved in advance by the advisor in the major or department chair. Majors must take at least one course in the department each semester. For students returning from foreign study, these courses must be numbered 300 or higher. Majors are required to spend at least one semester studying in a French-speaking country and are strongly encouraged to spend a full academic year. Three semester courses of transfer credit may be counted toward the major for a semester of study away from Colby, a maximum of five for a year.

The point scale for retention of the major is based on all French courses numbered above 127. No major requirement may be taken satisfactory/unsatisfactory.

Honors in French

French studies majors with a 3.5 average or higher in the major may apply to do a senior honors thesis. Grades in all French courses taken in the major, either on campus or abroad (whether a Colby or a non-Colby program), will be included in determining the average.

Formal application must be received by April 30 (in the spring of the junior year) or Sept. 7 (in the fall of the senior year).

Students who successfully complete the honors thesis, including the oral defense, will graduate with “Honors in French.”

Course Offerings

FR125fs French I First in a sequence that develops communication skills in a careful progression over three semesters. In addition to working on the four traditional skills of language acquisition—speaking, comprehension, reading, and writing—students will be introduced to the cultural contexts of France and the Francophone world. Use of audio and videotaped material is an integral and required part of class work. Students are placed in the appropriate level by their score on the College Board French SAT Subject test, a placement test during fall orientation, or through consultation with a member of the faculty in French. Four credit hours. BRUNETAUX, FALANTIN

FR126fs French II Strengthens and expands the skills introduced and practiced in French 125 by offering a learning environment conducive to the practice and development of writing, reading, listening, and oral performance. Because language practice is closely tied to cultural understanding, we use authentic texts and contexts that foster linguistic competence while highlighting the diversified cultural
FR127f  French III   The last course in the required language sequence (French 125-127) that develops communication skills in a careful progression over three semesters. In addition to working on the four traditional skills of speaking, comprehension, reading, and writing, students are encouraged to develop critical thinking through reading and language learning.  Four credit hours.  FALANTIN, MUZART, NIANG

[FR127J]  French III (Paris)   An intensive version of the last course in the required language sequence, held in Paris, France. Students not only learn French (developing their speaking, comprehension, reading, and writing abilities), they use French to learn, doing analytical work related to France's past (using Louis Malle's screenplay and film Au Revoir les enfants as a point of departure) and France's present (through class excursions). Students also learn to adapt to a foreign culture while immersed in a French-speaking environment. Estimated cost: $3,000.  Prerequisite: French 126 or equivalent.  Three credit hours.

FR128f  Cultural Encounters: Engaging with Literature and Media   Builds reading skills in French and broadens cultural knowledge of the Francophone world through a wide variety of texts and media. Emphasis is on the texts and contexts of culture, whether in France and/or in the Francophone world. Engages students in critical thinking and develops writing and oral expression.  Prerequisite: French 127.  Four credit hours.  L. MAUGUIERE, MUZART

FR131s  Debating Social Issues   Designed specifically for students wishing to develop oral skills and to acquire an extensive modern vocabulary to analyze and debate current societal issues pertaining to the French and Francophone world. This course will also improve students reading and writing skills, while developing cross-cultural competency. Through a variety of media, films, and texts students will develop analytical, critical and creative thinking.  Prerequisite: French 127 or a score of 60 on the College Board French SAT Subject Test or its equivalent on the placement test.  Four credit hours.  NIANG

FR132f  Boundaries and Margins: Speaker Series   Listed as Theater and Dance 132.  One credit hour.  BROWN, BRUNETAUX

[FR223]  French Theater Workshop   Designed for students wishing to develop their French language skills in a less traditional environment. Through close study of French plays, students acquire in-depth knowledge of contemporary French theater. As their final project, they have the unique opportunity to select, direct, and perform a French play. This workshop engages students in collaborative and experiential learning. Emphasis on analysis, drama performance, French oral practice, and creativity. No prior acting experience required. May be repeated once for additional credit.  Prerequisite: A 200-level French course.  Four credit hours.

FR224s  French Studies Lab Project: Maine, Ecology, and Gender   Students hone their skills in oral and written French through “hands-on” learning. Projects focused on a specific issue or topic may include: arts initiative involving the community and Colby museum, creative performance or exhibit, design project, Digital Humanities platforms, educational materials for local schools, environmental initiatives, field work, non-profit work and engagement with local organizations, public podcast, social media, and translation. This experiential course fosters intellectual curiosity, collaboration, learning by doing, problem solving, critical and creative thinking along with skills in research and project management.  Four credit hours.  FALANTIN

FR231f  Advanced Grammar and Composition   Provides a comprehensive overview of French grammar through presentations of the overall structure and frequent practice in writing. Required of majors and open to others wishing to improve their written expression in French.  Prerequisite: French 128, 131, or 240D.  Four credit hours.  MUZART

FR232f  French Cultural History: The Rise and Fall of Versailles   From the end of the Renaissance to the beginnings of revolution: an introduction to the major figures, movements, and works of 17th- and 18th-century France. Continued development of the ability to read, speak, and write in French, while also enhancing analytical skills.  Prerequisite: French 128, 131, or 240D.  Four credit hours.  H. DIONNE

FR234fs  Intensive Spoken French   Exclusively for French majors or students preparing for study in a French-speaking country. Weekly practice in oral French conducted by the French language assistant under the direction of a faculty member. May be repeated once for credit. Nongraded.  Prerequisite: Acceptance in a study-abroad program in a French-speaking country.  One credit hour.  VENIANT

[FR236]  Introduction to the Francophone World: The Americas   A comprehensive introduction to the French colonial and postcolonial cultural impact across the Americas. Students will examine issues of race, cultural and linguistic identity, cultural survival, and the concept of emerging literature in a minority context. The cultural connection between Louisiana, Haiti, French Guiana, as well as contemporary Francophone migrant literature will be examined.  Prerequisite: French 128, 131, 231, or 240D.  Four credit hours.  I.

FR237s  Francophone African Cinema   An introduction to major sub-Saharan Francophone filmmakers and their engagement with
certain aspects of African history and cultural practices. Students will discuss and write about the films and the issues they deal with. Supplemental readings will be provided to contextualize the films. Prerequisite: French 128 or 131. Four credit hours.

[FR238] Introduction to the Francophone World: Africa What does the term "Francophone" mean? Is it free from polemics? What is its history? Introduction to Africa from the 19th to the 21st century surveys many of the multifaceted cultural identities and histories of the former French-speaking colonies on the continent. Topics include colonization, politics, gender, language, the fight for independence, modernity and tradition, and the major literary movements in Francophone Africa. Course materials will include film, music, art, folktales, poetry, maps, newspaper articles, literary works, excerpts from scholarly texts, and films. Prerequisite: French 128, 131, or 240D. Four credit hours.

[FR239] Paris: Literary and Historical Topographies Offered in Paris, an exploration of the relationship between literary, historical, and contemporary Paris. How are Parisian spaces imagined in texts, in visual sources, and in our own mappings of today's cityscapes? Our corpus will include novels as well as historical and contemporary artifacts such as postcards and posters. Includes both traditional class sessions and student-led walking tours, which are organized around both physical space and our corpus. Provides a Francophone learning environment to French majors and other advanced French students to encourage thinking interdisciplinarily, particularly concerning the relationships between literature and history, word, and image. Cost to be determined. Prerequisite: French 128, 131, or 240D. Three credit hours.

[FR240] Surrealism Listed as Art 238. Four credit hours.

[FR243] French Pronunciation through Phonetics How do you know how to pronounce a word in French, without someone pronouncing it for you first? How can you truly decide if some letters should be pronounced or not? One of the main objectives of the French studies major is mastery of near-native pronunciation and the ability to continue to learn to speak French autonomously, as you come in contact with French speakers. Through an exploration of French and Francophone music, this course will give you the theoretical foundations to understand the logic behind the French pronunciation system, practice in the form of pronunciation labs, and a hands-on speaking project. Prerequisite: French 128, 131, or 240D. Four credit hours.

FR252f Provocative Texts: Fake News, Secrets, and Controversies How does one approach print and/or visual culture critically? Students engage with a range of "texts," such as poetry, works of art, theater, short stories, novels, and/or film, to acquire the tools and methods of critical interpretation and analysis. Significant writing accompanies close reading of what a particular "text" does and thus how it "speaks" or conveys meaning. Students apply genre-specific vocabulary and take interdisciplinary and analytical approaches to response papers, interpretive essays, and/or multifaceted digital/video projects. Prerequisite: French 128, 131, or 240D. Four credit hours.

FR323 Voices of Dissent in Early Modern France or the Quest for Freedom An introduction to free-thinkers and libertines, and an exploration of the concept of freedom. We shall consider great thinkers and provocative writers like Montaigne, Molière, Diderot, and Sade, who challenged religious and social norms in search of a more just society. Through close reading of texts, and discussion of the their historical and cultural context, from the wars of religion to the French revolution, we will study how the writers dissimulate their controversial opinions, while advocating liberté de pensée in the face of fanaticism and dogmatic thinking. This course will conclude with Laclos' great book Dangerous Liaisons. Prerequisite: French 231 and at least one other 200-level course, preferably two. Four credit hours.

FR351 Minority Issues and Social Change in the Americas Examines issues of cultural representation, migration, diaspora, and social change primarily in Quebec, Maine, and Louisiana. Postcolonial, transatlantic, and border theories will be used to better understand the French experience in the Americas. Goals include developing critical reading, presentation, and writing skills. Students will analyze print and visual texts, including films and oral stories, and they will contribute to a digital humanities project as part of an on-going, interdisciplinary effort to remap America and American studies. Prerequisite: French 231 and at least one other 200-level course, preferably two. Four credit hours.

FR354 Parisian Encounters: Great Loves, Grand Passions The sexual and racial selection of genius exposes the weight of prejudice against creative women in French cultural history. In studying the impact of "great" couples during the long 19th century (1789-1914), we shall map and interrogate their legacies across a broad sweep of (colonial) history, the arts, letters, and sciences. Learning goals emphasize interdisciplinary practice of critical analysis, close study of images and works of art in the Colby Museum, and the development of advanced oral and written expression in French. Prerequisite: French 231 and at least one other 200-level course, preferably two. Four credit hours.

FR355 The Other French Empire, Then and Now The French trailed behind the British, not abolishing slave trade until 1815 and slavery in 1848. Yet, beginning in 1850, French colonial expansion was dramatic. By 1914, France possessed the second-largest colonial empire in the world. How do different generations of thinkers and artists represent this past, which is ever present? Students gain knowledge of French colonization and skills in cross-cultural analysis. They engage in critical thinking across disciplines not only via the
course material but also as they conduct archival research on a topic of their choice to produce an original website or other creative project.  
Prerequisite:  Senior or junior standing as a French studies major.  Four credit hours.  L, I.

[FR357]  **Illuminating Turns to Science in 19th-Century France**  Examines how painters, poets and thinkers across the disciplines shed light on the "triumph" of science and its biases in 19th-century France. A chronological study of primary sources, both print and visual, tracks advances in anatomy, physiology, embryology, and psychology during the first half of the century, followed by the impact of experimental medicine, evolution and social Darwinism in the 1860s and beyond. Via this transdisciplinary course exposing the blind spot as well as the limits of human knowledge, students engage critically with new historicism and gain advanced skills in archival research, analytical writing, and creative oral presentations.  Prerequisite:  French 231 and at least one other 200-level course, preferably two.  Four credit hours.  H, I.

FR361s  **Creolization, Culture, and Society in the Indian Ocean Islands**  Explores issues of race, gender, identity, diversity, cultural contact, and conflict in Indian Ocean island cultures and literatures written in French through selected writings from Mauritius, Madagascar, Reunion, the Seychelles, and the Comoros. We will examine the complex social, cultural, and historical context of the region with an interdisciplinary perspective. Topics include slavery, "marronage", cultural hybridity, "métissage," "coolitude," and the development of colonial and postcolonial identities and subjectivities. Students will develop their presentation and writing skills through the production of critical essays and research projects.  Prerequisite:  French 231 and at least one other 200-level course, preferably two.  Four credit hours.  I.  MAUGUIERE

[FR370]  **Corps, Espace, et Genre: Postcolonial Space in Francophone Africa**  The transition from the colonial to the postcolonial in Francophone Africa changed the way in which post-independence writers and filmmakers engage with space. These writers and filmmakers treat family and collective anthropological spaces in conjunction with the body and/or self. Through analysis of novels, short stories, essays, and films from the 20th and 21st centuries, along with postcolonial concepts of hybridity, resistance, and the subaltern, we examine the politics and praxis of the body in space as it relates to gender, age, identity, ritualized performance, and belief systems.  Prerequisite:  French 231 and at least one other 200-level course, preferably two.  Four credit hours.  I.

[FR358]  **Passionate Discontent: The 19th-Century Epidemic**  Civil unrest and war along with rapid change that accompanied the industrial revolution spread malaise throughout the French population, giving rise to the study of the human mind and its discontents. Figures of mental suffering reveal how passionate discontent, traditionally associated with the genius of male Romantics, became a "female" malady and then a sign of racial degeneration. Through the study of representative texts, drawn from medicine, art, and literature, students engage in comparative cultural analysis of the development of psychology. Interdisciplinary approach also taken to independent research conducted in the archives. Development of analytical writing and oral presentation skills emphasized.  Prerequisite:  French 231 and at least one other 200-level course, preferably two.  Four credit hours.  L.

[FR357]  **L’écriture de soi**  Explores concepts of memory and self-fashioning in autobiographical writing, and questions the (im)possibilities of writing the self. Through theoretical readings, students will acquire a better understanding of the processes by which memoirs, autobiographies, and oral/written testimonies are produced. Particular attention will be paid to narratives that deal with traumatic personal and historical events. Discussions and debates, informed by theoretical readings and supplementary material, will develop critical and analytical skills.  Prerequisite:  French 231 and at least one other 200-level course, preferably two.  Four credit hours.  L.

[FR373]  **Writing of Place: Migration, Nationalism, and Memory**  An exploration of themes of migration, nationalism, and memory through fictional works by authors from the Maghreb and sub-Saharan Francophone Africa living on the continent or in France. Focus is on the migrant experience and its impact on the writing and perception of place, as well as the advent of the nation in the 1960s and the nationalist discourse that serves as its backbone. The narrative of place will be emphasized along with the recent memorializing of the Rwandan genocide. Readings supplemented by theoretical works and films. Students will expand their knowledge and practice of French as it relates to postcolonial Francophone Africa.  Prerequisite:  French 231 and at least one other 200-level course, preferably two.  Four credit hours.  H, I.

FR375f  **Narratives of Identities in Francophone African Literature**  The quest for and celebration of identity are key thematic and aesthetic components in contemporary Francophone African literature and cinema. We will engage with works of fiction and film that provide a narrative of identity within the framework of African cultures such as sub-Saharan Africa or the Maghreb. Focus will be on communal and individual identities within the framework of ethnicity and/or tribalism. Students will learn how and why these writers and filmmakers narrate identity, and will engage with African identities through structured writing, oral presentations, captivating readings of texts, and film screening.  Prerequisite:  A 200-level course in French.  Four credit hours.  NIANG

FR377f  **Staging Justice: The Theater of Revolt**  French and Francophone theater have a lengthy fascination with revolution—against injustice, despotism, sexism, slavery, and religious and social constraints. We will read, analyze, and discuss plays by Molière, Anouilh, de Gouges, Camus, and Glissant, among others. These dramas, written before, during, and after the French Revolution, will allow us to explore the motivation for rebellion and revolution. As the point of departure for a broader analysis of the revolutionary impulse, we will discuss The
Rebel by Camus. Prerequisite: French 231 and at least one other 200-level course, preferably two. Four credit hours. L, I.

DIONNE

[FR378] French Revolution and Human Rights The French Revolution ushered in the modern world through the concepts of freedom, equality, and fraternity. We will hone critical skills by analyzing the development of those concepts during the Enlightenment, focusing especially on the questions of natural (human) rights and tolerance in Voltaire, Rousseau, Montesquieu, Beaumarchais, and Condorcet. We will hone communication skills while examining the consequences of those concepts, interrogating the justification for revolutionary terror, discussing whether the French Revolution was a success or a failure, and considering controversial figures like Marie-Antoinette, Robespierre, and Marat. Prerequisite: French 231 and at least one other 200-level course, preferably two. Four credit hours. H.

FR379s Race and Gender in France From Josephine Baker to the blackface controversies of the recent years, France has always had a fraught relationship with race, largely rooted in, and compounded by, its colonial history. Black/African, afro-descendant, brown men and women continue to face racial exclusion, discrimination, and exoticization in color-blind France. This course challenges the country’s problematic discourse on race and gender, and its systemic racism, through a critical analysis of film, performance, art, fashion, online media, advertising, podcasts, and social justice movements. Emphasis placed on black feminisms, critical race theory, and intersectionality. Prerequisite: French 231 and at least one 300-level French course. Four credit hours. A, I.

BRUNETAUX

FR398s Time for Outrage! Disenfranchised Subjects, Political Struggles Provides an overview of major political struggles that shaped Frances understanding and commitment to social justice from 1960s to today. Whether about women, LGBTQ, prisoners, immigrants, racial groups, working class, the movements will be analyzed independently and in relation with each other in order to uncover convergences but also conflicting views on the ways to conduct collective actions and contribute to the empowerment of minorities. The study of films, manifestos, novels, podcasts, and political discourses, will be the basis of debates on citizenship, communitarianism, identity politics, and social privilege. Prerequisite: French 231 and one other 200-level course. Four credit hours.

MUZART

FR483f, 484s Senior Honors Thesis The senior honors thesis counts as one of the 10 courses required for the major. The thesis, written in French, is to be a substantial study of a carefully defined topic, supported by critical sources. Prerequisite: A 3.5 or higher major average at the end of the junior year and permission of the department. Three credit hours.

FR491f, 492s Independent Study Individual projects in areas where the student has demonstrated the interest and competence necessary for independent work. Prerequisite: Permission of the instructor. Two to four credit hours.

FACULTY

FR493B Seminar: Narratives of Identities in Francophone African Literature The quest for and celebration of identity are key thematic and aesthetic components in contemporary Francophone-African literature and cinema. We will engage with works of fiction and film that provide a narrative of identity within the framework of African cultures such as sub-Saharan Africa or the Maghreb. Focus will be on communal and individual identities within the framework of ethnicity and/or tribalism. Students will learn how and why these writers and filmmakers narrate identity and will engage with African identities through structured writing, oral presentations, captivating readings of texts, and film screening. Prerequisite: Senior standing as a French studies major. Four credit hours.

NIANG

[FR493C] Seminar: Minority Issues and Social Change in the Americas Examines issues of cultural representation, migration, diaspora, and social change primarily in Quebec, Maine, and Louisiana. Postcolonial, transatlantic, and border theories will be used to better understand the French experience in the Americas. Goals include developing critical reading, presentation, and writing skills. Students will analyze print and visual texts, including films and oral stories, and they will contribute to a digital humanities project as part of an on-going, interdisciplinary effort to remap America and American studies. Prerequisite: Senior standing as a French studies major. Four credit hours.

L, I.

FR493D Seminar: Parisian Encounters: Great Loves, Grand Passions Sexual and racial selection of genius exposes the weight of prejudice against creative women in French cultural history. In studying the impact of "great" couples during the long 19th century (1789-1914), we shall map and interrogate their legacies across a broad sweep of (colonial) history, the arts, letters, and sciences. Learning goals emphasize interdisciplinary practice of critical analysis, close study of images and works of art in the Colby Museum, and the development of advanced oral and written expression in French. Prerequisite: Senior standing as a French studies major. Four credit hours.

FR493E Seminar: Creolization, Culture, and Society in the Indian Ocean Islands Explores issues of race, gender, identity, diversity, cultural contact, and conflict in Indian Ocean island cultures and literatures written in French through selected writings from Mauritius, Madagascar, Reunion, the Seychelles, and the Comoros. We will examine the complex social, cultural, and historical context of the region with an interdisciplinary perspective. Topics include slavery, "marronage", cultural hybridity, "métissage," "coolitude," and the development of colonial and postcolonial identities and subjectivities. Students will develop their presentation and writing skills through the production of critical essays and research projects. Prerequisite: Senior standing as a French studies major. Four credit hours.
[FR493F]  Seminar: Corps, Espace, et Genre: Postcolonial Space in Francophone Africa The transition from the colonial to the postcolonial in Francophone Africa changed the way in which post-independence writers and filmmakers engage with space. These writers and filmmakers treat family and collective anthropological spaces in conjunction with the body and/or self. Through analysis of novels, short stories, essays, and films from the 20th and 21st centuries, along with postcolonial concepts of hybridity, resistance, and the subaltern, we examine the politics and praxis of the body in space as it relates to gender, age, identity, ritualized performance, and belief systems. Prerequisite: Senior standing as a French studies major. Four credit hours.

[FR493H]  Seminar: French Revolution and Human Rights The French Revolution ushered in the modern world through the concepts of freedom, equality, and fraternity. We will hone critical skills by analyzing the development of those concepts during the Enlightenment, focusing especially on the questions of natural (human) rights and tolerance in Voltaire, Rousseau, Montesquieu, and Condorcet. We will hone communication skills while examining the consequences of those concepts, interrogating the justification for revolutionary terror, discussing whether the French Revolution was a success or a failure, and considering controversial figures like Marie-Antoinette, Robespierre, and Marat. Prerequisite: Senior standing as a French studies major. Four credit hours.

[FR493I]  Seminar: Voices of Dissent in Early Modern France or the Quest for Freedom An introduction to free-thinkers and libertines, and an exploration of the concept of freedom. We shall consider great thinkers and provocative writers like Montaigne, Molière, Diderot, and Sade, who challenged religious and social norms in search of a more just society. Through close reading of texts, and discussion of the their historical and cultural context, from the wars of religion to the French revolution, we will study how the writers dissimulate their controversial opinions, while advocating liberté de pensée in the face of fanaticism and dogmatic thinking. This course will conclude with Laclos’ great book Dangerous Liaisons. Prerequisite: Senior standing as a French studies major. Four credit hours.

[FR493K]  Seminar: Illuminating Turns to Science in 19th-Century France Examines how painters, poets and thinkers across the disciplines shed light on the “triumph” of science and its biases in 19th-century France. A chronological study of primary sources, both print and visual, tracks advances in anatomy, physiology, embryology, and psychology during the first half of the century, followed by the impact of experimental medicine, evolution and social Darwinism in the 1860s and beyond. Via this transdisciplinary course exposing the blind spot as well as the limits of human knowledge, students engage critically with new historicism and gain advanced skills in archival research, analytical writing, and creative oral presentations. Prerequisite: Senior standing as a French studies major. Four credit hours.

FR493Ls  Seminar: Race and Gender in France From Josephine Baker to the blackface controversies of the recent years, France has always had a fraught relationship with race, largely rooted in, and compounded by, its colonial history. Black/African, afro-descendant, brown men and women continue to face racial exclusion, discrimination, and exoticization in color-blind France. This course challenges the country’s problematic discourse on race and gender, and its systemic racism, through a critical analysis of film, performance, art, fashion, online media, advertising, podcasts, and social justice movements. Emphasis placed on black feminisms, critical race theory, and intersectionality. Prerequisite: Senior standing as a French studies major. Four credit hours.

FR493Mf  Seminar: Staging Justice: The Theater of Revolt French and Francophone theater have a lengthy fascination with revolution—against injustice, despotism, sexism, slavery, and religious and social constraints. We will read, analyze, and discuss plays by Molière, Anouilh, de Gouges, Camus, and Glissant, among others. These dramas, written before, during, and after the French Revolution, will allow us to explore the motivation for rebellion and revolution. As the point of departure for a broader analysis of the revolutionary impulse, we will discuss The Rebel by Camus. Prerequisite: Senior standing as a French studies major. Four credit hours.

FR493N  Seminar: L’écriture de soi Explores concepts of memory and self-fashioning in autobiographical writing, and questions the (im)possibilities of writing the self. Through theoretical readings, students will acquire a better understanding of the processes by which memoirs, autobiographies, and oral/written testimonies are produced. Particular attention will be paid to narratives that deal with traumatic personal and historical events. Discussions and debates, informed by theoretical readings and supplementary material, will develop critical and analytical skills. Prerequisite: Senior standing as a French Studies major. Four credit hours.

FR493Ps  Seminar: Time for Outrage! Disenfranchised Subjects, Political Struggles Provides an overview of major political struggles that shaped Frances understanding and commitment to social justice from 1960s to today. Whether about women, LGBTQ, prisoners, immigrants, racial groups, working class, the movements will be analyzed independently and in relation with each other in order to uncover convergences but also conflicting views on the ways to conduct collective actions and contribute to the empowerment of minorities. The study of films, manifestos, novels, podcasts, and political discourses, will be the basis of debates on citizenship, communitarianism, identity politics, and social privilege. Prerequisite: Senior standing as a French Studies major. Four credit hours.
ITalian

In the Department of French and Italian Studies

Chair, Associate Professor Audrey Brunetaux (French)
Associate Professor Gianluca Rizzo and Assistant Professor Danila Cannamela; Language Assistant Francesca Nardi

All courses are conducted in Italian unless otherwise noted.

Achievement Test: Students seeking entrance credit in Italian and wishing to pursue Italian at Colby must have taken either the College Board SAT Subject Test in Italian or a placement test during orientation.

Requirements for the Minor in Italian Studies

The minor in Italian studies seeks to acquaint students with the breadth of Italian language and civilization and to introduce them to the life and culture of Italy, from the Middle Ages to the modern and contemporary unified Italian state. Minors are strongly encouraged to spend at least one semester studying in Italy. The minor requires six courses: a minimum of five in the Italian Studies program, on campus, beginning with Italian 127 and including 128, 141, a 200-level course, and a 300-level course; plus one additional course in Italian literature or culture that may be taken outside the department and may be taught in English. All courses taken outside of the department must be approved by the Italian Studies program director or department chair. Students should plan on taking 127 and 128 consecutively, preferably before going abroad. Students planning to take fifth-semester Italian while abroad should see Professor Rizzo or the department chair.

Course Offerings

IT125f Italian I Basic comprehensive course for students with little or no previous knowledge of Italian. Focus is on developing the reading, writing, speaking, and listening skills needed to gain fluency in Italian and on familiarizing students with basic aspects of Italian culture and geography. Learning in the classroom takes place entirely in Italian and is task based, involving group activities, interviews with fellow students, and role-playing exercises. Four credit hours. CANNAMELA

IT125T Italian I in Genoa Basic comprehensive course for students with little or no previous knowledge of Italian. Focus is on developing the reading, writing, speaking, and listening skills needed to gain fluency in Italian and on familiarizing students with basic aspects of Italian culture and geography. Learning in the classroom takes place entirely in Italian and is task based, involving group activities, interviews with fellow students, and role-playing exercises. A full immersion environment allows students to continually practice what they learn, while enjoying the beauty of Italy. Estimated cost: $3,500. Three credit hours.

IT126s Italian II Continued basic comprehensive course for students with elementary knowledge (Italian 125 or equivalent) of Italian. Focus is on continuing development of the reading, writing, speaking, and listening skills gained in Italian I and on increasing students’ familiarity with aspects of Italian culture and geography. Learning in the classroom takes place entirely in Italian and is task based, involving group activities, interviews with fellow students, and role-playing exercises. Prerequisite: Italian 125 or equivalent. Four credit hours. NARDI, RIZZO

IT127f Italian III Continued practice in listening and speaking skills; grammar review, with greater emphasis on writing. Reading and conversation topics taken from contemporary Italian literature; course materials convey a sense and understanding of contemporary Italian society. Prerequisite: Italian 126 or equivalent. Four credit hours. RIZZO

IT128s Italian through Film and Visual Culture Through an in-depth study of film and visual media, students will improve their understanding of Italian language and culture as well as master increasingly complex grammatical structures. Study of different aspects of Italian society and history as depicted in film, television, and the visual arts. Oral and written work will allow students to improve linguistic skills and expand cultural knowledge creatively. Prerequisite: Italian 127 or equivalent. Four credit hours. CANNAMELA

IT141f Introduction to Italian Literary Studies: Poets, Lovers, Revolutionaries In this discussion-intensive course, we will explore the most enduring topics of Italian culture: the nature of love, the role of the artist in society, and the experience of time and death. Students will learn about different artistic genres (lyric poetry, short story, novel, film, contemporary song) and hone analytic skills and writing (rhetorical figures, form-content, stylistics). Students will become familiar with key periods of Italian culture and famous authors (Dante, Boccaccio, Petrarch, Leopardi, Montale, Moravia, Maraini, Deledda, Calvino). In Italian. Prerequisite: Italian 128 or equivalent. Four credit hours. RIZZO

IT153 Modern and Contemporary Italian Fiction in Translation in Verona This course in Italian fiction, held in Verona, Italy, will offer a close study of four authors whose work spans the 20th century. Readings will include Lia Levi, The Jewish Husband; Ennio Flaiano, A Time to Kill; Elena Ferrante, My Brilliant Friend; and Antonio Tabucchi, Pereira Declares. Includes field trips to Rome and Italian cultural
centers around Verona. **Prerequisite:** For more information, contact Patrick Brancaccio (pbranca@colby.edu). **Three credit hours.**

**IT235s** **Italian Conversation**  An informal, weekly, small-group meeting for conversation practice, led by the Italian language assistant. Topics will vary, to include everyday life experience, contemporary culture and media, and literature. Conducted in Italian. May be repeated for credit. **Prerequisite:** Italian 127 (may be taken concurrently) or prior study-abroad experience in Italy. **One credit hour.** NARDI

**IT242s** **Italian Ecopoetics: Beauty, Loss, Desire**  In the last few decades, literature and the arts have addressed the environmental crisis through creative representations. Yet, are these ecopoetics exclusively environmentalist works? Or can more traditional nature writing foster an ecocritical discourse? This course explores these key questions by investigating how in the 20th and 21st centuries Italian poets, artists, and directors have reworked the classical motif of the beautiful place—a place where beauty, loss, and desire intermingle. Beauty surprisingly becomes a lens to represent and interpret the complex interconnection of environmental and sociocultural issues. Taught in English. **Four credit hours.** L. CANNAMELA

**[IT255]** **Modern Classics, Italian Style**  An overview of some of the most relevant and interesting texts (visual, cinematic, literary, and musical) of the 20th century, while strengthening the linguistic skills acquired so far. We will begin with Futurismo, the first of the historical avant-gardes, an artistic movement that originated in Italy and set out to change everything: music, theater, literature, painting, sculpture, and food. Every week students will engage a different text, from pop music to cinema and literature, learning how to appreciate its history and to enjoy its beauty. **Prerequisite:** Italian 128. **Four credit hours.** L.

**IT346f** **Geographies of R/existence: 70s Liberation Movements in Italy**  Explores three Italian liberation movements of the 1970s-early 1980s: the feminismo della differenza (feminism of sexual difference), the gay liberation front (in particular, the radical thought of Mario Mieli), and the trans* movement. The goal is to investigate how these interrelated movements trace new embodied and political geographies. The Italian 1970s debate about gender and sexuality becomes a platform that can spur dialogue across cultures while suggesting new modes of thinking, doing, and being. Taught in English. **Boundaries and Margins humanities lab. Four credit hours.**

I. CANNAMELA

**[IT356]** **Introduction to Dante’s Divine Comedy (in English)**  An introduction to Dante, his times, and his cultural milieu through a critical reading of The Divine Comedy and other selected works. We will investigate Dante’s relationship with authority, tradition, and faith, and explore his particular understanding of love as a path to knowledge and of literature as a way to salvation. Students will be challenged to find Dante’s lasting influence on contemporary culture in the works of modern authors, both in the Italian-speaking and English-speaking worlds. All lectures and class materials will be in English. One additional weekly hour of discussion in Italian will be open to Italian minors and all who are interested. **Four credit hours.** L.

**[IT357]** **F for Fake: Forgery, Fiction, Art of Lying (in English)**  Traces the evolution and explores the meaning of fakes, fiction, and hoaxes in Western art and literature in order to call into question conventional ideas of authorship, readership, and text. The seminar will begin by defining core terms such as forgery, parody, hoax, and fiction. We will see how each of these terms is defined by a particular author/audience relation. Subsequently, we will be looking at a series of “case studies” containing historical examples from each of the terms, supplemented with a selection of critical readings that will enhance students’ appreciation of the aesthetic and epistemological implications of the texts at issue. Taught in English. **Four credit hours.** L.

**IT373s** **Italian Food in Practice: A Hands-on Cultural History**  We will trace the historical evolution of Italian food culture in the geographical and cultural context of the Mediterranean since classical times. The focus will be on understanding the extraordinary significance of food for Italian national identity by exploring its evolution through various historical, cross-cultural, and theoretical perspectives, drawing from history, anthropology, sociology, art, and literature. During the weekly lab we will familiarize ourselves with ingredients, practice basic cooking techniques, learn fundamental preparations, and recreate classic Italian recipes. **Prerequisite:** Italian 141. **Four credit hours.** RIZZO

**[IT375]** **Introduction to Italian Cinema (in English)**  Offers an introduction to Italian film from the 1950s to the present day, with special emphasis on commedia all’italiana (Italian-style comedy, 1950s-1970s). Beyond their ability to entertain, these popular films also served as a crucial means for exploring via humor the social and political upheaval unfolding throughout Italy during the last several decades. Skills of critical analysis will be honed through readings on the history and theory of cinema and screenings of films by such celebrated directors as Fellini, De Sica, Monicelli, Germi, Wertmüller, and others. **Four credit hours.**

**IT491f, 492s** **Independent Study**  Individual projects in areas where the student has demonstrated the interest and competence necessary for independent work. **Prerequisite:** Permission of the instructor. **Two to four credit hours.** FACULTY