Colby

FRENCH

In the Department of French and Italian.

Chair, *Professor Bénédicte Mauguière (French)*
Professors Arthur Greenspan, Bénédicte Mauguière, and Adrianna Paliyenko; Assistant Professors Audrey Brunetaux, Valérie Dionne, Aurore Mroz, and Mouhamédoul Niang; Language Assistant Aurore Spiers

Unless otherwise specified, all courses are conducted in French.

Achievement Test: If a student offers a foreign language for entrance credit and wishes to continue it in college, that student must either have taken the College Board SAT Subject test in the language or take the placement test during orientation.

The major in French studies promotes the acquisition of superior language skills while offering an opportunity to explore the richness of French and Francophone literatures and cultures. Emphasis is placed on developing the critical and analytical skills that enhance the appreciation of various forms of cultural production and on broadening and deepening students' understanding of values foreign to their own.

Requirements for the Major in French Studies

Students must successfully complete a minimum of 10 courses in French, beginning at the 200 level, including French 231, 493, and two courses selected from 232, 233, 236, 238, 243, and 252. Among the courses at the 200 or 300 level selected for the major, either in the department or abroad, students are required to complete one course focused on Early Modern France and one course focused on the Francophone world. One course conducted in English in such departments as art, government, and history, in which the principal focus is France or Francophone countries, may be counted toward the major; it must be approved in advance. 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. Potential majors, and especially students beginning their French studies at the 100 level, should consult with the department chair during the first year to determine the appropriate sequence. 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

Majors may apply to write an honors thesis, which counts as one of the 10 courses required for the major. Formal application must be received no later than September 10 of the student's senior year and preferably by April 10 in the spring of the junior 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 the Francophone world. Use of audio and videotaped material is an integral and required part of classwork. 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.* MROZ, PALIYENKO

FR126fs French II Strengthens and expands the four language 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. As language practice is closely tied to cultural understanding, features a number of authentic texts and contexts that foster linguistic competence while highlighting the diversified cultural contribution of the French and Francophone world. Develops critical thinking vis-a-vis language and culture through listening, reading, speaking, and writing, while attaining an appropriate level of fluency in all four skills and improving cultural literacy. *Four credit hours.* DIONNE, MAUGUIERE

FR127fs French III The last of 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 build their personal and cultural knowledge and to develop their critical-thinking skills through language learning. 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 French faculty. *Four credit hours.* BRUNETAUX, GREENSPAN

FR127Jj French III (Paris) The last of 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 build their personal and cultural knowledge and to develop their critical-thinking skills through language learning. As students move towards greater fluency in French, they begin to do analytical work in the language. Students are also expected to adapt to an immersion environment. Estimated cost: $3,030. *Prerequisite:* French 126 or equivalent. *Three credit hours.* DAVIES

FR128fs French IV: Reading in Cultural Contexts Builds reading skills and broadens cultural background through a wide variety of readings in French. Emphasis is on the texts and contexts of culture, whether in France, Quebec, or other Francophone areas such as Africa and the Caribbean. Continuing work in improving oral and written skills. *Prerequisite:* French 127. *Four credit hours.* **L** DIONNE, PALIYENKO

FR131s Conversation and Composition Designed specifically for students wishing to develop oral skills and to acquire an extensive modern vocabulary, with additional practice in writing short, weekly compositions. Preparation for further study of French. It will also improve their reading skills while fostering students' understanding of French culture and society. Through the exploration of a French contemporary novel and of French films, students acquire the skills to critique and interpret while engaging them in active 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.* MAUGUIERE

FR197f Critical Thinking Across Cultures The ability to communicate the complexity of one's critical thoughts in writing is crucial to academic debates. While exploring questions of interculturality, students will practice their written English through weekly assignments and the completion of three critical writing projects. They will also engage in discussion about topics such as how to arbitrate cultural viewpoints, the different purposes and functions of writing, and the intercultural variations in producing an argument. *Four credit hours.* **W1, I** MROZ

FR223s French Theater Workshop Designed to develop oral skills and in-depth knowledge of a French play that will be interpreted and performed as a final project. In addition to working on traditional language skills—speaking, comprehension, and reading—students will be introduced to French theater. Weekly sessions include drama performance, pronunciation, and oral practice. Conducted entirely in French. *Prerequisite:* French 128 or French 131. *Two credit hours.* BRUNETAUX

FR231fs 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 or 131 or 211D. *Four credit hours.* BRUNETAUX, GREENSPAN

FR232f Cultural History of France Examination of the major events and movements in the cultural history of France from its origins in prehistory to the Dreyfus Affair, with emphasis on written documents such as laws, manifestos, letters, and decrees and on such visual documents as maps, monuments, paintings, symbols, film, and photography. Continued development of the ability to read, speak, and write in French, while also enhancing analytical skills. Required for French studies majors and recommended for global studies students. *Prerequisite:* French 128 or 131. *Four credit hours.* **H** DIONNE

FR233s Contemporary France Explores different aspects of contemporary French culture and current issues and debates taking place in France today. Looks at notions of French cultural identity and national citizenship and France's relations with its European neighbors and the rest of the world. Provides background information on various aspects of France, including political and social institutions, the economy, international relations, education, immigration, family, and daily life. French readings (texts and articles), audio and video materials, and student presentations will provide the context for discussion. Engages students in active thinking through forums and debates and will develop both their critical and analytical skills. *Prerequisite:* French 128 or 131. *Four credit hours.* BRUNETAUX

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.* SPIERS

[FR236] Introduction to the Francophone World: The Americas The colonial and postcolonial French cultural legacy as it spread across North America among ethno-cultural groups in Quebec, Acadia, Maine, Manitoba, Ontario, and Louisiana. The cultural connection between Louisiana, Haïti, French Guiana and contemporary Francophone migrant literature is also examined. The course focuses on issues of cultural encounter, the concept of emerging literature, oral culture, linguistic identity and cultural survival, nationalism, history and mythology, race, gender, and diasporic cultural development. *Prerequisite:* French 128 or 131. *Four credit hours.* **I**

[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 or 131. *Four credit hours.* **I**

FR243f French Phonetics and Pronunciation One of the main objectives of the French studies major is mastery of near-native pronunciation. Students are given the opportunity to perfect their pronunciation of French vowels and consonants. Through the use of the International Phonetic Alphabet and the study of correlations between written and spoken language, students also learn correct syllabification, rhythm, and intonation in French. *Prerequisite:* French 128 or 131. *Four credit hours.* MROZ

FR245s Translation Workshop Introduction to translation from French into English (*version*) and from English into French (*thème*) using literary texts selected from 20th-century and contemporary Francophone authors. Students will discover new writers and will improve their reading, speaking, and writing skills through close examination of the differences between English and French. Nongraded. *Prerequisite:* French 231. *One credit hour.* SPIERS

FR252s Provocative Texts: Engaging the World Centering on major themes in culture, an analysis of the ways in which different kinds of texts endeavor to set into play important issues and conflicting values. Significant writing and analysis of the means by which written and visual texts—including short stories and novels, theater, poetry, essays, and film—"speak." *Prerequisite:* French 128 or 131. *Four credit hours.* **L, I** PALIYENKO

[FR332] Voices of Dissent in Early Modern France An introduction to free-thinkers, libertines, and also the "Querelle des femmes." 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 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. Concludes with Laclos's great book *Dangerous Liaisons*. *Prerequisite:* French 231 and at least one other 200-level course, preferably two. *Four credit hours.* **L**

FR343s Decoding French and Francophone News Further develops students' cultural awareness of the French and Francophone world via the study of contemporary news events that are representative of different cultural perspectives. Students will acquire the specific vocabulary, linguistic registers, and discursive structures of news and media in French and will thus be able to discuss key cultural issues. *Prerequisite:* French 231 and at least one other 200-level course, preferably two. *Four credit hours.* MROZ

FR351s Minority Issues and Social Change in Francophone North America Analysis of cultural productions from Quebec and Francophone America, focusing on issues of identity, language, immigration and nationalism as seen in contemporary fiction, poetry, theater, and film. *Prerequisite:* French 231 and at least one other 200-level course, preferably two. *Four credit hours.* **L, I** MAUGUIERE

[FR354] Parisian Encounters: Great Loves, Grand Passions An examination of the legacies of famous couples in 19th-century French history, privileging male genius in a fashion that reveals the sexual and racial selection of genius and exposes the weight of prejudice against creative women in French cultural history. We shall consider the impact of "great" couples during the long 19th century (1789-1914) and in our day, mapping and interrogating their legacies across a broad sweep of (colonial) history, the arts, letters, and science. *Prerequisite:* French 231 and at least one other 200-level course, preferably two. *Four credit hours.* **H, I**

[FR356] Public and Private Life in 19th-Century France Competing artistic and literary representations of public and private life in 19th-century France provide the framework for a retrospective exploration of the century as it was portrayed, and at the same time challenged, by the creative minds it produced. Through interdisciplinary works on collective memory, students study in depth the richly textured 19th century and gain skills in cultural analysis. Topics range from the *mal du siècle* to the *fin-de-siècle*, the sacred to the profane, the domestic to the commercial, the personal to the political, and the native to the foreign. *Prerequisite:* French 231 and at least one other 200-level course, preferably two. *Four credit hours.* **L, I**

[FR358] Passionate Discontent: The 19th-Century Epidemic Troubled by epidemic revolution and social instability, the 19th century in France generated a culture of malaise and a fascinating exchange of ideas among medicine, art, and literature. Our study of celebrated figures of disease—the anxious René, deluded Emma Bovary, and degenerate Thérèse Raquin among them—reveals how passionate discontent, which was traditionally associated with the genius of male Romantics, became a "female" malady and in turn a sign of racial degeneration. Topics include the gendering of diseases (such as neurasthenia and hysteria), class differences, and the "disease" of race. Non-French majors may write papers and examinations in English. *Prerequisite:* French 231 and at least one other 200-level course, preferably two. *Four credit hours.* **L**

[FR361] Francophone Cultures and Literatures of the Indian Ocean Explores the diversity of Indian Ocean island cultures and literatures written in French through selected writings from Mauritius, Madagascar, Reunion, the Seychelles, and the Comoros. Emphasis is on how issues of cultural hybridity, "metissage," "coolitude," space (especially insularity), myths, and history are reflected in literary texts and their role in the development of colonial and postcolonial identities and subjectivities. Readings include Ananda Devi, Natacha Appanah, Michele Rakotoson, Jacques Rabemananjara, Jean-Joseph Rabearivelo, Malcom de Chazal, Axel Gauvin, and Monique Agenor among others. *Prerequisite:* French 231 and at least one other 200-level course, preferably two. *Four credit hours.* **I**

[FR370] Gender, Body, Space: Postcolonial Space in Francophone Africa The transition from the colonial to the postcolonial in Francophone Africa changed how 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**

[FR372] France and Africa A comparison of the ways Africa is portrayed by French and African writers, artists, and filmmakers. Focusing on contemporary literature, but including discussions on film, video, and photography, explores how French artists and writers represent Africa in their works, and how Africans, in response, represent themselves. Given the history of colonization and cultural dominance south of the Sahara, how do native intellectuals articulate an African identity? Topics include otherness, exoticism, colonization, violence, identity, decolonization, and post-independence struggle. *Prerequisite:* French 231 and at least one other 200-level course, preferably two. *Four credit hours.* **L, I**

[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**

[FR374] Rewriting Contemporary France in French Literature and Cinema Explores the ways in which literary texts and films endeavor to criticize and reevaluate contemporary French society. How do Romain Gary, Annie Ernaux, Sarah Kofman, Rachid Djaïdani, Matthieu Kassovitz, Louis Malle, and many others challenge the idealistic image of France? A variety of materials—critical essays, documentaries, songs, films, and literary texts—provide the framework to understand such topics as immigration, racism, anti-Semitism and World War II, the place of women in society, the growing pains of childhood and adolescence, and the bourgeoisie. *Prerequisite:* French 231 and at least one other 200-level course, preferably two. *Four credit hours.* **L, I**

[FR376] Shadows of the Past: Remembering Vichy France and the Holocaust The Holocaust and the Nazi occupation left an indelible mark on the French national psyche. This interdisciplinary course explores how writers, filmmakers, and artists represent the Holocaust. Through discussions, presentations, and written assignments, students acquire the skills to critique and interpret historical documents, Holocaust memoirs, and films. They develop and improve their language skills while deepening their understanding of French history and culture. Meetings with Holocaust survivors and visits to Holocaust memorials complement the course material and engage students in active thinking. *Prerequisite:* French 231 and at least one other 200-level course, preferably two. *Four credit hours.* **L, I**

FR378f French Revolution: Liberty, Equality, Fraternity, or Death 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** DIONNE

FR398s French Cinema: The Classics The great classics of French film across the ages. Films will be studied for their cinematic coherence, their place in the history of cinema, and their use as vehicles for raising issues, challenging ambient values and perceptions, and communicating fundamental human truths. Conducted in French, but non-majors may write papers in English. *Prerequisite:* French 231 and at least one other 200-level course, preferably two. *Four credit hours.* GREENSPAN

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.* FACULTY

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

FR493Af The Other French Empire, Then and Now The French, trailing behind the British, abolished slave trade in 1815 and slavery in 1848. Paradoxically, beginning in 1850 French colonial expansion was dramatic; by 1914 France possessed the second-largest colonial empire in the world. How one remembers this legacy—produced and recorded in diverse circles linking arts, letters, and sciences—depends on where one stands. Drawing on minds of the 19th, 20th, and 21st centuries, we shall engage the French colonial project, then and now, to understand a past that is ever present. *Prerequisite:* Senior standing as a French studies major and permission of the instructor. *Four credit hours.* PALIYENKO

FR493Bf Two World Wars in French Film from 1945 to Today Explores how World War I and II have been portrayed in

French cinema from 1945 to the present. During the 20th century, cinema developed a complex relationship to historical events. Through a variety of film genres, we will examine the impact of war on shaping film and the power of film on shaping our memory of war. Each film will be approached as the product of a particular socio-historical context. Emphasis placed on critical analysis of films (including film form and language). Discussions and debates are informed by theoretical readings and supplementary material, such as graphic novels and songs. *Prerequisite:* Senior standing as a French studies major and permission of the instructor. *Four credit hours.* BRUNETAUX