

Modern and Classical Languages and Cultures

Professors: Bonnie A. Catto, Dona M. Kercher; *Associate Professors:* Richard Bonanno, Juan Carlos Grijalva (Chairperson Spring 2019), Arlene Guerrero-Watanabe (Chairperson Fall 2018), Maryanne L. Leone, Esteban Loustaunau, Anthony S. Zielonka; *Lecturers:* George F. Aubin (Professor Emeritus of French and Linguistics), Elisabeth Howe (Professor Emerita of French), Ingrid Matos-Nin, Nicholas Pezzote, Maria Cevallos Warren.

MISSION STATEMENT

The Department of Modern and Classical Languages and Cultures cultivates students' understanding of diversity and global perspectives by introducing them to the rich cultural traditions and literary expression of the civilizations we study. By engaging multiple cultures, we prepare our students to be thoughtful and compassionate citizens of a global community, thus supporting the mission of the College. In keeping with the liberal arts tradition, our programs ensure that students not only improve their ability to communicate in the target language—both orally and in writing—but also develop skills of critical thinking and content analysis. Our majors prepare students to use their linguistic, cultural and critical skills in their careers, advanced studies, and other future endeavors. The Department embraces the central educational values of Assumption College and its pursuit of academic excellence.

LEARNING GOALS

- To develop good oral/aural communication skills in the target language
- To write effectively in the target language
- To think critically about literary and cultural texts using discipline-appropriate methods of analysis
- To better understand the cultures of our target languages

MINOR IN FRENCH

A student completes a Minor in French by taking a total of six one-semester courses (18 credits) at level 201 or higher and completing it with courses acceptable for the French Major. At least one course must be taken at level 230–299. The program must be planned with a departmental advisor. All courses for the Minor must be taught in French.

Course Descriptions

FRENCH (FRE)

All courses, whether lower-division or upper-division, are conducted largely or entirely in French, unless otherwise specified.

FRE 101 FRENCH I

This beginning course offers students the opportunity acquire communicative skills in French and to develop an awareness and appreciation of Francophone cultures. The course provides an integrated approach in which listening, speaking, reading and writing are developed. Basic thematic vocabulary and grammatical structures are covered. This course is intended for students with no prior coursework in French. Prerequisites: None (Fall)

Staff/Three Credits

FRE 102 FRENCH II

This course is the second part of the beginning sequence offering students the opportunity to expand their knowledge of vocabulary and grammatical structures. The course provides an integrated approach in which listening, speaking, reading and writing are developed. The course fosters awareness of Francophone cultures through short readings and a variety of oral and written activities. Prerequisites: FRE 101, or one or two years of high school (Spring)

Staff/Three Credits

FRE 201 FRENCH III

Continued development of communicative competency in the French language. The course will stress a review of French grammar, and correct pronunciation and comprehension of the spoken language. Prerequisite: French 102, two or three years of high school French, or equivalent. (Fall)

Zielonka, Staff/*Three credits*

FRE 202 FRENCH IV

A continuation of French III with an introduction to more advanced aspects of French grammar, as well as readings, skits, videos, and conversation practice. French films will be used to promote discussion and as a basis for written assignments. For students who have completed FRE 103 or an equivalent course. (Fall and Spring)

Zielonka, Staff/*Three credits*

FRE 203 FRENCH V

This course is designed for students who wish to enhance their proficiency in French. It will develop students' oral skills while providing a review of grammatical structures. Literary and cultural texts and film will be used to promote discussion and as a basis for written assignments. Prerequisite: FRE 104 or equivalent.

Zielonka/*Three credits*

FRE 204 INTRODUCTION TO LITERATURE: FRENCH LANGUAGE

This course is designed to acquaint the student with the form and structure of the various genres of literature through the close reading and analysis of selections from French prose, poetry, and drama. Prerequisite: FRE 120 or equivalent. This course fulfills the Core requirement in Literature.

Zielonka/*Three credits*

FRE 230 SURVEY OF FRENCH LITERATURE I

Reading and analysis of works representative of the most significant currents in French literature from Chanson de Roland to Voltaire. Prerequisite: FRE 140. This course satisfies the Humanities requirement in the Core curriculum. (Fall)

Zielonka/*Three credits*

FRE 231 SURVEY OF FRENCH LITERATURE II

Reading and analysis of works representative of the most significant currents in French literature from Chateaubriand to Camus. Prerequisite: FRE 140. This course satisfies the Humanities requirement in the Core curriculum. (Fall)

Zielonka/*Three credits*

FRE 240 TECHNIQUES OF TRANSLATION

Readings, discussion, written exercises, and translation of selected texts designed to make the student aware of the major stylistic differences between the French and English languages. Includes a review of advanced grammatical structures. Prerequisite: FRE 140 or equivalent.

Zielonka/*Three credits*

FRE 301 ADVANCED FRENCH COMPOSITION

The purpose of the course is to learn to write clear and accurate French, as well as to develop effective compositional technique for narrative or persuasive essays. Selected prose passages are studied as written models. Prerequisite: FRE 251 or 252, or permission.

Zielonka/*Three credits*

FRE 302 ADVANCED FRENCH ORAL EXPRESSION

An advanced course for students who desire greater fluency while continuing to increase their proficiency in pronunciation and intonation. (Fall) Prerequisite: any Main Currents course.

Zielonka/*Three credits*

FRE 310 FRENCH CULTURE AND CIVILIZATION

An analysis of what constitutes the French way of life as seen in the arts, the social structure, the philosophy, and the history of France from the French Revolution to the present. Prerequisite: any Main Currents course.

Zielonka/*Three credits*

FRE 313 FRANCOPHONE AFRICAN LITERATURE

This course will study the works of literature, written in French, in the countries of Africa that were part of the colonial empire of France and achieved their independence around 1960. Readings will include works of fiction and poetry from North Africa (a region known as the Maghreb): Morocco, Tunisia and Algeria, as well as from Sub-Saharan Africa: Mali, Senegal, Cameroon, Guinea, the Congo, and Ivory Coast. The course also examines the colonial history of the French presence in Africa, the struggles for independence, and major developments in literature, society and culture, including film, since then. A consistent theme is the search for an identity, amid the diversity and fragmentation of post-colonial Africa, and the many social and political problems that persist there. This course satisfies the Humanities requirement in the Core curriculum. Pre-requisite: any Main Currents course.

Zielonka/Three credits

FRE 350 ROMANTICISM

In this course students will discover one of the most influential movements in French literature: Romanticism. Marking a reaction against the Classicism of the previous two centuries, this movement dominated the French literary scene in the first half of the 19th century. The course will begin by tracing the origins of Romanticism in certain works of the late 18th century, before embarking on the study of representative Romantic texts in all three literary genres: poetry, prose and theater. In addition, we will look at Romantic characteristics in the art and music of the period. Prerequisite: any Main Currents course. (This course satisfies the Humanities requirement in the Core curriculum.)

Zielonka/Three credits

FRE 354 19TH-CENTURY FRENCH FICTION

Close reading of representative novels of the 19th century, with emphasis on the works of Balzac, Stendhal, Flaubert, and Zola. Prerequisite: any Main Currents course. This course satisfies the Humanities requirement in the Core curriculum.

Zielonka/Three credits

FRE 361 20TH-CENTURY DRAMA

Close reading of representative plays of the 20th century by authors such as Claudel, Giraudoux, Anouilh, Sartre, Ionesco, and Beckett. Discussion of theatrical and dramatic techniques characteristic of each playwright. Prerequisite: any Main Currents course. This course satisfies the Humanities requirement in the Core curriculum.

Zielonka/Three credits

FRE 364 CONTEMPORARY FRENCH FICTION

Close reading and analysis of works representative of the most significant currents of modern and contemporary prose fiction in France from Gide and Proust to the "nouveau roman." Prerequisite: any Main Currents class. This course satisfies the Humanities requirement in the Core curriculum.

Zielonka/Three credits

FRE 366 TOPICS IN FRENCH CINEMA

The main aims of this course will be to use French cinema to improve students' knowledge of and interest in French culture and history; to discuss how films can portray historical events, and to think about the techniques and aesthetics of film-making. Films used in the course will illustrate different aspects of French culture and give a picture of contemporary life at the time in which they are set. Some may center on important social or historical moments. Topics may vary by semester. In addition to viewing seven or eight movies, students will read several short historical and literary texts concerning the periods covered by the films. The course will be conducted in French. Prerequisite: FRE 251 or 252. This course satisfies the Humanities requirement in the Core curriculum.

Zielonka/Three credits

FRE 390 INTRODUCTION TO FRENCH POETRY

A close reading of representative poems. The course includes some selections from the Middle Ages and 16th/17th centuries, but concentrates mostly on poetry of the 19th and 20th centuries. Characteristics of different poets and different poetic movements will be analyzed. Prerequisite: any Main Currents course. This course satisfies the Humanities requirement in the Core curriculum.

Zielonka/Three credits

FRE 200 SPECIAL TOPICS COURSE (LEVEL 230–299)

Staff/Three credits

FRE 300 SPECIAL TOPICS COURSE (LEVEL 300- 399)

Staff/Three credits

FRE 401–409 INDEPENDENT STUDY

Subject and/or authors studied to be chosen with approval of professor.

Staff/Three credits