

French

Jennifer Bothun, Tomson 331
507-786-3230
bothun@stolaf.edu
wp.stolaf.edu/french

(Romance Languages)

French is the sixth most widely spoken language (after Mandarin Chinese, English, Hindi, Spanish, and Arabic) in the world, and the second most widely learned language, after English. More than 220 million people around the world — in North and South America, the Caribbean, Europe, Africa, the Middle East, the Pacific and Indian Oceans, and Indochina — speak French. French remains, with English, one of the two languages into which all United Nations documents must be translated. Thus, students considering careers in business, diplomacy, the church, or teaching are well advised to complete a major in French, sometimes along with another major.

By studying French and other Francophone cultures, civilizations, and literatures, students develop and enhance oral and written language skills, analytical thinking, and familiarity with diverse philosophies and perspectives, all of which are central to liberal arts education with a global perspective.

The French section of the Department of Romance Languages offers a variety of courses, on-campus and abroad, in French language, Francophone cultures/

civilizations, and literatures for beginning, intermediate, and advanced students, both majors and non-majors.

To expand students' exposure to French beyond the classroom, the French program hosts a weekly French conversation table and film series and sponsors an honor house (Maison française).

Overview of the French Major

In courses for the major, students gain understanding of Francophone literatures, civilizations, and contemporary cultures as they develop analytical and communication skills in the language.

Level II courses are divided into two sequences. In 250-level courses, students practice and refine their emerging language skills through textual analysis, writing, and discussion. In 270-level courses, students explore the diverse cultures and literatures of the Francophone world.

Level III courses build upon the interpretive skills and knowledge of the Francophone world acquired by students in 270-level courses. Level III courses examine a particular topic or genre as well as critical or theoretical issues associated with it through the analysis of representative works.

Intended Learning Outcomes of the Major (<http://wp.stolaf.edu/curriculum-committee/french-major-ilos>)

Distinction

See Academic Honors (<http://catalog.stolaf.edu/archive/2015-2016/academic-regulations-procedures/academic-honors/#distinction>)

Special Programs

French faculty lead January Interim courses in Paris and Morocco. St. Olaf is affiliated closely with semester and year-long study programs in France (Rennes and Paris) and Sénégal (Dakar). Eligible students should contact the program advisor for current information. French program faculty also participate in the Foreign Languages Across the Curriculum Program (<http://catalog.stolaf.edu/archive/2015-2016/academic-programs/foreign-languages-across-curriculum>), collaborating with faculty in other departments to offer students the opportunity to use their foreign language skills in selected courses in other departments.

Requirements

Requirements for the Graduation Major

All French majors are urged to study in France or in another Francophone country. This is particularly important for French teaching majors.

Students who participate in an approved semester-long St. Olaf study abroad program normally receive credit for one French course toward the major and one credit for the required French/Francophone history course. Students who participate in an approved year-long St. Olaf study abroad program normally receive credit for two French courses toward the major and one credit for the required French/Francophone history course.

The graduation major consists of eight courses in French above FREN 232 plus a co-curricular requirement in French/Francophone history. Students must take:

Two 250-level courses	2.00
Two 270-level courses, at least one of which must be taken on-campus	2.00
Two 300-level courses taken on-campus	2.00
Two additional French language or literature courses of the student's choosing	2.00
Choose one French/Francophone history course: ¹	1.00
HIST 226	Modern France
HIST 227	French Revolution and Napoleon.

Total Credits **9**

¹ Or an approved French/Francophone history course taken abroad

Independent study or research may not be counted in lieu of any of the courses referred to above. Transfer credit must be approved in advance by the Department chair.

Students wanting to take a course toward the major via transfer credit from another institution should speak with the department chair in advance of registering the course.

Requirements for a French Major with K-12 Teaching Licensure

Students who participate in an approved semester-long St. Olaf study abroad program normally receive credit for one French course toward the major and one credit for the required French/Francophone history course. Students who participate in an approved year-long St. Olaf study abroad program normally receive credit for two French

courses toward the major and one credit for the required French/Francophone history course.

Students must take: eight courses in French above FREN 232:

Eight courses in French above FREN 232	8.00
One approved applied linguistics course (may be taken abroad)	1.00
Choose one French/Francophone history course: ¹	1.00
HIST 226 Modern France	
HIST 227 French Revolution and Napoleon.	
EDUC 353 Teaching of World Languages, K-12	1.00

All other requirements for the K-12 teaching licensure program in French ²

¹ Or an approved French/Francophone history course taken abroad

² See Education (<http://catalog.stolaf.edu/archive/2015-2016/academic-programs/education>)

The eight courses in French above 232 must include:

One immersion course of the following:

FREN 235	French Language and Moroccan Culture in Fes (abroad)
FREN 250	Speaking (of) French
FREN 275	Interdisciplinary French Studies in Paris (abroad)
Other approved immersion course	

Two 250-level courses

Two 270-level courses

Two 300-level courses

EN/LI 250	English Language and Linguistics ¹	1.00
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¹ Students not taking an approved course in applied linguistics abroad must take EN/LI 250 English Language and Linguistics

Students who participate in an approved year-long St. Olaf study abroad program normally receive credit for one course toward the major and one credit for the required French/Francophone history course. Students who participate in an approved year-long St. Olaf study abroad program normally receive credit for two French courses toward the major and one credit for the required French/Francophone history course.

Additionally, students must attain a level of Intermediate High, or above, on the OPIc (Oral Proficiency Interview Computerized).

Transfer credit must be approved in advance by the department chair.

Courses

FREN 111: *Beginning French I*

Students begin to learn French through listening, speaking, reading and writing about topics familiar to them. They study social and cultural notions inherent in the daily life of peoples in diverse Francophone communities and learn to think critically and make interdisciplinary connections and informed cross-cultural comparisons. Open to students with no prior background in French or placement.

FREN 112: *Beginning French II*

Students expand their developing language skills by continuing to listen, speak, read and write on topics familiar to them. They continue their study of social and cultural notions inherent in the daily life of peoples in diverse Francophone communities and learn to think critically and make interdisciplinary connections and informed cross-cultural comparisons. Offered each semester.

Prerequisite: FREN 111 or placement.

FREN 231: *Intermediate French I*

Through study, discussion and analysis of a wide variety of texts, students explore specific social and cultural topics relevant to French culture yesterday and today (e.g., stereotypes, the family, education, immigration) and develop and expand their ability to listen, speak, read and write in French while also learning specific listening and reading strategies. Explicit focus on cross-cultural comparison/contrast and analysis. Offered each semester.

Prerequisite: FREN 112 or placement.

FREN 232: *Intermediate French II*

Students explore questions of identity in the wider Francophone world through reading, discussing, and analyzing a wide variety of texts, including cultural documents, short biographical pieces, literary texts, and films. They consolidate their language skills and continue to develop their ability to analyze and communicate in French by engaging in interactive group activities, making oral presentations, and writing essays. They also work to expand their vocabulary and to review the French verb system and other key grammatical structures. Offered each semester.

Prerequisite: FREN 231 or placement.

FREN 235: *French Language and Moroccan Culture in Fes (abroad)*

Students study French language and Moroccan culture in the imperial city of Fes. An immersion experience that includes home stays with local French-speaking families, the course focuses on Moroccan culture past and present, emphasizing the multicultural aspects of Morocco and facilitating student interaction with the local population. Field trips to various sites in and around Fes, day-long visits to Meknès and Moulay Idriss, and a longer excursion to Marrakech and Casablanca. Review of second-year French grammar is integrated into the reading and discussion of texts pertaining to Morocco's history and culture and their relation to present-day Morocco. Taught in French. Offered during Interim. Open to first-year students. Counts toward middle eastern studies concentration.

Prerequisite: FREN 231 or placement in FREN 232.

FREN 250: *Speaking (of) French*

This course provides an on-campus immersion experience for students interested in improving their oral language proficiency. Students engage in small and large group discussion, give individual and group oral presentations, and review grammar and registers of language. They also explore the notions of communicative competence and oral proficiency in order to become more effective speakers. Taught in French. Offered during Interim. Counts toward film studies and management studies concentrations.

Prerequisite: FREN 232 or FREN 235, or equivalent.

FREN 251: Writing French

Students engage in intensive practice in various types of writing in French (e.g., summary, extended description, narration, and professional correspondence). Literary and non-literary texts provide topics and models. The course involves discussion, writing, and revision, and stresses advanced grammar review. Taught in French. Counts toward management studies concentration.

Prerequisite: FREN 232 or FREN 235, or equivalent.

FREN 253: Introduction to Literary Analysis

Students read a variety of French literary texts. The course focuses on aspects of literary analysis, terminology, methodology, and literary history. Students develop critical skills through discussion and analytical writing. Taught in French.

Prerequisite: FREN 232 or FREN 235, or equivalent.

FREN 271: The Francophone World

Students explore French-speaking regions of the world outside France through the close reading, discussion, and analysis of literary and non-literary texts as well as other cultural artifacts. Readings, discussions, viewings, and written and oral assignments are organized around the exploration of specific topics or themes. May be repeated if geographical region is different. Taught in French. Counts toward Africa and the Americas concentration when topic is Francophone Africa and counts towards management studies concentration.

Prerequisite: minimum of one 250-level course (two recommended).

FREN 272: Contemporary France

Students are introduced to contemporary French political, economic and social institutions and/or issues through close textual analysis of articles from the contemporary French press and other media (e.g., the internet, cinema). Students read, analyze, discuss and write in French on a wide variety of non-literary topics. Taught in French. Counts toward linguistic studies and management studies concentrations.

Prerequisite: minimum of one 250-level course (two recommended).

FREN 273: Period Studies

Students explore a particular period or century through examination of selected literary and non-literary works within their socio-historical and cultural contexts. Coursework includes discussion, analysis, and interpretation of representative works. Sample topics: "19th-Century French Literature," "La Belle Epoque," and "20th-Century French Literature." May be repeated if period is different. Taught in French.

Prerequisite: minimum of one 250-level course (two recommended).

FREN 275: Interdisciplinary French Studies in Paris (abroad)

Students delve into advanced language work and on-the-spot investigation of French culture, past and present, including theater, film, visual arts, the French court, and the medieval cathedral through background readings and visits to important monuments. Students read, discuss, see, and critique plays ranging from the classical to the contemporary. Taught in French. Offered during Interim. Counts toward management studies concentration.

Prerequisite: One French 250-level course (two recommended).

FREN 294: Academic Internship**FREN 298: Independent Study****FREN 372: Topics in Francophone Studies**

Students explore a specified topic or theme in language, in literature, or in culture/civilization, or in a combination of these, through close reading, discussion, analysis, and interpretation of selected literary and/or non-literary works. Sample topics include "Madness and the Romantic Dream," "Female Identity in Post-Colonial North Africa," and "Global Francophone Identities." May be repeated if topic is different. Taught in French.

Prerequisite: minimum of one 270-level course.

FREN 373: Genre Studies

Students study a particular genre or medium (e.g., novel, play, poetry, short story, film) from a variety of periods and authors, with particular emphasis on form. Coursework includes close reading, discussion, in-depth analysis and interpretation of works. Sample topics: "The Short Story," "Autobiography," and "The African Novel." May be repeated if genre is different. Taught in French.

Prerequisite: minimum of one 270-level course.

FREN 394: Academic Internship**FREN 396: Directed Undergraduate Research**

This course provides a comprehensive research opportunity, including an introduction to relevant background material, technical instruction, identification of a meaningful project, and data collection. The topic is determined by the faculty member in charge of the course and may relate to his/her research interests. Offered based on department decision. May be offered as a 1.00 credit course or .50 credit course.

Prerequisite: determined by individual instructor.

FREN 398: Independent Research**FREN 399: Seminar in Francophone Studies**

In an integrative seminar, students examine specific issues and conceptual notions central to the understanding of the French language and/or Francophone literatures and cultures. Coursework includes readings, critical analysis, research methods, student reports, and substantive projects. May be repeated if topic is different. Taught in French.

Prerequisite: minimum of one level III course.

Faculty

Chair, 2015-2016**Maggie A. Broner**

Associate Professor of Romance Languages - Spanish
Hispanic linguistics; culture; second language acquisition

Wendy W. Allen

Professor of Romance Languages - French
contemporary France; the Maghreb; second language acquisition;
intercultural education

Jolene M. Barjasteh

Associate Professor of Romance Languages - French
19th and 20th century French literature; autobiography

M. Amine Bekhechi

Assistant Professor of Romance Languages - French
20th and 21st century Francophone literature; Algerian novel;
immigration studies; Arabic

Mary A. Cisar (on leave)

Professor of Romance Languages - French

18th century French literature; Franco-Manitoban literature

Lise R. Hoy

Assistant Professor of Romance Languages - French

19th 20th century French literature; second language acquisition

Maria F. Vendetti

Assistant Professor of Romance Languages-French

20th and 21st century French Francophone literature; literature and testimony during and after the Algerian War of Independence; literary filmic representations of torture, trauma, and war