French and Francophone Studies

French Studies

Professors: Chatton, Dugas (Chair)

The French program emphasizes a critical understanding of the French-speaking world by focusing on language skills, analytical tools, and the study of a variety of kinds of cultural expressions. These studies are one effective way of gaining a deeper understanding of the world, which is an important element of a liberal arts education. The department offers courses in French literature and culture and the literatures and cultures of Francophone Africa, Canada, Asia, and the Antilles. Students of French may study abroad in Strasbourg and Clermont-Ferrand in France and in Dakar, Sénégal.

Coursework and off-campus experiences are complemented by on-campus opportunities that maintain and improve a student's language skills and expand students' understanding of the Francophone world. These opportunities include viewing French language films, conversing with classmates and native speakers at the French conversation hours, and attending area cultural events.

Faculty members meet students inside and outside the classroom, participate in campus activities, and counsel students regarding graduate and professional career choices in music, high school and college teaching, science, publishing, government, international trade, international banking, non-governmental organizations, and other fields. French students at Kalamazoo College have a high rate of acceptance when applying for French government teaching assistantships for teaching English in France after graduation.

Placement

All incoming students who have previously studied or have had significant exposure to French must take the College’s placement test. Those students who wish to receive credit for language courses that they have taken at another college or university before enrolling at Kalamazoo College must take the French language placement test and test into a higher-level course than the one for which they are seeking transfer credit. Any appeal of the placement test results should be directed to a French faculty member.

Advanced Placement (AP) and International Baccalaureate (IB) Credit for the Major or Minor

Students who took AP or IB examinations in French must still take the Kalamazoo College French placement test. An Advanced Placement (AP) score of 4 or 5 in French language can be counted as one credit toward the French major or minor provided that the student take French 203 or beyond as her/his first French course at the college. IB scores of 5-6-7 on the Higher Level may count toward a major or minor at the discretion of the department faculty.

Requirements for the Major in French

Number of Units

Eight units are required. Units that may be counted towards the major are:
FREN 202, FREN 203, FREN 301 and all FREN 400-level courses
FREN 593 (SIP)
AP score of 4 or 5 (see above)
IB score of 5, 6 or 7 (see above)
Up to two units from study abroad (see below)
Required Courses

FREN 301 Introduction to French and Francophone Studies (prerequisite to all 400-level courses)
FREN 490 Senior Seminar
At least two additional units in 400-level French courses on campus

French majors are encouraged to develop appropriate cognate programs in areas such as History, Political Science, Film and Media Studies.


Cognate courses of particular interest to French and francophone studies majors: HIST 244, HIST 252, HIST 256, ENGL 260 Studies in Film: African Cinemas, ENGL 260 Studies in Film: The Post-Classical and the New Waves

Units from Study Abroad

French majors are expected to participate in a study abroad program and acquire a high level of language proficiency.

Only two units to be used toward the major in French may be earned in a long term (6 month) or an extended term (9 month) program. One unit only from a short term (3 month) program may be used. The unit(s), which must have been taught in the French language, may be in the literature of the Francophone world, or in language, or in a cultural/topical course pertaining to the Francophone world. Please consult the department.

Those who did not take French 301 before Study Abroad will normally take that course upon their return to campus, but should consult with the department before doing so. All students will then take the senior seminar plus the requisite number of 400-level courses (and possibly write a SIP) in order to complete the French major.

Requirements for the Minor in French

Number of Units
Six units are required. (FREN 101 & 102 do not count towards the minor.) For the minor, no more than two units may be earned off campus.

Required Courses
FREN 301 Introduction to French and Francophone Studies
Two 400-Level courses taught on campus.

Electives
Three courses chosen selected from the following:
FREN 200 (a total of one unit)
FREN 201
FREN 202
FREN 203

Up to two units in French language, literature, culture, film, history, etc. taught in French may be counted from a long-term French-language study abroad program. One unit in French language, literature, culture, film, history, etc. taught in French may be counted from a short-term French-language study abroad program.

Additional French courses at the 400-level

FREN 593 (SIP)

Units from Study Abroad

1.
A student may count one unit from a short-term (3-month) study abroad program towards the minor in French. A student may count two units from a long-term (6-month) or extended-term (9-month) study abroad program. The unit, which must have been taught in the French language, may be in the literature of the Francophone world, or in language, or in a cultural/topical course pertaining to the Francophone world. Please consult the department.

2. Normally, students who go on Study Abroad before taking French 301 will take that course upon their return to campus, but they should consult with the department before doing so.

French courses

FREN 101 Beginning French I
Introduction to the French language and the French-speaking world. Students begin developing competency in the four basic skills (reading, writing, listening, and speaking) through communicative activities and cultural exploration.
Prerequisite: Placement test if student has any prior experience with French. FREN-101L must be taken concurrently

FREN 102 Beginning French II
Further development of the four skills through continued exploration of the French-speaking world. Students will work to acquire the linguistic skills and cultural knowledge needed to navigate a variety of cultural settings.
Prerequisite: FREN-101 or Placement Test; FREN-102L Must be taken concurrently

FREN 200 French Pronunciation
Designed to improve learners' pronunciation of French, this course will help students understand the sound system of French and practice producing French sounds through focused exercises and creative activities. Class will be tailored to the proficiency level and needs of students. Repeatable for credit.
Prerequisite: FREN-102 or placement into FREN-201 or higher

FREN 200 Advanced French Grammar
Designed to improve learners' proficiency in French, this course will focus on grammar not presented in the intermediate course sequence and introduce more advanced verb tenses. Short French and francophone texts related to the theme Le voyage, will serve as models for grammar presentations and spring-boards for in-class speaking activities and written homework assignments. Class will be tailored to the proficiency level and needs of students.
Prerequisite: FREN-201 or placement into FREN-202 or higher.

FREN 200 Advanced French Conversation
In this course, we will explore the theme of the environment as it relates to regions of the French-speaking world. Emphasis will be placed on developing oral communication skills through debates, formal and informal presentations, and discussions of a variety of French texts (films, songs, short stories, newspaper articles). Class will be tailored to the proficiency level, needs and interests of students.
Prerequisite: Must have taken FREN-202 or have placed into FREN-203 or higher or with instructor permission.

FREN 200 Creative Writing in French
This course will help students develop creative writing skills in French. Emphasis will be placed on writing compelling narratives as well as vivid descriptions of places and people. Short model texts (excerpts from novels, short stories and a play) from around the francophone world will serve as the spring-boards for thematic-based creative fiction or non-fiction assignments. Class will be tailored to the proficiency level and needs of students.
Prerequisite: Must have taken FREN-201 or have placed into FREN-202 or higher or with instructor permission.

FREN 201 Intermediate French
The refining and expansion of communicative skills. Students develop critical thinking and cross-cultural competency by reading, discussing, and writing about authentic texts.
Prerequisite: FREN-102 or Placement Test; FREN-201L must be taken concurrently

FREN 202 Conversation and Composition
Critical explorations of the French-speaking world through focused reading, discussion, and related written and speaking assignments.
Prerequisite: FREN-201 or Placement Test; FREN-202L must be taken concurrently

FREN 203 Engaging With Texts
Students enrich their vocabulary and increase their sensitivity to nuance while examining a wide variety of texts (fiction, non-fiction, image, film, songs, etc.). New reading skills will result in the ability to produce texts (both oral and written) in a wide variety of styles. Students begin to acquire a more sophisticated knowledge of the intricacies of the French-speaking world.
while putting into practice more complex forms of written and oral expression. 

Prerequisite: FREN-202 or Placement Test; FREN-203L must be taken concurrently

FREN 301 Introduction to French and Francophone Studies
An interactive, discussion-based course helping student acquire skill in the reading and interpretation of French and other Francophone texts, presented in their cultural and historical contexts. Course offers opportunities for refinement of written and presentational skills. 

Prerequisite: FREN-203, French-Language Study Abroad Program or Placement Test

FREN 401 Topics in French and Francophone Cultures
Reading, research, and discussion on selected topics and issues in the French-speaking world. Please consult with the instructor about the current topic. Past topics have included "Immigration in Contemporary France" and "le bilinguisme." May be repeated for credit if content is different.

Prerequisite: FREN-301

FREN 435/FREN 490 Adv Lit & Cultural Studies
Topics in French and/or Francophone literatures, culture, and history. Recent topics have included Space and Identity in French and Francophone Cinema; Francophone Cult(ure) Movies; Theatre or When words said on a stage provoke a revolution at the other end of the world; Vietnamese History and Culture; Francophone African Literature; Intercultural Encounters. 

Prerequisite: FREN-301 or FREN-301S

FREN 490/FREN 435 Senior Seminar
Topics in French and/or Francophone literatures, culture, and history. Recent topics have included Space and Identity in French and Francophone Cinema; Francophone Cult(ure) Movies; Theatre or When words said on a stage provoke a revolution at the other end of the world; Vietnamese History and Culture; Francophone African Literature; Intercultural Encounters. 

Prerequisite: FREN-301; Senior French major, minor, or permission.

FREN 495 French Film in Context
This course focuses on a selection of French-language films from the 1980's to the present representing a cross-section of genres, themes, and directors. These films are used as a vehicle for understanding a sampling of historical and cultural contexts in the French-speaking world. 

Prerequisite: FREN-301

FREN 593 Senior Individualized Project
Please consult with a faculty member of the French department as to the range of acceptable projects, the required background of students doing projects, the format of the SIP, and the expected scope and depth of projects. See the Kalamazoo Curriculum -> Curriculum Details and Policies section of the Academic Catalog for more details. 

Prerequisite: Permission of department and SIP supervisor required.

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