

## COURSE DESCRIPTIONS FOR FRENCH



SPRING 2025

### FREN 109

### BEGINNING FRENCH I

Admission to this course is restricted to students who have never studied French or who have received a placement score of F1. Students learn the basics of French pronunciation, how to talk about and respond to basic situations in the present and near-future tenses, and how to ask for, understand, and give basic information about people and events. Basic communication skills are emphasized. This course is the first half of the sequence needed to fulfill the university-wide core-curriculum foreign language.

### FREN 110

### BEGINNING FRENCH II

Admission to this course is restricted to students who have completed French 109. Students with French placement codes higher than F-1 cannot take French 110 for credit. French 110 is designed to help the student continue to develop proficiency in French and to continue to learn to communicate and to interact in French. Communication will be enhanced and reinforced by reading and writing. Completion of French 110 satisfies the university-wide core-curriculum foreign language requirement. Students in certain colleges and/or majors must complete French 122 to satisfy their program's foreign language requirement. Students who will need 122 may elect to take French 121 (instead of French 110) after French 109.

### FREN 121

### ELEMENTARY FRENCH

This course is designed for students with a placement score of F2, which indicates they have studied French before but need a review of basic French before taking French 122. **Students with French placement codes higher than F-2 cannot take French 121 for credit.** French 121 is an elementary course in which students learn how to give basic information about themselves and others, how to describe people and things in the present, near future and past, how to talk about important dates and events in their lives, their daily routine, their activities, their studies and career goals.

### FREN 122

### BASIC PROFICIENCY

Prerequisite: French 110 or French 121 or a placement score of F3. French 122 is a **proficiency-based course**, designed to teach you to communicate in French. A proficiency-based course emphasizes what you can DO in the foreign language, rather than what you know more or less passively about the language. The most noticeable difference for you will probably be that you will not be given *exams* on specific vocabulary items and structures in isolation, but instead you will be evaluated on your ability to understand and produce structures and vocabulary within the context of one of the four recognized skills of communication. In French 122, you will improve your language skills in four areas: speaking, listening comprehension, reading, and writing.

### FREN 209

### READING AND WRITTEN EXPRESSION

Prerequisites: FREN 122 or score of F-5 on placement exam. This course is designed to help you improve your language skills in four areas (listening, speaking, reading, and writing), focusing particularly on developing reading and writing skills while maintaining proficiency and increasing vocabulary. The goal of this course is to reinforce the knowledge acquired at the Elementary level, give you solid foundations in pronunciation and grammar for further study of the language and help you build your confidence with both oral and written expression. By the end of the course, you will have strengthened your mastery of grammar and conjugation, improved your ability to express yourself orally and in writing, and expanded your vocabulary while being more aware of language registers (slang, spoken vs. formal and written French), and social and cultural trends in the francophone world.

### **FREN 210**

### **ORAL COMMUNICATION**

Prerequisites: FREN 122 or placement score of F-5. This course is designed to help you improve your listening and speaking skills while maintaining knowledge of grammatical structures and written proficiency. Building upon acquisitions at the elementary level, it will give you solid foundations in pronunciation and grammar for further study of the language and help you build your confidence with oral communication. You will become more comfortable conversing on a range of topics from daily life to social issues, presenting your opinion, arguing a point of view, summarizing and discussing cultural topics both orally and in writing. This course uses Talk Abroad, an online service that gives you the opportunity to have conversations with native French speakers from around the world.

### **FREN 309**

### **INTRODUCTION TO FRENCH TEXTS**

Prerequisites: French 209 and 210 or equivalents, or placement score of F6. This course will focus on the continued development of reading skills in French through the study of biographical and autobiographical works. While particular attention will be paid to reading comprehension and vocabulary acquisition, all four skills (reading, writing, speaking, listening) will be emphasized. While the course will not involve a systematic review of grammar, it will deal with specific grammatical constructions as they emerge in particular reading assignments. The course will be taught in French.

### **FREN 310**

### **ADVANCED ORAL COMMUNICATION**

Prerequisites: French 209 and 210 or equivalent or placement score of F6. French 307 is a recommended pre- or co-requisite. Required for French major and minor. There are no books required. The Internet is the manual: we will work with French current events and discuss topics relevant to all aspects of French and Francophone culture and society. As the name of this class indicates, oral communication will be a dominant part of our work, but not all of it. We will work the four skills, and form. You will listen, speak, write, and read (listed in order of importance in this course). You will also review French grammar and syntax, and expand your vocabulary. Course grade is based on work in class (daily participation in discussions, quizzes), oral presentations (you will be responsible for the presentation of at least one news clip), homework (preparation of videos and discussions, vocabulary assignments), and a final project.

### **FREN 311**

### **GRAMMAR AND COMPOSITION**

Prerequisites: FREN 209 and FREN 210 or equivalents or score of F-6 on placement exam. Note: FREN 309 and 310 strongly recommended. French 311 is now devoted to intensive preparation for the Diplôme d'Études en Langue française (DELF), level B2, resulting in official certification of your language competence. Registering for and taking the exam (April 9, 2025), followed by individually scheduled oral interviews, are course requirements. Exam results will not affect course grade. Exam fee is waived for Francophone Studies Majors.

### **FREN 330**

### **THE FRENCH THEATRE EXPERIENCE**

FREN 330 Prerequisites: FREN 209 and FREN 210 or equivalents or score of F-6 on placement exam. This practical live theatre production course will focus on the study, staging and performance of a French-language play. A couple of recent examples: [8 Femmes](#) (live, w/ pre-recorded musical interludes, 2019) and [Grand Guignol](#) (2023) and a trio of farces (2024). So come get your 15 minutes (or more) of fame strutting on the stage in French, with the objective of improving your oral expression!

### **FREN 453**

### **DÉ/COLONISATIONS**

Prerequisites: C or better in both FREN 309 and FREN 310, or equivalents, or a score of F-7 on the French language placement exam. This course centers on processes of colonialism and decolonialization throughout the francophone world over the last several centuries. As we explore forms of colonial power in Africa, the Americas, Asia, the Indian Ocean, and Oceania, we will unpack diverse forms of domination and violence and their ongoing effects into the present. We will privilege the varied perspectives of colonized subjects to understand diverse forms of survival and contestation. The recent collection *Colonisations, Notre histoire* (Seuil, 2023) will serve as our primary textbook, with supplemental readings from literary and cultural sources. Students will be encouraged to interpret the course content from interdisciplinary perspectives.

