French Language and Literature (FRN)

Major and Minor in French Language and Literature

Department of European Languages, Literatures, and Cultures; College of Arts and Sciences

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Director of Undergraduate Studies: Peter Caravetta

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Minors of particular interest to students majoring in French: Business Management (BUS), Comparative Literature (CLT), Economics (ECO), English (EGL), History (HIS), International Studies (INT), Linguistics (LIN), Medieval Studies (MVL), Philosophy (PHI), Political Science (POL), other languages

French (FRN)

Pursuing French as an academic field means mastering the language in addition to studying the literature and the social and political culture of France and French-speaking countries. French is spoken all around the globe—in Europe, Africa, Asia, Canada, and the Caribbean—where it has produced rich national literatures and diverse cultures over the span of many centuries. As a recent Association of the Teachers of French publication has stated, “French is the other international language.” Command of the language is the first prerequisite to entrance into the discipline which depends upon linguistic, literary, and analytical skills. On a more practical level, French is the language of government, law, management, and business in many regions of the international community, and the study of French as used in these areas is an applied field within the discipline.

Students who graduate with a major in French pursue diverse careers and employment. Many become teachers or take positions in international commerce, marketing, banking, or travel (e.g., airlines, travel agencies, Club Med). Others work in fields of government, publishing, journalism, or international relations. As a liberal arts major, French is also the choice of some who go on to professional schools in law, management and business, library science, computer technology, or medicine.

Requirements for the Major and Minor in French (FRN)

Placement in Language Courses for Incoming Students

The prerequisites for courses indicate approximate placement levels. One year of high school foreign language is generally considered the equivalent of one college semester. Students are advised to consult the FRN Program Coordinator if they believe the recommended course is inappropriate. A score of 85 or higher on the New York State Regents examination, if taken prior to Fall 2011, is sufficient for the Stony Brook University foreign language competence requirement. While students who have met the Skill 3 requirement do not need to take French at Stony Brook to satisfy the Skill 3 foreign language requirement, they are highly encouraged to continue their study of the language.

Requirements for the Major

The major in French Language and Literature leads to the Bachelor of Arts degree. Students must complete Concentration A or Concentration B. These concentrations are designed to allow maximum flexibility in the students’ programs and to fulfill their varying needs and interests. Both require as a basis a solid preparation in French. Concentration A provides preparation for graduate study in literature; concentrations A and B both provide appropriate background for students preparing for work in law, government, international relations, business, banking, hotel management, or translation and interpretation. Students interested in teaching French in secondary schools may choose either Concentration A or B. However, they must have 36 credits in FRN before the State of New York will certify them. Please see the staff of the Foreign Language Secondary Teacher Education Program for further advising in this area. Foreign language education students are also highly encouraged to study more than one foreign language.

All courses offered for the major must be passed with a letter grade of C or higher. Transfer students must take at least 18 credits of French in residence at Stony Brook. Please note that FRN 475/FRN 476 (Undergraduate Teaching Practicum) may not count for the major or minor.

Completion of the major requires 36-42 credits for Concentration A (all in FRN or HUF) or 42-48 credits for Concentration B (30 credits of FRN and HUF, and 12 credits of a non-FRN discipline), depending on language placement. See https://llrc.stonybrook.edu/placement-exams for placement exam information. All students should consult with the Director of the French Program.

A. Concentration in Language and Literature
   1. Required courses:
      a. Language courses:
         * FRN 211 French Comparisons and Connections
         * FRN 212 French Cultures and Communities
FRENCH LANGUAGE AND LITERATURE (FRN)  

• FRN 311 Conversation  
• FRN 312 Composition  
• FRN 313 French Vocabulary through Popular Culture  
• FRN 411 Phonetics and Diction  
• FRN 412 Stylistics  

b. Literature courses:  

• FRN 395 Readings in French Literature: Analysis and Interpretation I  
• FRN 396 Readings in French Literature: Analysis and Interpretation II  

2. Elective courses:  

• 15 additional credits in FRN courses beyond FRN 395, FRN 396, of which 12 credits must be in literature (Two courses from among HUF 211, HUF 216, HUF 219, and HUL 324 are also acceptable)  

3. Upper-division writing requirement: See C below  

B. Concentration in French and a Second Discipline  

1. Required courses:  

• FRN 211 French Comparisons and Connections  
• FRN 212 French Cultures and Communities  
• FRN 311 Conversation  
• FRN 312 Composition  
• FRN 313 French Vocabulary through Popular Culture  
• FRN 395, FRN 396 Readings in French Literature: Analysis and Interpretation I, II  
• FRN 411 Phonetics and Diction  
• FRN 412 Stylistics  
• One course in French literature numbered 300 or higher  
• FRN 441 French Civilization or HUF 216 or HUF 219  
• One additional FRN or HUF course (Please note that no more than two HUF courses in total may count for the major or minor.)  

2. Elective courses:  

• 12 additional credits (nine of which must be 300-level or higher) to be chosen with the help of the designated advisor and approved by the Department. Students must choose a sequence of four courses in a department or program other than French (FRN or HUF).  

C. Upper-Division Writing Requirement  
To demonstrate proficiency in writing English, students majoring in French must register for the 0-credit FRN 459 and present a dossier of a minimum of two papers of at least three to five pages each. The dossier must be submitted before the second semester of the junior year to the FRN Program Coordinator. Since this requirement is a University requirement and not a French requirement, the Program Coordinator will accept research papers written in English for any course students have taken at Stony Brook University. Graded papers are much preferred. For students who do not have research papers written in English, they must translate two papers written for their FRN courses from French to English.  

Students should consult with the department advisor to ensure that their plan for completing the Upper Division Writing Requirement is consistent with university graduation requirements for General Education. Students completing the Stony Brook Curriculum (SBC) must complete a course that satisfies the “Write Effectively within One's Discipline” (WRTD) learning objective to graduate. The Upper Division Writing Requirement is consistent in most cases with the SBC learning outcomes for WRTD.  

Notes:  
1. Students whose language proficiency is such that they can be exempted from FRN 211, 212, 311, FRN 312 may, and are strongly urged to, apply to have courses in art, music, history, or another language count for major credit.  
2. Students who wish to offer their native language as the main area of concentration are asked to replace FRN 211, FRN 212, FRN 311, FRN 312, FRN 410, and FRN 411 by English courses appropriate to their level of proficiency in that language.  

Foreign Language Secondary Teacher Education Program  
See the Education and Teacher Certification entry in the alphabetical listings of Approved Majors, Minors, and Programs.  

Requirements for the Minor  
All courses offered for the minor must be taken for a letter grade, excluding those graded S/U. All upper-division courses offered for the minor must be passed with a grade of C or higher. Students must complete either A. Emphasis on Language or B. Emphasis on Literature. Transfer students must take at least six credits of upper-division French or Italian courses in residence at Stony Brook.  

Completion of the minor requires 21-27 credits, depending on language placement. See https://llrc.stonybrook.edu/placement-exams for placement exam information.
A. Emphasis on Language
Required courses:

- FRN 211 French Comparisons and Connections
- FRN 212 French Cultures and Communities
- FRN 311 Conversation and Composition
- FRN 312 Introduction to Stylistics
- FRN 313 French Vocabulary through Popular Culture
- FRN 395 or FRN 396 Readings in French Literature I or II
- FRN 410 Business French (See Note)
- FRN 411 Phonetics and Diction
- FRN 412 Stylistics

Note: A French literature course or FRN 441 or HUL 324 may be substituted for FRN 410

B. Emphasis on Literature
Required courses:

- FRN 211 French Comparisons and Connections
- FRN 212 French Cultures and Communities
- FRN 311 Conversation and Composition
- FRN 312 Introduction to Stylistics
- FRN 395 Readings in French Literature I
- FRN 396 Readings in French Literature II
- Electives: three literature courses at the 300 level

Honors Program in French

To be eligible to participate in the honors program, majors must have a cumulative grade point average of 3.00 and an average of 3.50 in French through the junior year. An eligible student wishing to write a senior thesis must find a faculty member of the Department to act as thesis advisor. The student, with the approval of this advisor, must submit a proposal of a project in writing to the Department. Deadline for submission of the proposal for fall semester is April 30 and for spring semester is November 30. Final selection of candidates and topics is determined by an honors committee of the Department. Students selected for the program must enroll in FRN 495 for the semester in which the thesis is written. The thesis is evaluated by the thesis advisor, another member of the Department, and a third reader from outside the Department. For further information consult the Director of Undergraduate Studies.

Sample Course Sequence for the Major in French Language and Literature
A course planning guide for this major may be found here.

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<td>One 300-level literature course</td>
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FRN

French

FRN 101: Intensive Elementary French
An intensive course covering the elementary French program (FRN 111, 112) in one semester. This course is designed for students who have no prior knowledge of the language. A student who has had two or more years of French in high school (or who has otherwise acquired an equivalent proficiency) may not take FRN 101 without written permission from the supervisor of the course. May not be taken for credit after any other course in French.

DEC: S3
SBC: LANG
6 credits

FRN 111: Elementary French I
An introduction to spoken and written French, stressing pronunciation, speaking, comprehension, reading, and writing. Language Center supplements class work. FRN 111 is designed for students who have no prior knowledge of the language. A student who has had two or more years of French in high school (or who has otherwise acquired an equivalent proficiency) may not take FRN 111 without written permission from the supervisor of the course. May not be taken for credit in addition to FRN 101.

4 credits

FRN 112: Elementary French II
An introduction to spoken and written French, stressing pronunciation, speaking, comprehension, reading, and writing. Language Center supplements class work. May not be taken for credit in addition to FRN 101.

Prerequisite: FRN 111 or placement into 112. See https://llrc.stonybrook.edu/placement-exams for more information.

DEC: S3
SBC: LANG
4 credits

FRN 201: Intensive Intermediate French
Review of grammar and analysis of simple French texts through reading, writing, and discussion. Language Center supplements class work. May not be taken for credit in addition to FRN 211 or FRN 212.

Prerequisite: FRN 101 or 112 or placement into 211. See https://llrc.stonybrook.edu/placement-exams for more information.

DEC: S3
SBC: GLO, HUM, LANG
6 credits

FRN 211: French Comparisons and Connections
Development of functional competence in speaking, listening, reading and writing in interpersonal, interpretive and presentational modes of communication. Connection of French to other disciplines. Expansion of insight into the nature of languages and cultures. Study and discussion of history and culture of the Francophone world through film, literature, music, newspapers. May not be taken for credit in addition to FRN 201.

Prerequisite: FRN 101 or 112 or placement into 211. See https://llrc.stonybrook.edu/placement-exams for more information.

DEC: S3
SBC: GLO, LANG
3 credits

FRN 212: French Cultures and Communities
Development of functional competence in speaking, listening, reading, writing, and culture in interpersonal, interpretive and presentational modes of communication. Emphasis on comparison of languages and cultures and on the use of the French language in communities both within and beyond the university setting. Study and discussion of cultures in the French speaking world through film, literature, music, newspapers. May not be taken for credit in addition to FRN 201.

Prerequisite: FRN 211 or placement into 212. See https://llrc.stonybrook.edu/placement-exams for more information.

DEC: S3
SBC: GLO, HUM, LANG
3 credits

FRN 311: Conversation
A course emphasizing the development of oral and aural proficiency in French. Class work, supplements, use of technologically-based materials.

Prerequisite: FRN 212 or 201

DEC: S3
SBC: HFA+, LANG, SPK
3 credits

FRN 312: Composition
A course emphasizing writing proficiency in French. Class work, supplements, use of technologically-based materials.

Advisory Pre- or Corequisite: FRN 311

DEC: S3
SBC: ESI, HFA+, LANG, WRTD
3 credits

FRN 313: French Vocabulary through Popular Culture
A course designed to increase vocabulary and oral comprehension of French through the study of realms from clothing and banking to love and music.

Prerequisite: FRN 212 or FRN 201

SBC: HFA+
3 credits

FRN 395: Readings in French Literature I: Analysis and Interpretation
These courses teach literary analysis and its application to representative texts chosen from various periods of French literature. All readings are done in French. Discussions are in French.

Prerequisite: FRN 312

DEC: G & 3
SBC: HFA+
3 credits

FRN 396: Readings in French Literature II: Analysis and Interpretation
These courses teach literary analysis and its application to representative texts chosen from various periods of French literature. All readings are done in French. Discussions are in French.

Prerequisite: FRN 312

DEC: G & 3
SBC: HFA+
3 credits

FRN 410: Business French
A course designed for students who wish to become more proficient in reading, writing, and translating French. Students also are trained in the use of French in business, in administration, and in everyday professional life. Emphasis is placed on the idiomatic peculiarities of the French language and the relation of French to the structure of English.

Prerequisite: FRN 312

DEC: S3
SBC: SBS+
3 credits

FRN 411: Phonetics and Diction
A course designed to develop mastery of the spoken language. Students learn to express themselves in the current idiom with fluency and accuracy. At least one hour of laboratory is required weekly.

Prerequisite: FRN 312

DEC: S3
SBC: HFA+
3 credits
FRN 412: Stylistics
A course designed to acquaint students with the subtleties of French grammar and style. Extensive practice in composition and in translation from English to French.
Prerequisite: FRN 312
DEC: S3
SBC: HFA+, WRTD
3 credits

FRN 413: Advanced French Conversation
A course designed to develop and maintain complete fluency in the language.
Prerequisite: FRN 312
DEC: S3
SBC: HFA+
3 credits

FRN 423: Africana Literature in French
An examination of a range of literature in French produced by writers throughout the African diaspora who claim affiliation with Africa. While the course is conducted in French, students will have the option to write papers in either French or English. Competence in reading and speaking French is a requirement for the course. This course is offered as both AFH 423 and FRN 423.
Prerequisite: A 200-level course in literature. For French majors, FRN 395, 396 or permission of the Instructor.
DEC: J
SBC: HFA+
3 credits

FRN 433: Studies in 17th-Century Literature
May be repeated as topic changes.
Prerequisite: FRN 395 or 396
DEC: S3
SBC: HFA+
3 credits

FRN 434: Studies in 18th-Century Literature
May be repeated as the topic changes.
Prerequisite: FRN 395 or 396
DEC: S3
SBC: HFA+
3 credits

FRN 435: Studies in 19th-Century Literature
May be repeated as topic changes.
Prerequisite: FRN 395 or 396
DEC: S3
SBC: HFA+
3 credits

FRN 436: Studies in 20th-Century Literature
May be repeated as the topic changes.
Prerequisite: FRN 395 or 396
DEC: S3
SBC: HFA+
3 credits

FRN 438: Francophone cultures
An examination of different cultural topics from the French speaking world with special emphasis on the literature of the Maghreb and the Mashreq (the Middle East). Taught in French, this course explores the dialogue between the various Francophone cultures with the mainstream French culture.
Prerequisite: FRN 395 or 396
DEC: J & 3
SBC: HFA+
3 credits

FRN 441: French Civilization
A discussion of French civilization from the creation of the modern state to the present. The course is intended for those interested in studying the background and traditions of modern France. An anthology of historical texts and documents serves as a point of departure; the institutions and life in France are considered, along with the development of art, architecture, music, and literature. The emphasis is on discussion (in French) and individual projects. Visiting lecturers contribute to the variety of topics and points of view.
Prerequisite: FRN 395 or 396
DEC: I & 3
SBC: HFA+
3 credits

FRN 442: Free Seminar
A seminar built around themes like "Women in French Literature," "Self-Deception in the 17th-Century Moralistes and the 20th-Century Novel," and "The City in the French Novel." A detailed description of the seminar may be obtained from the department for each semester it is offered. May be repeated as topic changes.
Prerequisite: FRN 395 or 396
DEC: S3

FRN 444: Experiential Learning
This course is designed for students who engage in a substantial, structured experiential learning activity in conjunction with another class. Experiential learning occurs when knowledge acquired through formal learning and past experience are applied to a "real-world" setting or problem to create new knowledge through a process of reflection, critical analysis, feedback and synthesis. Beyond-the-classroom experiences that support experiential learning may include: service learning, mentored research, field work, or an internship.
Prerequisite: WRT 102 or equivalent; permission of the instructor and approval of the EXP+ contract (http://sb.cc.stonybrook.edu/bulletin/current/policiesandregulations/degree_requirements/EXPplus.php)
SBC: EXP+
S/U grading

FRN 447: Directed Readings in French
Individually supervised readings in selected topics in French language and literature, or, alternatively, for the purpose of developing French vocabulary in a secondary field, in selected topics in the humanities, social sciences, or natural sciences. May be repeated.
Prerequisite: Permission of department
DEC: S3
SBC: EXP+
1-6 credits

FRN 449: Write Effectively in French
A zero credit course that may be taken in conjunction with any 300- or 400-level FRN course, with permission of the instructor. The course provides opportunity to practice the skills and techniques of effective academic writing and satisfies the learning outcomes of the Stony Brook Curriculum's WRTD learning objective.
Prerequisite: WRT 102; permission of the instructor
SBC: WRTD
S/U grading

FRN 457: Undergraduate Teaching Practicum in French I
Each student conducts a regular problem or tutorial section that supplements a regular language course under the guidance of a master teacher. Responsibilities may include preparing material for discussion and helping
students with problems. Not for major or minor credit.
Prerequisites: Fluency in French; permission of instructor and department
DEC: S3
SBC: EXP+
3 credits, S/U grading

FRN 476: Undergraduate Teaching Practicum in French II
Work with a faculty member as an assistant in one of the faculty member's regularly scheduled classes. Students assume greater responsibility in such areas as leading discussions and analyzing results of tests that have already been graded. The course in which the student is permitted to work as a teaching assistant must be different from the course in which he or she previously served.
Prerequisites: Fluency in French; permission of instructor and department
DEC: S3
SBC: EXP+
3 credits, S/U grading

FRN 495: Senior Honors Project in French
A one-semester project for seniors. Arranged in consultation with the department, the project involves writing a paper, under the close supervision of an appropriate instructor, on a suitable topic. Students who are candidates for honors take this course.
Prerequisite: Permission of department
DEC: S3
SBC: EXP+
3 credits

HUF 219: Modern France
A survey of contemporary France and its political, social, and economic structure, as well as the study of cultural life and institutions within the context of its historical development. Special attention is given to other French-speaking countries and their relations to France.
DEC: I
SBC: GLO, HUM
3 credits

HUF 311: French Literature
A course given in English on a major French author or literary movement in relation to European or American literature. May be repeated as topic changes. May be used to satisfy Comparative Literature major requirements with permission of major department.
Prerequisite: U3 or U4 standing
Advisory Prerequisite: One literature course at the 200 level or higher
DEC: G
SBC: GLO, HFA+
3 credits

HUF 318: Pan-African Literature I
An examination of the cultural themes of Pan-Africanism and negritude, drawing on a selection of writers from the United States, Africa, and the Caribbean. The course treats the development, diffusion, and significance of these themes. It involves intensive consideration of selected literary works of African and African-American expression. This course is offered as both AFH 329 and HUF 318.
Prerequisite: U3 or U4 standing
Advisory Prerequisites: Two courses in literature
DEC: J
SBC: GLO, HFA+
3 credits

HUF 319: Women of the Middle East
The condition of women writers in post-colonial, predominantly Arab countries is heavily marked by the dual legacy of the region's Muslim heritage and the cultural imprint of former colonizers, which are intertwined with ethnic, religious, linguistic and other differences that in varying ways traverse the region as a whole.
Prerequisite: U3 or U4 standing
SBC: GLO, HFA+
3 credits

HUF 385: French Caribbean Literature
A study of representative texts from the French Caribbean translated into English, focusing on literary manifestations of a search for a specific identity by writers from Martinique, Guadeloupe, French Guiana, and Haiti. This course is offered as both AFH 385 and HUF 385.
Prerequisite: Junior or Senior Standing
DEC: J
SBC: HFA+
3 credits

HUF 475: Undergraduate Teaching Practicum I
Work with a faculty member as an assistant in one of the faculty member's regularly scheduled classes. The student is required to attend all the classes, do all the regularly assigned work and meet with the faculty member at regularly scheduled times to discuss the intellectual and pedagogical matters relating to the course. In HUF 476, students assume greater responsibility in such areas as leading discussions and analyzing results of tests that have already been graded. Students may not serve as teaching assistants in the same course twice. This course does not count toward the major or minor in French.
Prerequisite: U3 or U4 standing; permission of instructor and language coordinator
SBC: EXP+
3 credits, S/U grading