

French Studies

The School of Humanities

Chair

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Degrees Offered: B.A., M.A., Ph.D.

Courses in this department hone language skills in French while placing a diverse, generalized knowledge of French literature within a broad spectrum of cultural, historical, philosophical, and theoretical concerns. Students are also urged to take courses in fields closely related to French studies, including European and English history, literature, and philosophy. The department encourages students to spend time studying in a francophone country and to that end the French Studies department and Office of Student Advising will help students select an appropriate program. Courses in Italian language and culture are included within this department.

Degree Requirements for B.A. in French Studies

For general university requirements, see Graduation Requirements (pages 16–18). Students majoring in French studies must complete at least 30 semester hours in upper-level courses (at the 300 or 400 level). A double major or an area major must complete 24 hours in upper-level courses.

Required Courses

FREN 301 *Advanced French for
Written and Oral Communications*

FREN 311 *Introduction to
French Literature I*

or FREN 312 *Introduction to
French Literature II*

FREN 371 *Old Regime and
Revolutionary France*

or FREN 372 *The Making of
Modern France, 1815–1995*

or FREN 360 *Society and the Sexes
in Modern France*

or FREN 387 *Images of
Contemporary France*

Electives

7 additional courses (for single majors)—
at least 3 courses at the 400 level and
at least 1 course from Group III
(culture, history, and civilization)

5 additional courses (for double majors)—
at least 2 courses at the 400 level and
at least 1 course from Group III
(culture, history, and civilization)

In choosing their additional courses, majors must take at least 1 course each from the period before 1800 and the 1 after 1800, selected from the following:

Period before 1800

FREN 311 *Introduction to French Literature I*
 FREN 351 *The Provinces of France*
 FREN 371 *Old Regime and Revolutionary France*
 FREN 410 *The Literary and Historical Image of the Medieval Woman*
 FREN 415 *Courtly Love in Medieval France*
 FREN 430 *French Classicism*
 FREN 440 *French Enlightenment*
 FREN 445 *Enlightenment and Counter-Enlightenment*

Period after 1800

FREN 312 *Introduction to French Literature II*
 FREN 321 *Paris*
 FREN 360 *Society and the Sexes in Modern France*
 FREN 372 *The Making of Modern France, 1815–1995*
 FREN 387 *Images of Contemporary France*
 Plus other courses at the 400 level

As many as 2 French courses taught in English may count toward a major in French studies. Students who have taken 300- and 400-level French courses (except those taught in English) cannot enroll simultaneously or afterward in 200-level French courses for credit. At least half of the courses for the major must be taken at Rice University. The department normally requires that the basic courses for the major (FREN 301, 311, 312, 371, or 372) be taken at Rice.

Students with diplomas from French-speaking institutions must consult with the department before enrolling in courses, and all majors and prospective majors must have their programs of study approved by an undergraduate adviser. Students wishing to complete the honors program in French studies should also consult one of the advisers.

Campus Activities. To acquaint students with French language and culture, the department sponsors a weekly French Table that meets at lunch in a college. The Club Chouette also organizes outings to French movies, sponsors guest lectures, and, in cooperation with the department, helps to produce a play during the spring semester. Students who maintain at least a B average in 2 or more advanced French courses and have a GPA of at least 3, are invited to join the Theta chapter of the honorary Pi Delta Phi.

Travel Abroad. The department encourages majors to spend time living and studying in a francophone country. The Alliance Française of Houston offers a summer scholarship of \$3,000 each year to a qualified sophomore or junior for six weeks' study in France. The Clyde Ferguson Bull Traveling Fellowship, awarded each year to one graduating senior with a major or double major in French studies, permits the recipient to spend an entire year in France. Information about study abroad is available from the department faculty and in the Office of Academic Advising.

Degree Requirements for M.A. and Ph.D. in French Studies

Admission to graduate study in French, granted each year to a limited number of qualified students, requires a distinguished undergraduate record in the study of French literature or a related field and a capacity for independent work. All candidates should have a near-native command of the French language. For general university requirements, see Graduate Degrees (pages 60–65).

M.A. Program. In most cases students take two years to complete work for the M.A. degree in French studies. While graduate students normally take 500-level courses, as many as 2 courses at the 400 level may count toward fulfillment of the following course requirements. M.A. candidates must:

- Complete with satisfactory standing 27 semester hours (in addition to B.A. course work) of upper-level courses, plus 6 hours of independent study in the preparation of three advanced research papers to be defended before their M.A. committee (The selection of the paper topics must receive preliminary approval from the examination committee.)
- Perform satisfactorily on a reading examination in one department-approved language other than French
- Perform satisfactorily on preliminary written and oral examinations conducted in French on works specified on the department reading list

Ph.D. Program. Candidates normally take 500-level courses, but students entering with a B.A. may count toward their Ph.D. degree as many as 3 courses at the 400 level that *also* have a 500-level listing; those entering with an M.A. may count 2 such courses. Graduate student enrollment in a course listed only at the 400 level, however, is subject to the instructor's approval. Candidates for the Ph.D. degree must accomplish the following, being sure to complete the additional language requirement and their preliminary exams one year before they submit a dissertation:

- In a program approved by the department, complete with high standing at least 54 semester hours of course work plus 36 thesis hours (for those already holding an M.A. degree, the requirement is 27 hours of course work plus 36 thesis hours)
- In addition, complete FREN 610 *Topics in Language Methodology*, a course required for all graduate language teaching assistants. Students entering with an M.A. who have completed the equivalent course are exempt from this requirement
- Satisfactorily complete 1 course at the 300 level or above in a language other than French or English, chosen in consultation with a graduate adviser for its relevance to their research interests. With the permission of the graduate committee, this requirement may also be met through satisfactory performance on a written language examination or by such other means as the graduate committee may direct
- Perform satisfactorily on preliminary written and oral examinations (the oral exam taken only after successful completion of the written exam) from a list of required, department-approved texts, including selected readings in French literature from all major periods and readings in crucial texts in philosophy and theory; history, cultural studies, and film; and postcolonial and gender studies
- Complete a dissertation, approved by the department, that represents an original contribution to the field of French studies
- Perform satisfactorily on a final oral examination on the dissertation

Italian Language and Culture

Italian language courses are available under the auspices of the Department of French Studies, as are courses in Italian literature and culture. The department also sponsors a weekly Italian Table at Will Rice College. Also this year, the Donne Di Domani Scholarship of \$3,000 (based on merit) and need will be awarded to eligible undergraduates toward tuition and books.

See FREN (pages 353–364) and ITAL (page 413) in the Courses of Instruction section.