

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.

Degree Requirements for B.A. in French Studies

For general university requirements, see Graduation Requirements (pages 20–23). 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 311 *Major Literary Works and Artifacts of Pre-Revolutionary France*
FREN 312 *Major Literary Works and Artifacts of Post-Revolutionary France: The Romantic Legacy*
FREN 336 *Writing for the Major*

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)

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 311, 312, and 336) be taken at Rice. Students who matriculate before 2003 may choose to graduate with the requirements listed in the *General Announcements* of the year of their matriculation or of their graduation.

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 B, 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 65–70).

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.
- Complete LING 610 *Topics in Language Methodology*, a course normally required for all graduate teaching assistants
- Perform satisfactorily on a reading examination in one department-approved language other than French or English
- 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; 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 meet the following criteria, ensuring that they complete the 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 57 semester hours of course work plus 36 thesis hours (for those already holding an M.A. degree, the requirement is 39 hours of course work plus 36 thesis hours). Six of these units may be fulfilled with a 600-level independent study course.
- In addition, complete LING 610 *Topics in Language Methodology*, a course normally 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. 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 based on readings comprising both required and individually selected texts, including readings in French literature from all major periods and readings in philosophy and theory; history, cultural studies, and film; and postcolonial and gender studies. The oral exam can be taken only after successful completion of the written exam.
- 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.

See FREN in the Courses of Instruction section.