

FRANCOPHONE STUDIES (FRS)

FRS 1021 (c) From Away: Migration and Travel in the French-Speaking World

Ian MacDonald.

Non-Standard Rotation. Fall 2024. Enrollment limit: 16.

In this course we will read a series of texts from the French-speaking world that deal with questions of travel, migration, and of what it means to be at home, to go away, and to leave home behind. We will use these literary texts to help us enter into discussions about national origin, immigration status, race, social class, gender, economic status, and religion, among other factors that can be used to discuss identity. Through texts from Africa, North America, the Caribbean, and Europe, we will study questions about power in the world around us, while also investigating our own personal experiences, origins, and life stories. We will read novels, poetry, plays, and essays. We will also watch a few films. As this course is a first-year writing seminar, we practice writing about the topics that arise from our readings and discussions, and we will actively engage in revising our writing on a regular basis as we explore what it means to leave home and become at home in a new place.

FRS 1033 (c) Friendships: from Fiction to Facebook

Non-Standard Rotation. Enrollment limit: 16.

Friendship is a precious relationship often wrongly regarded as less vital, intense, or transformative than love. It encompasses a wide range of social bonds, from playground companionship and wartime camaraderie to Facebook links. Most friendships have a lasting impact in people's lives and trajectories. Some are toxic and so passionate that they can become dangerous. Others are fragile, sometimes fake, or easily endangered by selfish motives. Through novels and movies this seminar investigates the ethics, aesthetics, and politics of the liberating and alienating dynamics of friendship within an array of relationships: political, inter-gender, inter-racial, inter-religious and inter-generational friendships, as well as the mentor-disciple dynamic.

Previous terms offered: Fall 2022.

FRS 1101 (c) Elementary French I

Ian MacDonald.

Every Fall. Fall 2024. Enrollment limit: 18.

A study of the basic forms, structures, and vocabulary in the context of the French-speaking world. Emphasis on the four communicative skills: reading, writing, listening, and speaking. Three class hours per week and one weekly conversation session with teaching assistants, plus regular language laboratory assignments. Primarily open to first- and second-year students.

Previous terms offered: Fall 2023, Fall 2022, Fall 2021, Fall 2020.

FRS 1102 (c) Elementary French II

Katherine Dauge-Roth.

Every Spring. Spring 2025. Enrollment limit: 18.

A study of the basic forms, structures and vocabulary in the context of the French-speaking world. Emphasis on the four communicative skills: reading, writing, listening and speaking. A study of the basic forms, structures, and vocabulary in the context of the French-speaking world. Three class hours per week and one weekly conversation session with assistant.

Prerequisites: FRS 1101 or Placement in FRS 1102.

Previous terms offered: Spring 2024, Spring 2023, Spring 2022, Spring 2021.

FRS 2203 (c) Intermediate French I

Ian MacDonald.

Every Fall. Fall 2024. Enrollment limit: 18.

Vocabulary development and review of basic grammar, which are integrated into more complex patterns of written and spoken French. Active use of French in class discussions and conversation sessions with French teaching fellows. Three class hours per week and one weekly conversation session.

Prerequisites: FRS 1102 or Placement in FRS 2203 or Placement in FRS 2203/2305.

Previous terms offered: Fall 2023, Fall 2022, Fall 2021, Fall 2020.

FRS 2204 (c) Intermediate French II

Charlotte Daniels.

Every Spring. Spring 2025. Enrollment limit: 18.

Continued development of oral and written skills; course focus shifts from grammar to reading. Short readings form the basis for the expansion of vocabulary and analytical skills. Active use of French in class discussions and conversation sessions with French teaching fellows. Three class hours per week and one weekly conversation session.

Prerequisites: FRS 2203 or Placement in FRS 2204.

Previous terms offered: Spring 2024, Spring 2023, Spring 2022, Spring 2021.

FRS 2305 (c, VPA) Advanced French through Film

Katherine Dauge-Roth.

Every Fall. Fall 2024. Enrollment limit: 18.

An introduction to film analysis. Conversation and composition based on a variety of contemporary films from French-speaking regions. Grammar review and frequent short papers. Emphasis on student participation including a variety of oral activities. Three hours per week plus regular viewing sessions for films and a weekly conversation session with French teaching fellows.

Prerequisites: FRS 2204 or Placement in FRS 2305 or Placement in FRS 2203/2305 or Placement in FRS 2305/2400 level.

Previous terms offered: Fall 2023, Fall 2022, Fall 2021, Fall 2020.

FRS 2407 (c, DPI, IP) Francophone Cultures

Meryem Belkaid.

Every Spring. Spring 2025. Enrollment limit: 18.

An introduction to the cultures of various French-speaking regions outside of France. Examines the history, politics, customs, cinema, and the arts of the Francophone world, principally Africa and the Caribbean. Increases cultural understanding prior to study abroad in French-speaking regions. (Same as: AFRS 2407, LACL 2407)

Prerequisites: FRS 2305 or higher or Placement in FRS 2400 level or Placement in FRS 2305/2400 level.

Previous terms offered: Spring 2023, Spring 2022, Spring 2021.

FRS 2408 (c, DPI, IP) Contemporary France through the Media

Ian MacDonald.

Every Spring. Spring 2025. Enrollment limit: 18.

An introduction to contemporary France through newspapers, magazines, television, music, and film. Emphasis is on enhancing communicative proficiency in French and increasing cultural understanding prior to study abroad in France.

Prerequisites: FRS 2305 or higher or Placement in FRS 2400 level or Placement in FRS 2305/2400 level.

Previous terms offered: Spring 2024, Spring 2023, Spring 2022, Spring 2021.

FRS 2409 (c, DPI, IP) Spoken Word and Written Text

Katherine Dauge-Roth.

Every Semester. Fall 2024; Spring 2025. Enrollment limit: 18.

Examines oral and written traditions of areas where French is spoken in Africa, the Caribbean, Europe, and North America from the Middle Ages to 1848. Through interdisciplinary units, students examine key moments in the history of the francophone world, drawing on folktales, epics, poetry, plays, short stories, essays, and novels. Explores questions of identity, race, colonization, and language in historical and ideological context. Taught in French. (Same as: AFRS 2409, LACL 2209)

Prerequisites: FRS 2305 or higher or Placement in FRS 2400 level or Placement in FRS 2305/2400 level.

Previous terms offered: Spring 2024, Fall 2023, Spring 2023, Fall 2022, Spring 2022, Fall 2021, Spring 2021, Fall 2020.

FRS 2410 (c, DPI, IP) Literature, Power, and Resistance

Charlotte Daniels.

Every Semester. Fall 2024; Spring 2025. Enrollment limit: 18.

Examines questions of power and resistance as addressed in the literary production of the French-speaking world from the nineteenth through the twenty-first centuries. Examines how language and literature serve as tools for both oppression and liberation during periods of turmoil: political and social revolutions, colonization and decolonization, the first and second world wars. Authors may include Hugo, Sand, Sartre, Fanon, Senghor, Yacine, Beauvoir, Condé, Césaire, Djébar, Camus, Modiano, Perec, and Piketty. Students gain familiarity with a range of genres and artistic movements and explore the myriad ways that literature and language reinforce boundaries and register dissent. Taught in French.

Prerequisites: FRS 2305 or higher or Placement in FRS 2400 level or Placement in FRS 2305/2400 level.

Previous terms offered: Spring 2024, Fall 2023, Spring 2023, Fall 2022, Spring 2022, Fall 2021, Spring 2021, Fall 2020.

FRS 3203 (c) Murder, Mystery, and Mayhem: The fait divers in French Literature and Film

Non-Standard Rotation. Enrollment limit: 16.

Examines the fait divers, a news item recounting an event of a criminal, strange, or licentious nature, as a source for literary and cinematographic production. Traces the development of the popular press and its relationship to the rise of the short story. Explores how literary authors and filmmakers past and present find inspiration in the news and render "true stories" in their artistic work. Readings may include selections from Rosset, J-P. Camus, Le Clézio, Cendrars, Beauvoir, Duras, Genet, Modiano, Bon, newspapers, and tabloids.

Prerequisites: Two of: either FRS 2409 (same as AFRS 2409 and LAS 2209) or FRS 2410 (same as AFRS 2412 and LAS 2210) or FRS 3000 or higher and either FRS 2409 (same as AFRS 2409 and LAS 2209) or FRS 2410 (same as AFRS 2412 and LAS 2210) or FRS 3000 or higher.

Previous terms offered: Fall 2022.

FRS 3204 (c, VPA) French Theater Production

Non-Standard Rotation. Enrollment limit: 16.

Students read, analyze, and produce scenes from French plays. At the end of the semester, student groups produce, direct, and perform in one-act plays. Authors studied may include Molière, Marivaux, Beckett, Ionesco, Sartre, Camus, Genet, Sarraute, and Anouilh. Conducted in French.

Prerequisites: Two of: either FRS 2409 (same as AFRS 2409 and LAS 2209) or FRS 2410 (same as AFRS 2412 and LAS 2210) or FRS 3000 or higher and either FRS 2409 (same as AFRS 2409 and LAS 2209) or FRS 2410 (same as AFRS 2412 and LAS 2210) or FRS 3000 or higher.

Previous terms offered: Spring 2023.

FRS 3206 (c) Body Language: Writing the Body in Early Modern France
Non-Standard Rotation. Enrollment limit: 16.

Analysis of texts and images from early modern literary, philosophical, medical, ecclesiastical, and artistic sources from the sixteenth through eighteenth centuries, as well as of modern film, Web, and textual media, allows students to explore the conflicting roles of early modern bodies through several themes: birth and death, medicine and hygiene, gender and sexuality, social class, race, monstrosity, Catholic and Protestant visions of the body, the royal body, the body politic. Thoughtful comparison and examination of the meanings of the body today encouraged throughout. Conducted in French.

Prerequisites: Two of: either FRS 2409 (same as AFRS 2409 and LAS 2209) or FRS 2410 (same as AFRS 2412 and LAS 2210) or FRS 3000 or higher and either FRS 2409 (same as AFRS 2409 and LAS 2209) or FRS 2410 (same as AFRS 2412 and LAS 2210) or FRS 3000 or higher.

Previous terms offered: Fall 2023, Spring 2021.

FRS 3207 (c) Love, Letters, and Lies

Non-Standard Rotation. Enrollment limit: 16.

A study of memoir novels, epistolary novels (letters), and autobiography. What does writing have to do with love and desire? What is the role of others in the seemingly personal act of “self-expression”? What is the truth value of writing that circulates in the absence of its author? These and other related issues are explored in the works of the most popular writers of eighteenth-century France: Prévost, Graffigny, Laclos, and Rousseau. Conducted in French.

Prerequisites: FRS 2409 (same as AFRS 2409 and LACL 2209) or FRS 2410 (same as AFRS 2412 and LACL 2210) or FRS 3000 or higher.

Previous terms offered: Spring 2024.

FRS 3211 (c, DPI, IP) Bringing the Female Maroon to Memory: Female Marronnage and Douboutism in French Caribbean Literature

Non-Standard Rotation. Enrollment limit: 16.

Enslaved Africans who fought against oppression through escaping the European plantation system in the Caribbean for freedom in the mountains are called maroons, and their act, marronnage. Except for Queen Nanny of the Jamaican Blue Mountains, only male names have been consecrated as maroons and freedom fighters (the Haitians Makandal or Toussaint Louverture, the Martinican Louis Delgrès, the Jamaican Cudjoe or the Cuban Coba). The course examines the fictitious treatment French-speaking Caribbean authors grant to forgotten African or Afro-descended women who historically fought against enslavement and colonization. The literary works are studied against the backdrop of “Douboutism,” a conceptual framework derived from the common perception about women in the French Caribbean as expressed in the Creole say “fanm doubout,” which means “strong woman.” Authors studied may include Evelyne Trouillot, Maryse Condé, Simone Schwarz-Bart, André Schwarz-Bart, Suzanne Dracius, and Fabienne Kanor. (Same as: AFRS 3211, GSWs 3211, LACL 3211)

Prerequisites: Two of: either FRS 2409 (same as AFRS 2409 and LAS 2209) or FRS 2410 (same as AFRS 2412 and LAS 2210) or FRS 3000 or higher and either FRS 2409 (same as AFRS 2409 and LAS 2209) or FRS 2410 (same as AFRS 2412 and LAS 2210) or FRS 3000 or higher.

Previous terms offered: Fall 2021.

FRS 3212 (c, DPI, IP) Eyes on the Prize: Promoting French Culture in the Age of the New Millennium

Charlotte Daniels.

Non-Standard Rotation. Fall 2024. Enrollment limit: 16.

Since the eighteenth century, France has developed a seemingly endless list of literary prizes, the Prix Goncourt being the most famous. There are over 3,000 prizes awarded every year – being awarded one of these prizes represents an official consecration meant to underline the writer’s unquestionable worth. Who serves on the juries for all of these prizes? Is it really the best works that are acknowledged? In recent years, scandals have erupted with accusations of influence peddling by publishers. What does this teach us about French culture and society? What is the relation between literary prizes and the promotion of French culture more broadly? In the context of globalization, what political statement is being made? What is exactly the type of culture, themes, and discourse promoted via this literature given the new makeup of the French population? Immigration has considerably changed the face of France. How does the culture of literary prizes take this into account? Students read four recent prizewinners. Each of these prizewinners created controversy that directly addresses the questions above. Primary readings include works by: Houellbecq, Le Clezio, Paule Constant, Alain Mabanckou.

Prerequisites: Two of: either FRS 2409 (same as AFRS 2409 and LAS 2209) or FRS 2410 (same as AFRS 2412 and LAS 2210) or FRS 3000 or higher and either FRS 2409 (same as AFRS 2409 and LAS 2209) or FRS 2410 (same as AFRS 2412 and LAS 2210) or FRS 3000 or higher.

Previous terms offered: Spring 2021.

FRS 3213 (c, DPI, VPA) Aesthetics in Africa, the Caribbean and Europe
Non-Standard Rotation. Enrollment limit: 18.

Aesthetics—the critical reflection on art, taste, and culture; as much as beauty, the set of properties of an object that arouses pleasure—are central to all aspects of society-building and human life and relationships. Examines the notions of aesthetics and beauty, from precolonial to contemporary times in cultures of the African, Caribbean, and Western civilizations as expressed in thought and various humanities and social sciences texts, as well as the arts, iconography, and the media. Considers the ways Africans and Afro-descendants in the American region responded to Western notions of aesthetics and beauty and posited their own. Authors studied may include Senghor, Cheick Anta Diop, Mudimbe, Gyekye Kwame, Anténor Firmin, Jean Price Mars, Damas, Suzanne Césaire, Aimé Césaire, René Ménil, Fanon, Glissant, Socrates, Plato, Diderot, Montesquieu, Baumgarten, Kant, Hegel, Nietzsche, Ronsard, Erasmus, de Grenailles, and Hugo. (Same as: AFRS 3213, LACL 3213)

Prerequisites: Two of: either FRS 2409 (same as AFRS 2409 and LAS 2209) or FRS 2410 (same as AFRS 2412 and LAS 2210) or FRS 3000 or higher and either FRS 2409 (same as AFRS 2409 and LAS 2209) or FRS 2410 (same as AFRS 2412 and LAS 2210) or FRS 3000 or higher.

Previous terms offered: Spring 2024.

FRS 3216 (c) North African Cinema: From Independence to the Arab Spring

Non-Standard Rotation. Enrollment limit: 16.

Seminar. Provides insight into contemporary film production from the Maghreb (Algeria, Tunisia, and Morocco). Explores questions of gender and sexuality, national identity, political conflict, and post- and neo-colonial relationships in the context of globalization and in conditions of political repression and rigid moral conservatism. Examines how filmmakers such as Lakhdar Hamina, Férid Boughedir, Moufida Tlatli, Nedir Moknèche, Malek Bensmaïl, Lyès Salem, Hicham Ayoub, and Leyla Bouzid work in a challenging socio-economic context of film production in consideration of setbacks and obstacles specific to the developing world. Taught in French. (Same as: CINE 3352, MENA 3216)

Prerequisites: Two of: either FRS 2409 (same as AFRS 2409 and LAS 2209) or FRS 2410 (same as AFRS 2412 and LAS 2210) or FRS 3000 or higher and either FRS 2409 (same as AFRS 2409 and LAS 2209) or FRS 2410 (same as AFRS 2412 and LAS 2210) or FRS 3000 or higher.

Previous terms offered: Fall 2020.

FRS 3218 (c) Race, Gender, and Science in the Early Modern World

Non-Standard Rotation. Enrollment limit: 16.

Examines ideas about gender and sexuality and emerging conceptions of race and their relationship to science in early modern France and its North American and Caribbean colonies. Through reading and discussion of literary, testimonial, scientific, artistic, legal, and proto-ethnographic works produced by authors and artists from the sixteenth through eighteenth centuries, as well as critical work drawn from several disciplines, students explore how scientific ideas about human difference served to justify mechanisms of inequality, control, and violence that continue to have a devastating legacy today. Emphasis is also placed on analyzing responses and resistances to dominant structures and norms by Native Americans, Sub-Saharan Africans, French women, and gender-nonconforming men. Conducted in French.

Prerequisites: Two of: FRS 2409 (same as AFRS 2409 and LACL 2209) and FRS 2410 (same as AFRS 2412 and LACL 2210).

Previous terms offered: Spring 2022.

FRS 3219 (c, DPI, IP) French Caribbean Intellectual Thought

Non-Standard Rotation. Enrollment limit: 16.

An introduction to some of the main intellectual productions from the French-speaking Caribbean from the nineteenth century to the present, such as the Haitian post-Revolution thought, Indigénisme and Spiralisme or Martinican Négritude, and Diversalité or Tout-monde. Examines theoretical and literary texts by Louis Joseph Janvier, Anténor Firmin, Jean Price-Mars, Frankétienne, René Depestre, Marie Chauvet, René Maran, Léon Gontran Damas, Bertène Juminer, Maryse Condé, Simone Schwarz-Bart, René Ménil, Aimé Césaire, Suzanne Césaire, Joseph Zobel, Frantz Fanon, Édouard Glissant, Vincent Placol, or Patrick Chamoiseau. Questions addressed include history, memory, ethics, humanism, freedom, relation, Caribbean epistemology, dignity, justice, existence, political theory, identity, race, and cultural autonomy. (Same as: AFRS 3219, LACL 3259)

Prerequisites: Two of: either FRS 2409 (same as AFRS 2409 and LAS 2209) or FRS 2410 (same as AFRS 2412 and LAS 2210) or FRS 3000 or higher and either FRS 2409 (same as AFRS 2409 and LAS 2209) or FRS 2410 (same as AFRS 2412 and LAS 2210) or FRS 3000 or higher.

Previous terms offered: Spring 2023, Fall 2020.

FRS 3222 (c, IP) Texts Talking Back: French Canada Speaking to Itself and to the World through Literature

Ian MacDonald.

Non-Standard Rotation. Spring 2025. Enrollment limit: 16.

Explores the ways in which authors refer to history, geography, and most particularly to other literary texts in order to form a community of voices that constitutes a body of expression unique to Francophone Canada. The literature of French Canada evokes a history of displacements, conflicts, triumphs, oppressions, and liberations that play out in relationship to “others” to whom texts respond. We will read essays, novels, plays, and poems from Francophone Canada and familiarize ourselves with events, texts, and places that will help us deepen our understanding and appreciation of the literary traditions of Canada, with an emphasis on Québécois and Acadian authors. Readings may include texts by Marie-Claire Blais, Roch Carrier, Herménégilde Chiasson, Evelyne de la Chenelière, Madeleine Gagnon, Claude Gauvreau, Anne Hébert, Dany Laferrière, Michèle Lalonde, Robert Lepage, Antonine Maillet, Gaston Miron, Wajdi Mouawad, Émile Nelligan, Gabrielle Roy, and Michel Tremblay.

Prerequisites: Two of: either FRS 2409 (same as AFRS 2409 and LAS 2209) or FRS 2410 (same as AFRS 2412 and LAS 2210) or FRS 3000 or higher and either FRS 2409 (same as AFRS 2409 and LAS 2209) or FRS 2410 (same as AFRS 2412 and LAS 2210) or FRS 3000 or higher.

Previous terms offered: Fall 2021.

FRS 3223 (c) Representations of the Algerian War of Independence

Meryem Belkaid.

Every Other Year. Spring 2025. Enrollment limit: 16.

Analyzes the depiction of the Algerian War of Independence in Algerian and French novels and films, drawing on trauma, postcolonial and decolonial theories. The Algerian War of Independence lasted nearly eight years (1954–62), cost between one million and one and a half million lives, saw atrocities like the use of torture by the French army and remained an obscure part of the national history of both Algeria and France. Algerian and French writers and filmmakers depict this war differently. Adopting a chronological and comparative approach to the representations of the conflict in Algeria and France, this seminar follows the various phases behind the construction of the collective memory of the Algerian War of Independence in each country. From state censorship, trauma, melancholic renderings of the past and nationalist appropriations of history, Algerian and French writers and filmmakers confront distinct problematics. (Same as: MENA 3223)

Prerequisites: Two of: FRS 2409 (same as AFRS 2409 and LACL 2209) and FRS 2410 (same as AFRS 2412 and LACL 2210).

Previous terms offered: Spring 2022.