

# French Language and Literature

Courses of Study:  
Minor  
Major (B.A.)

## Objectives

Learning to speak, read, write, and think a new language teaches us, as Montaigne wrote, to “knock off our corners by rubbing our brains against other people’s.” French, in its historical development in Europe and its subsequent spread to many areas of the earth, is inextricably tied to the intellectual, artistic, historical, and cultural development of a large portion of the world’s population. The French curriculum is designed to teach students to express themselves clearly and effectively in written and oral French, as well as to acquaint them with the historical depth and geographical breadth of literary and cultural expression in French.

## How to Become a Major or a Minor

Students considering a French major should complete the language requirement as soon as possible. Students should take FREN 106b, and /or FREN 110a before taking courses numbered above FREN 110a. Students interested in learning more about the major, the minor, or about studying abroad are encouraged to speak with the undergraduate advising head in French. Please note: Many French majors and minors choose to study abroad for all or part of their junior year.

## Faculty

See Romance and Comparative Literature.

## Requirements for the Major

The major consists of nine semester courses:

- A. FREN 106b (The Art of Composition).
- B. FREN 110a (Cultural Representations).
- C. Six additional French courses numbered above 110a.
- D. FREN 97a (Senior Essay—fall semester). After completing FREN 97a in the fall, students who have a 3.5 GPA in French courses seeking to fulfill requirements for departmental honors can petition to take FREN 99b, the senior thesis, in the spring. Honors are awarded on the basis of cumulative excellence in all courses taken in the major, including the senior thesis.

## Requirements for Minor in French

- A. FREN 106b (The Art of Composition).
- B. FREN 110a (Cultural Representations).
- C. Three additional courses in French numbered above 100. One of these may be an FECS (French and European Cultural Studies) course, provided that all reading and writing assignments are completed in French.

## How to Fulfill the Language Requirement

The Foreign Language Requirement is met by successful completion of a third semester course (numbered in the 30s) in the language program.

## How to Choose a Course at Your Level

To choose the appropriate course for your level, you will need to take a Placement Exam. It is a self-graded exam that you can access online at [www.brandeis.edu/registrar/frentest.html](http://www.brandeis.edu/registrar/frentest.html). After finishing the exam, you will choose the course that seems to best fit your needs and then complete a questionnaire on line. A faculty member will then contact you to discuss the courses that you have chosen.

If you have a score of 620 or above on the French SAT II, or a score of 4 or 5 on the French AP exam, these scores will automatically fulfill the language requirement, and you are eligible to enroll in 100-level courses.

Students seeking credit toward the French major for French courses cross-listed under European Cultural Studies should do all reading and writing assignments in French. (The abbreviation FECS denotes French and European Cultural Studies courses.) Majors may receive credit for the major for related courses taken outside the department with written permission of the undergraduate advising head.

French majors may apply a maximum of two courses per semester from studying abroad to their French major.

All students pursuing a French major will be assigned an advisor in the department.

French minors may apply a maximum of two courses total from studying abroad to their French minor.

All students pursuing a French minor will be assigned an advisor in the department.

## Courses of Instruction

### (1-99) Primarily for Undergraduate Students

Students may take *at most* two 30-level French courses for credit with permission of the language coordinator.

#### FREN 10a Beginning French

*Students who have completed two or more years of study of French must obtain permission from the instructor before enrolling. Four class hours.*

For students with no previous knowledge of French and those with a minimal background. Intensive training in the basics of French grammar, listening, comprehension, speaking, reading, and writing within the context of French and Francophone cultures. Usually offered every semester.  
Staff

#### FREN 20b Continuing French

*Prerequisite: FREN 10a or the equivalent as determined by the placement examination.* Continuation of FREN 10a. Intensive training in French grammar, listening comprehension, speaking, reading, and writing within the context of French and Francophone cultures. Usually offered every semester.  
Staff

#### FREN 32a Intermediate French: Conversation

[ fl ]  
*Prerequisite: FREN 20b or the equivalent as determined by the placement examination.* Focuses on improving the speaking ability of students who wish to develop greater fluency in conversation while discussing contemporary French and Francophone cultures. Students continue to improve their skills in listening, comprehension, reading, and writing. Usually offered every year.  
Staff

#### FREN 33a Intermediate French: Reading

[ fl ]  
*Prerequisite: FREN 20b or the equivalent as determined by the placement examination.* Focuses on improving the reading ability of students who wish to develop greater competence in reading comprehension. Selections from modern literature, political essays, and newspaper articles, etc., form the basis for examining various topics in French and Francophone cultures. Students continue to improve their skills in listening comprehension, speaking, and writing. Usually offered every year.  
Staff

#### FREN 34a Intermediate French: Topics in French and Francophone Cultures

[ fl ]  
*Prerequisite: FREN 20b or the equivalent as determined by the placement examination.* Focuses on increasing the knowledge of students who wish to develop greater understanding of fundamental principles of French and Francophone cultures, such as education, identity, and so on. Students continue to improve their skills in listening comprehension, speaking, and writing. Usually offered every year.  
Staff

#### FREN 97a Senior Essay

*Students should consult the undergraduate advising head before enrolling.* FREN 97a offers students an opportunity to produce a senior essay under the direction of an individual instructor. Students normally enroll in FREN 97a in the fall. Only under exceptional circumstances will students enroll in FREN 97a in the spring. Offered every fall.  
Staff

#### FREN 98a Independent Study

*May be taken only with the written permission of the undergraduate advising head and the chair of the department.* Reading and reports under faculty supervision. Offered as needed.  
Staff

#### FREN 98b Independent Study

*May be taken only with the written permission of the undergraduate advising head and the chair of the department.* Reading and reports under faculty supervision. Offered as needed.  
Staff

#### FREN 99b Senior Thesis

*Students should consult the undergraduate advising head before enrolling.* Usually offered every year.  
Staff

### (100-199) For Both Undergraduate and Graduate Students

All courses are conducted in French unless otherwise noted. The abbreviation FECS denotes French and European Cultural Studies courses, which are taught in English.

#### FREN 104b Advanced Language Skills through Culture

[ fl hum ]  
*Prerequisite: A 30-level French course or the equivalent. May be repeated once for credit with permission of the language coordinator.*

For students who would like to continue studying French beyond the foreign language requirement. Topics will vary, but all investigate aspects of French and Francophone cultures, such as French history through film, French

Impressionism, issues of immigration, or understanding contemporary France. Reinforces the acquired skills of speaking, listening, comprehension, reading, and writing. Usually offered every year.  
Staff

#### FREN 105a France Today: French Conversation

[ fl hum ]  
*Prerequisite: A 30-level French course or the equivalent, or permission of the instructor.* For students who have acquired knowledge of conversational French and wish to develop greater fluency in conversation. Role playing, vocabulary building, and guided speaking and writing activities will develop conversational skills for various situations. Discussions of contemporary texts and films assist in vocabulary building. Usually offered every semester.  
Staff

#### FREN 106b The Art of Composition

[ fl hum wi ]  
*Prerequisite: FREN 104a or FREN 105a or the equivalent, or permission of the instructor.* For students who have acquired knowledge of written French and who wish to develop greater competence in examining and interpreting texts in order to better understand how to think a *la française*. Focuses on writing resumes, analyzing recits and portraits, and composing *explications de texte* and dissertations. Usually offered every semester.  
Staff

#### FREN 110a Cultural Representations

[ fl hum ]  
*Prerequisite: FREN 106b or the equivalent, or permission of the instructor.* A foundation course in French and Francophone culture, analyzing texts and other cultural phenomena such as film, painting, music, and politics. Usually offered every year.  
Staff

#### FECS 115a French Existentialism: An Introduction

[ hum ]  
*Open to all students. Conducted in English. Readings and essays in French for French majors.* Sartre and Camus are known as the founders of French existentialism, a philosophy of the absurd, radical freedom, and responsibility. Studies them and other writers on ethnic and female identity in light of war, colonialism, and the Holocaust. Usually offered every third year.  
Mr. Kaplan

**FECS 117a Jewish Identities in France since 1945**

[ hum ]

*Open to all students. Conducted in English with readings in English translation with French originals available.*

After the Holocaust, French thinkers such as Sartre, Levinas, and Memmi provided a foundation for reconstructing Jewish life. Topics include assimilation, Sephardic and Ashkenazi Jews, Muslim, black, and Jewish identity, the role of women, secularism, ethics, and religious faith. Usually offered every year.

Mr. Kaplan

**FREN 120a The French Middle Ages**

[ hum ]

*Prerequisite: FREN 106b or the equivalent, or permission of the instructor.*

The Middle Ages was a time of contrast, obsessed with love of God and the carnal functions of the body. Investigates the dual character of medieval literature, looking at the powers of “*le rire*” and of “*le sérieux*.” Literary forms studied include plays, *fabliaux*, *lais*, *chansons*, *ballades*, and romances in the context of the art, architecture, and philosophy of the time. Usually offered every second year.

Mr. Randall

**FREN 122b The Renaissance**

[ hum wi ]

*Prerequisite: FREN 106b or the equivalent, or permission of the instructor.*

The literature of the 16th century was erotic, tragic, and comic. The love poetry of writers such as Louise Labé and Joachim Du Bellay, the darkly comic novels of Francois Rabelais, the essays of Montaigne, and the baroque and polemical works of Agrippa d'Aubigné will be read. Issues of basic interest in the Renaissance such as Neoplatonism, the Reformation, and the “*Querelle des femmes*” will be analyzed. Material is studied in the context of the art, architecture, and philosophy of the time. Usually offered every second year.

Mr. Randall

**FREN 130a The Seventeenth Century**

[ hum ]

*Prerequisite: FREN 106b or the equivalent, or permission of the instructor.*

Heart and mind in French Classicism. The combat of passion and reason in 17th-century masterpieces of comedy, tragedy, Pascal's *Pensées*, and the psychological novel, *La princesse de Clèves*. Topics include the conflict of love and duty, social class, skepticism and religious faith, gender roles. Usually offered every third year.

Mr. Kaplan

**FECS 134a The Ancien Régime**

[ hum ]

*Open to all students. Conducted in English with readings in English translation.*

Examines women's part in changing the literary, artistic, intellectual, and political culture of the 17th- and 18th-century French monarchy. Topics include salons and social mobility, learned ladies and renegade nuns, science and morality, and subverting authority. Usually offered every second year.

Staff

**FREN 135a The Nineteenth Century**

[ hum ]

*Prerequisite: FREN 106b or the equivalent, or permission of the instructor.*

Liberation and selfhood in 19th-century France: short stories, novels, poetry, and theater. Topics include love and intimacy, the struggle for identity, gender roles, myth and folklore, religion and secularization. Authors may include Lamartine, Hugo, Desbordes-Valmore, Musset, Nerval, Sand, and Balzac. Usually offered every second year.

Mr. Kaplan

**FREN 137a The Twentieth and Twenty-first Centuries: Plague, War and Human Power**

[ hum ]

*Prerequisite: FREN 106b or the equivalent, or permission of the instructor.*

Compares responses written in French to humanitarian and political crises of the last century to those written in response to today's crises. Authors may include Boris Diop, Giraudoux, Camus, Beckett, Sebbar, Sartre, and Sijie Dai. Usually offered every year.

Ms. Hale

**FREN 142b City and the Book**

[ hum ]

*Prerequisite: FREN 106b or the equivalent, or permission of the instructor.*

Analyzes the symbolic appearance of the city in French literature and film from the Middle Ages to the present day. The symbolic representation of the city in literature and film will be contextualized in theoretical writings by urbanists and philosophers. The symbolic and theoretical depictions of the city will be used to understand the culture in which they were produced. Usually offered every second year.

Mr. Randall

**FREN 145a French Fiction**

[ hum wi ]

*Prerequisite: FREN 106b or the equivalent or permission of the instructor.*

Power, passion, creativity in the French Novel. Major novels of the 19th and 20th centuries by Balzac, Stendhal, George Sand, Flaubert, Zola, and Proust reflect France's social and political upheavals. Topics include psychological analysis, revolution and class conflicts, male and female relationships, the creative process. Usually offered every second year.

Mr. Kaplan

**FREN 150b French Poetry**

[ hum ]

*Prerequisite: FREN 106b or the equivalent, or permission of the instructor.*

The lyric imagination. Reading modern French verse and prose poems, from Baudelaire to Yves Bonnefoy, with essays on the creative process. No previous experience with poetry is necessary. Topics include rebellion against romanticism, surrealist love, ethnic and female voices, beauty and spiritual meaning. Usually offered every third year.

Mr. Kaplan

**FREN 155b French Drama of the Twentieth Century**

[ hum ]

*Prerequisite: FREN 106b or the equivalent, or permission of the instructor.*

Jarry's *Ubu roi* revolutionized what could happen on stage, announcing the absurdist theater of such authors as Ionesco, Genet, and Beckett. Sartre, Camus, and Yourcenar wrote neo-classical plays in the same years. Francophone theater in the Caribbean, Quebec, and Africa (Schwarz-Bart, Farhoud, Mbia) borrowed from and adapted esthetic principles from the French dramatists to dramatize colonial and postcolonial experiences. Students may choose to perform a play as a final class project.

Ms. Hale

**FECS 157a French Film**

[ hum ]

*Open to all students. Conducted in English with readings in English translation. May be repeated for credit with special permission. Refer to the Schedule of Classes each semester for additional topic description.*

Topic for spring 2005 is *The New Wave: Impact and Influence*. The French cinematic innovations of the 1950s and 1930s known as the New Wave transformed French and international cinema. Looks at work by some key New Wave filmmakers (Melville, Varda, Truffaut, Godard, Resnais, Chabrol, Rohmer) in their relation to international and American film. Also compares certain New Wave films to much later films by the same filmmaker. Usually offered every third year.

Ms. Harth

**FREN 165b Haiti, Then and Now**

[ hum nw ]

*Prerequisite: FREN 106b or the equivalent, or permission of the instructor. May be repeated for credit with special permission.*

In an effort to understand the current political crisis in Haiti, studies Haitian culture—its people, languages, history, economy, and relations with the United States and France—through journalistic accounts, literature, art, and music. Usually offered every second year.

Ms. Hale

**FREN 182b French Literature and Painting**

[ hum ]

*Prerequisite: FREN 106b or the equivalent, or permission of the instructor. This course may not be repeated for credit by students who have taken FECS 182b in previous years.*

Explores the interrelations between French painting and literature through selected texts and corresponding visual images of the 19th and 20th centuries. Topics include Romanticism, Realism, Symbolism, Cubism, and Surrealism. Usually offered every third year.

Ms. Hale

**FREN 186b French Literature and Politics**

[ hum ]

*Prerequisite: FREN 106b or the equivalent, or permission of the instructor.*

A historical analysis of the development of political theory and literature. The class analyzes how a literary work relates to the political culture in which it was produced. Usually offered every third year.

Mr. Randall

**FREN 190b Advanced Seminar**

*May be repeated for credit with special permission. Refer to the University Writing section of this Bulletin for information regarding applicability to the writing intensive requirement.*

Staff

**Cross-Listed Courses****ECS 100a**

European Cultural Studies Proseminar: Modernism

**ECS 100b**

European Cultural Studies Proseminar: Making of European Modernity

An interdepartmental program

**General Science**

Courses of Study:  
Major (B.A./B.S.)

**Objectives**

The general science program is designed for students planning to enter interdisciplinary fields; teach science in secondary schools; enter medicine, public health, dentistry, veterinary medicine, and their allied fields; enter the optometry profession or the field of biomedical engineering; or undertake other programs requiring a general scientific background or a particular mixture of science courses. Joint majors with other departments in the sciences are also possible. Students who intend to do graduate work in a specific scientific field are advised to fulfill the undergraduate requirements for the major in that field.

**How to Become a Major**

Only students who entered Brandeis prior to the fall of 2003 are eligible to apply for the general science major.

**Committee****Robert Meyer, Chair**

(Physics)

**Requirements for the Major**

**A.** Only students who entered Brandeis prior to the fall of 2003 are eligible to apply for the general science major.

**B.** Required of all candidates: BIOL 22a (formerly BIBC 22a); BIOL 22b; BIOL 18a,b; CHEM 10a or 11a with 18a, or CHEM 15a with 19a, and CHEM 10b or 11b with 18b, or 15b with 19b. MATH 10a,b or 11a,b and PHYS 10a,b or 11a,b with 18a,b or 19a,b. Satisfactory grades (C- or above) must be maintained in all of these required courses.

**C.** Elective courses: With the approval of the program's advising head, a candidate in the general science program must also offer the equivalent of six advanced semester courses from the offerings of the School of Science. Such courses must be selected from at least two and not more than four fields within the School of Science. The following courses may not be elected: all courses designed exclusively for the University Studies Program in

Science and Mathematics such as biological science (BISC), physical science (PHSC), etc.; all courses numbered below 20 (except that BIOL 15b, COSI 10a and 11b, and MATH 8a and 15a may serve as electives), or 90 through 99; or NPSY above 100 but without a prerequisite within the School of Science that meets these general science requirements; or neuroscience courses below 100; or courses outside the School of Science. Candidates offering elective courses having laboratories (except physical chemistry) are required to enroll in any laboratories accompanying the course, e.g., students offering CHEM 25a must also complete CHEM 29a in order to fulfill one elective in organic chemistry, or a student offering COSI 21a must complete the associated lab course, COSI 22a, to fulfill one elective in computer science.

**D.** No course offered for the major requirements in general science may be taken pass/fail. No more than one unsatisfactory passing grade (below C-) in a semester course will be accepted among the elective courses offered to fulfill the requirements for this major.

**E. Honors program:** Majors in general science who wish to earn a degree with honors must satisfactorily complete an honors program. No later than September of the year in which honors are to be earned, the candidate petitions the general science committee to devise an honors program consisting of laboratory research, special courses, or both. Approval of this petition is required to admit a student to the honors program. Laboratory research is conducted under the sponsorship of a faculty member of the School of Science; the student enrolls in the 99 course offered by the department to which the sponsor belongs. If a student wishes to work with a research director outside the School of Science or outside of Brandeis, a faculty member of the

Brandeis School of Science must consent to act as the local sponsor. On completion of the thesis, the sponsor (or outside research director and local sponsor) makes a recommendation for honors to the general science committee to accompany the submission of the thesis. The general science committee will then determine whether the student has successfully completed the honors program and will recommend the level of honors to be awarded.

A graduate program

Courses of Study:  
Master of Science

## Genetic Counseling

### Objectives

#### Graduate Program in Genetic Counseling

The Master's Degree Program in Genetic Counseling is a two-year course of study integrating course work with clinical experience in an environment that encourages close student/faculty interaction. The program places a strong emphasis on human molecular genetics while providing in-depth coursework in counseling theory and technique as well as extensive clinical training. Graduates of the program are expected to have a clear understanding of human and medical genetics, recombinant DNA technology, gene mapping, and developmental biology; a familiarity with many genetic diseases and birth defects and the various techniques used to detect and/or treat them; a familiarity with a variety of counseling theory and techniques that work in short-term counseling settings; an understanding of how genetic counselors function in a variety of work settings and their roles and responsibilities within a medical team; the ability to present relevant genetic information to individuals and families from diverse cultural backgrounds in an informed, compassionate manner and to help families obtain the medical and social services they may need; a sensitivity to the needs and options of children and adults (including parents and potential parents) with mental retardation, developmental disabilities, and other genetic disorders; an awareness of the legal, ethical, and public policy issues raised as a result of new DNA and reproductive technologies and the Human Genome Project; an understanding of research methodology, experience in the design and execution of research projects, and in the preparation of completed projects for professional publication and presentation; and finally a familiarity with the relevant scientific literature and computer-based tools.

Ordinarily the program is completed in two academic years and the intervening summer. The program is accredited by the American Board of Genetic Counseling and prepares graduates for the certification examination in genetic counseling and employment as genetic counselors.

### How to Be Admitted to the Graduate Program

The general requirements for admission to the Graduate School, given in an earlier section of this *Bulletin*, apply to candidates for admission to this area of study. The specific requirements for admission to this program are: one year of general chemistry, one year of biology, and one semester each of genetics (course should include Mendelian and molecular genetics), organic chemistry, biochemistry, psychology, and statistics. Applicants lacking one or more of these courses are invited to consult the program's director on how to fulfill these requirements. Volunteer or work experience in an area related to counseling, developmental disabilities, or genetics is recommended.

Applications should include three letters of reference, the results of the General Graduate Record Examination, and a personal statement describing your interest in the field of genetic counseling. After initial review of applications, potential candidates will be invited to Brandeis for a personal interview.

Partial scholarship assistance is available for a limited number of exceptional applicants.



**Faculty Advisory Committee**

**Judith Tsipis, Chair and Graduate Advising Head**  
(Biology)

**Joseph Cunningham**  
(Psychology)

**James Haber**  
(Biology)

**Elaine Hiller**  
(Biology)

**Marty Wyngaarden Krauss**  
(Heller School)

**Barbara Lerner**  
(Biology)

**Natalie McIntosh**  
(Biology)

**David Rintell**  
(Biology)

**Gretchen Schneider**  
(Genetic Counseling)

**Joan Stoler**  
(Genetic Counseling)

**Lawrence Wangh**  
(Biology)

**Kalpana White**  
(Biology)

**Requirements for the Degree of Master of Science****Program of Study**

The academic component of the curriculum consists of the following: graduate-level courses in molecular biology, human genetics, medical genetics, human reproductive biology, counseling skills, research methodology, and biomedical law and ethics; two seminars in genetic counseling; and one or two electives chosen from the biological sciences, medical sociology, psychology, and health policy. Student participation in a proseminar and journal club are required as well.

Fieldwork and clinical internships are an important, integral part of the program. First-year students carry out rotations in genetics clinics, with genetic research teams and in clinical genetics laboratories. Students also participate in community-based education and healthcare programs and meet periodically with a family raising a child with a genetic disorder. Starting in the summer following the first year and continuing through the second year, students participate in three intensive clinical internships at prenatal, pediatric, general, cancer, or specialty genetic clinics. Satisfactory completion of the three clinical internships is required for graduation from the program. Attendance at two professional meetings is also required in the second year. Funds are available to defray costs.

**Residence Requirement**

The residence requirement for this program is two years of full-time study.

**Language Requirement**

There is no foreign language requirement for the master's degree.

**Project**

A master's project is required. Students may work with a genetic counselor to design and evaluate an innovative educational tool or counseling strategy relevant to their clinical work, or should their interest lean toward basic research, they may pursue either a laboratory-based project, or a qualitative or quantitative study in the field.

**Courses of Instruction**

**BIOL 105b**  
Molecular Biology

**BIOL 128a**  
Human Genetics

**BIOL 160b**  
Human Reproductive and Developmental Biology

**BIOL 202d**  
Introduction to Genetic Counseling

**BIOL 203a**  
Proseminar: The Molecular Basis of Genetic Diseases

**BIOL 204b**  
Clinical Genetics I

**BIOL 205b**  
Counseling Theory and Technique

**BIOL 206d**  
Genetic Counseling Journal Club

**BIOL 207a**  
Genetic Counseling: Case Conferences and Family Counseling

**BIOL 211a**  
Genetic Counseling Fieldwork Placement: Part I

**BIOL 211b**  
Genetic Counseling Fieldwork Placement: Part II

**BIOL 212a**  
Genetic Counseling Internship I

**BIOL 212e**  
Genetic Counseling Internship II

**BIOL 213d**  
Genetic Counseling Research Project

**BIOL 214c**  
Genetic Counseling Process Group

**BIOL 215b**  
Readings in Molecular Biology

**BIOL 220a**  
Clinical Genetics II

**BIOL 236b**  
Genetics, Law, and Social Policy