

Department of Romance Studies



Senegal, 2007 (Jane Hale)

French and Francophone Studies

Course Offerings Spring 2024

All schedule information is tentative. Please see <https://www.brandeis.edu/registrar/registration/schedule.html> for the latest information.

www.brandeis.edu/departments/roms/

NOTES ABOUT SPRING 2024 FREN COURSES

- All classes will be in-person.
- If you would like to enroll in a French language course (FREN 10–106), you **always** have the option of emailing the Director of the Language Program, Professor Harder (harder@brandeis.edu) who will be happy to help you enroll.
- If you are sure of your placement, you may also place yourself on the waitlist for the class you want to take. (Do not worry if the enrollment limit is 0. This is a WorkDay workaround so that we can make sure students are placed in the right level.)
- **More details below and at:** www.brandeis.edu/romance-studies/courses

- **If you have never studied French before:** Email Professor Harder (harder@brandeis.edu) to secure your spot in FREN 10. You may also place yourself on the waitlist (don't worry if enrollment is set at 0).
- **If you are already taking a language class:** You will receive an email from our office before registration opens. Please respond a.s.a.p. to the email stating which section you prefer. We will enroll students in the order in which we receive responses.
- **If you have an AP score, Seal of Biliteracy, or other official test score:** Please email your score to Professor Harder (harder@brandeis.edu), and she will place you in the right class for you.
- **If you have taken 1+ years of French in high school or somewhere else:** Please email Professor Harder (harder@brandeis.edu). Most students will place in the 32 level if they have taken French for 3 or more years. You will be asked to take a placement test. This test cannot be used to fulfill the language requirement. It's only an indication of what your level might be. A conversation with Professor Harder will help you determine which class is right for you.
- **All other students in French (including heritage speakers)** should contact Professor Harder (harder@brandeis.edu) to ensure correct placement.

FREN 10A Beginning French

(1) M,T,W,Th 9:05–9:55 AM, STAFF

For students with little or no knowledge of French language. Permission required (please see instructions above).

What do Montréal, Paris, and Dakar have in common? What are the rules regarding how many times one kisses a friend on the cheeks? Why is France called *l'Hexagone*? Learners discover the basics of French language and culture while speaking, listening, reading, and writing about everyday situations in France & Francophone countries.

FREN 20B Continuing French

(1) M,T,W,Th 11:15 AM–12:05 PM, STAFF

Prerequisite: A grade of C- or higher in FREN 10a or the equivalent. Permission required (please see instructions to left).

How does the attitude of a French student toward family and strangers differ from the experience of an American student? How do the French view work and vacation? Learners will deepen their knowledge of French and Francophone cultures while expanding their ability to speak, read, listen, and write in French.

FREN 32A Intermediate French: Conversation

(1) M,W,Th,F 9:05–9:55 AM, Niehaus

(2) M,W,Th 10:10–11:00; F 10–10:50 AM, Niehaus

Prerequisite: A grade of C- or higher in FREN 20b or the equivalent. Permission required (please see instructions to left).

Did you study French in the past and need more speaking and writing practice plus a grammar review? This Intermediate French class is for you! Exploring social “controversies” like sexism and globalization, it focuses on essential communication skills such as comprehension, contemporary vocabulary use, and conversational practice. Our materials include videos, music, websites, articles, and short stories.



Photograph: Benoit Tessier/Reuters. From The Guardian article entitled “French comic book author Fabrice Drouot to pen next Asterix”

FREN 104B Adv. Language Skills through Culture

(1) M,W,Th 10:10–11:00 AM, STAFF

Prerequisite: A 30-level FREN course or the equivalent. Permission required (please see instructions to left).

Students advance their speaking, listening, reading, and writing skills, while focusing on key elements of French and Francophone cultures. Through the study of films, comics, current events, and cultural comparisons, we explore the ways in which French speakers' perceptions of time and history, as well as space and nature differ from our own. We also examine issues of globalization in the Francophone world.

**FREN 105A The Francophone World Today:
Advanced Language Skills through Culture II**

(1) M,W,Th 12:20–1:10 PM, Niehaus

Prerequisite: FREN 104b, or the equivalent. Permission required (please see instructions in box on first page, center).

Improve your speaking skills while learning about and discussing socio-cultural issues that distinguish the French view of the world from that of Americans. Students will focus on expressing themselves better orally while continuing their work on reading, listening, & writing.



Toshi (<https://www.instagram.com/toshi.dog/>) wearing a beret.

FREN 106B Writing Workshop

(1) M,W,Th 1:20–2:10 PM, Theobald

Prerequisite: FREN 105a, or equivalent. Permission required (please see instructions in box on first page, center). [DL; WI]

Innovative strategies and online tools enable students to improve their creative and analytical writing skills. Students examine different types of texts, exploring their literary style, determining their authority, and exploring how words and images may move and manipulate readers and viewers.

Please see specific course prerequisites for enrollment in each FREN class listed below (above 106).

FREN 111A The Republic

(1) M,W 2:30–3:50 PM, Randall

Prerequisite: FREN 106b, equivalent, or permission of instructor. [OC; Cross-listed with COML, IGS, ECS, HOI, & POL] The “Republic” analyzes how the republican ideal of the

citizen devoid of religious, ethnic, or gender identity has fared in different Francophone political milieus. Course involves understanding how political institutions such as constitutions, parliaments, and court systems interact with reality of modern societies in which religious, ethnic, and gender identities play important roles.



Image from the studio of artist Jean Jullien showing the “#PeaceForParis” logo.

FREN 142B City and the Book

(1) M,W,Th 11:15 AM–12:05 PM, Randall

Prerequisite: FREN 106b, equivalent, or permission of instructor. [WI; Cross-listed with COML, ECS, & MERS]

Analyzes the symbolic appearance of the city in French literature and film from the Middle Ages to the present day. The representation of the city in literature and film is contextualized in theoretical writings of urbanists and philosophers. Literary texts include medieval fabliaux, Pantagruel (Rabelais) and Nana (Zola) as well as theoretical texts by Descartes, Ledoux, Le Corbusier, Salvador Dalí, and Paul Virilio.

FREN 146A Picturing Versailles: Portrait, Space and Spectacle under the Sun King

(1) M,W,Th 12:20–1:10 PM, Theobald

Prerequisite: FREN 106, equivalent, or permission of instructor. [Cross-listed with ECS & FA]

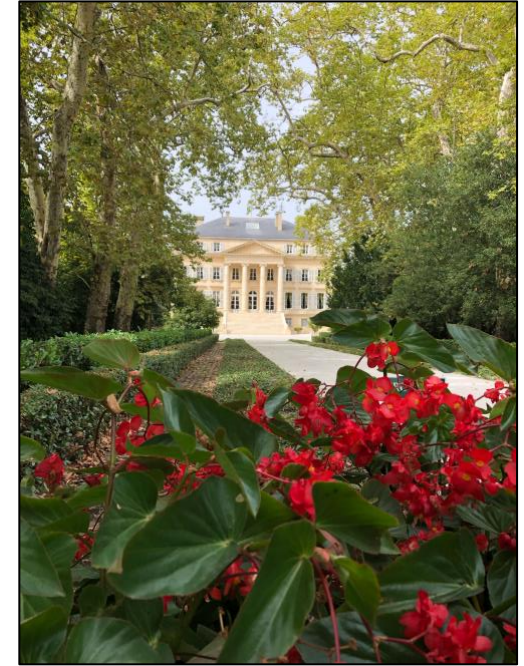
Examines bodies of literature, visual arts, and courtiers at Versailles in the theatrical society of intrigue and exile under Louis XIV. Concentrates on how the texts, maps, and art of the palace fashion a global portrait of absolutism: the Sun King.

Cross-listed with French and Francophone Studies:

ECS 100A European Cultural Studies Proseminar: Modernism

(1) M,W 2:30–3:50 PM, Dowden

Explores the interrelationship of literature, music, painting, philosophy, & other arts in the era of high modernism. Works by Artaud, Baudelaire, Benjamin, Mann, Mahler, Schoenberg, Stravinsky, Kandinsky, Schiele, Beckett, Brecht, Adorno, Sartre, Heidegger, & others.



Château Margaux, Médoc region, France. 2023 (Dave Dickinson)

Undergraduate Advising Head for French and Francophone Studies:

Professor Catherine Theobald (ctheobal@brandeis.edu)

Director of French Language Program (fall 2023):

Professor Hollie Harder (harder@brandeis.edu)

Director of French Language Program (spring 2024):

Professor Catherine Theobald (ctheobal@brandeis.edu)

French and Francophone Studies Faculty

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- Niehaus, Sophia: sophianiehaus@brandeis.edu
- Randall, Michael: randall@brandeis.edu
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