French Language and Literature (FRN)

Major and Minor in
French Language and Literature
Department of European Languages, Literatures, and Cultures; College of Arts and Sciences
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Minor of particular interest to students majoring in French: Business Management (BUS), Comparative Literature (CLT), Economics (ECO), English (EGL), History (HIS), International Studies (INT), Linguistics (LIN), Medieval Studies (MVL), Philosophy (PHI), Political Science (POL), other languages

Faculty
Please see the faculty listing in the entry for the Department of European Languages, Literatures, and Cultures.

Pursuing French as an academic field means mastering the language in addition to studying the literature and the social and political culture of France and French-speaking countries. French is spoken all around the globe—in Europe, Africa, Asia, Canada, and the Caribbean—where it has produced rich national literatures and diverse cultures over the span of many centuries. As a recent Association of the Teachers of French publication has stated, “French is the other international language.” Command of the language is the first prerequisite to entrance into the discipline which depends upon linguistic, literary, and analytical skills. On a more practical level, French is the language of government, law, management, and business in many regions of the international community, and the study of French as used in these areas is an applied field within the discipline.

Students who graduate with a major in French pursue diverse careers and employment. Many become teachers or take positions in international commerce, marketing, banking, or travel (e.g., airlines, travel agencies, Club Med). Others work in fields of government, publishing, journalism, or international relations. As a liberal arts major, French is also the choice of some who go on to professional schools in law, management and business, library science, computer technology, or medicine.

Courses Offered in French
See the Course Descriptions listing in this Bulletin for complete information.
FRN 101 Intensive Elementary French
FRN 111, 112 Elementary French I, II
FRN 201 Intensive Intermediate French
FRN 211, 212 Intermediate French I, II
FRN 311 Conversation
FRN 312 Composition
FRN 313 Vocabulary Through Music
FRN 331-G Introduction to Advanced French (with the Novel)
FRN 332-G Introduction to Advanced French (with Drama)
FRN 395-G Readings in French Literature I: Analysis and Interpretation
FRN 396-G Readings in French Literature II: Analysis and Interpretation
FRN 410 Business French
FRN 411 Phonetics and Diction
FRN 412 Stylistics
FRN 413 Advanced French Conversation
FRN 432 Studies in Medieval and Renaissance Literature
FRN 433 Studies in 17th-Century Literature
FRN 434 Studies in 18th-Century Literature
FRN 435 Studies in 19th-Century Literature
FRN 436 Studies in 20th-Century Literature
FRN 438-J Caribbean and African Literature in French
FRN 441-I French Civilization
FRN 442 Free Seminar
FRN 447 Directed Readings in French
FRN 475, 476 Undergraduate Teaching Practicum in French
FRN 495 Senior Honors Project in French

Courses Offered in French Literature and Culture Taught in English
See the Course Descriptions listing in this Bulletin for complete information.
HUF 211-D French Cinema
HUF 216-I French Civilization through the Ages
HUF 219-I Modern France
HUF 311-G French Literature
HUF 318-J Pan-African Literature I
HUF 385-J French Caribbean Literature
HUF 475 Undergraduate Teaching Practicum

Placement in Language Courses for Incoming Students
The prerequisites for courses indicate approximate placement levels. One year of high school foreign language is generally considered the equivalent of one college semester. Students are advised to consult the Director of Undergraduate Studies or the Coordinator of the French Program if they believe the recommended course is inappropriate. The State University of New York and Stony Brook University have determined that a score of 85 or higher on the State Regent’s exam is sufficient for Stony Brook University foreign language competence. Students scoring this grade or higher on the Regent’s exam in French do not need to take French at Stony Brook, but are highly encouraged to do so.
FRENCH

Requirements for the Major in French Language and Literature (FRN)
The major in French Language and Literature leads to the Bachelor of Arts degree. Students must complete Concentration A or Concentration B. These concentrations are designed to allow maximum flexibility in the students’ programs and to fulfill their varying needs and interests. Both require as a basis a solid preparation in French. Concentration A provides preparation for graduate study in literature; concentrations A and B both provide appropriate background for students preparing for work in law, government, international relations, business, banking, hotel management, or translation and interpretation. Students interested in teaching French in secondary schools may choose either Concentration A or B. However, they must have 36 credits in FRN before the State of New York will certify them. Please see the staff of the Foreign Language Secondary Teacher Education Program for further advising in this area. Foreign language education students are also highly encouraged to study more than one foreign language.

All courses offered for the major, excluding those graded S/U, must be passed with a letter grade of C or higher. Transfer students must take at least 12 credits of French in residence at Stony Brook. Please note that the FRN 475 (Undergraduate Teaching Practicum) may not count for the major or minor.

Completion of the major requires 36 credits for Concentration A (all in FRN or HUF) or 42 credits for Concentration B (30 credits of FRN and HUF, and 12 credits of a non-FRN discipline). All students should consult with the Director of the French Program.

Sample Course Sequence for the Major in French Language and Literature

A. Concentration in Language and Literature

1. Required courses:
   a. Language courses:
      - FRN 311 Conversation
      - FRN 312 Composition
      - FRN 411 Phonetics and Diction
      - FRN 412 Stylistics
   b. Literature courses:
      - FRN 395 Readings in French Literature: Analysis and Interpretation I
      - FRN 396 Readings in French Literature: Analysis and Interpretation II

2. Elective courses:
   - 18 additional credits in FRN courses beyond FRN 395, 396, of which 12 credits must be in literature (Two courses from among HUF 211, 216, 219, and HUL 424 are also acceptable)
   - 3. Upper-division writing requirement: See C below

B. Concentration in French and a Second Discipline

1. Required courses:
   - a. FRN 311 Conversation
   - b. FRN 312 Composition
   - c. FRN 395, 396 Readings in French Literature: Analysis and Interpretation I, II
   - d. FRN 411 Phonetics and Diction
   - e. FRN 412 Stylistics
   - f. One course in French literature numbered 300 or higher
   - g. FRN 441 French Civilization or HUF 216 or 219

2. Elective courses:
   - 12 additional credits in FRN or HUF courses (Please note that no more than two HUF courses in total may count for the major or minor.)

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C. Upper-Division Writing Requirement
To demonstrate proficiency in writing English, students majoring in French must present a dossier of a minimum of two papers of at least three to five pages each. The dossier must be submitted before the end of the second semester of the senior year to the designated faculty advisor for French. Since this requirement is a University requirement and not a French requirement, the Undergraduate French advisor will accept research papers written in English for any course students have taken at Stony Brook University. Graded papers are much preferred. For students who do not have research papers written in English, they must translate two papers written for their FRN courses from French to English.

Notes:
1. Students whose language proficiency is such that they can be exempted from FRN 311, 312 may, and are strongly urged to, apply to have courses in art, music, history, or another language count for major credit.
2. Students who wish to offer their native language as the main area of concentration are asked to replace FRN 311, 312, 410, and 411 by English courses appropriate to their level of proficiency in that language.

Foreign Language Secondary Teacher Education Program
See the Education and Teacher Certification entry in the alphabetical listings of Approved Majors, Minors, and Programs.

Requirements for the Minor in French (FRN)
All courses offered for the minor must be taken for a letter grade, excluding those graded S/U. All upper-division courses offered for the minor must be passed with a grade of C or higher. Students must complete either A. Emphasis on Language or B. Emphasis on Literature. Transfer students must take at least six credits of upper-division French or Italian courses in residence at Stony Brook. Completion of the minor requires 21 credits.

A. Emphasis on Language
Required courses:
FRN 311 Conversation and Composition
FRN 312 Introduction to Stylistics
FRN 395 or 396 Readings in French Literature I or II
FRN 410 Business French (See Note)
FRN 411 Phonetics and Diction
FRN 412 Stylistics
FRN 441 French Civilization or HUF 216 Modern France
Note: A French literature course or HUL 424 may be substituted for FRN 410

B. Emphasis on Literature
Required courses:
FRN 311 Conversation and Composition
FRN 312 Introduction to Stylistics
FRN 395 Readings in French Literature I
FRN 396 Readings in French Literature II
Electives:
Three literature courses at the 300 level

Honors Program in French
To be eligible to participate in the honors program, majors must have a cumulative grade point average of 3.00 and an average of 3.50 in French through the junior year. An eligible student wishing to write a senior thesis must find a faculty member of the Department to act as thesis advisor. The student, with the approval of this advisor, must submit a proposal of a project in writing to the Department. Deadline for submission of the proposal for fall semester is April 30 and for spring semester is November 30. Final selection of candidates and topics is determined by an honors committee of the Department. Students selected for the program must enroll in FRN 495 for the semester in which the thesis is written. The thesis is evaluated by the thesis advisor, another member of the Department, and a third reader from outside the Department. For further information consult the director of undergraduate studies.