

French Undergraduate Courses – Fall 2011

ROFR 20201 INTERMEDIATE FRENCH I Various Times MWF

P. Martin

A third-semester college language course. Includes review and expansion of basic grammatical structures. Extensive practice in speaking and writing. Readings and discussions of a variety of literary and nonliterary texts of appropriate difficulty.

ROFR 20202 Intermediate French II Various Times MWF

P. McDowell

A one-semester course designed to provide a transition between the lower-level language courses and the more challenging literature courses. It concentrates on a thorough grammar review and a genre-based writing program which provides a variety of effective strategies for more meaningful oral and written expression.

ROFR 20300-01 Conversational French 10:40-11:30 MWF

M.C. Escoda-Risto

This course is designed primarily as an elective for non-majors and for students unable to study in a French speaking country who wish to enhance their conversational skills in French. It will not provide a comprehensive review of grammar but will instead assume this knowledge. On most days, the class will be divided into small discussion groups to grapple with a dilemma suggested by our textbook. Other class days will be spent on debates or individual oral presentations. There will be no written assignments or exams for this course. Grades will be based on frequent vocabulary quizzes, oral assignments, and an oral examination. Students must be willing to attend class every day and to participate actively and exclusively in the French language. Serves as a cognate towards the major.

ROFR 27500 APPROACHES TO FRENCH AND FRANCOPHONE CULTURE

This content-driven course is intended for students who want to broaden their knowledge of the French language and related cultures, as well as improve both their understanding of the French and Francophone world and their communication skills in the French Language. Recent topics taught are Deciphering France on the Front Page; Tour de France; France in Search of Herself; France's Pop Culture

ROFR 27500-01 L'ETAT DE LA FRANCE AUJOURD'HUI –STATE OF FRANCE TODAY M.C. Escoda-Risto 01:30-02:45 MW

This course aims to decipher “la culture française” as expressed today. By analyzing factual elements, focusing on life’s conditions as seen through the economic, political, and cultural situation, students will have the opportunity to deepen and expand their insights into French culture. Three short papers based on the current written media, one oral presentation, one instance of facilitating class discussion, one mid-semester and one final exam.

ROFR 27500-02 FRENCH REPRESENTATIONS OF THE “IMMIGRANT” (II)

O.Morel 12:30-01:45 TR In this course, we will learn how to read, listen and view contemporary France through the productions of its popular culture: through the media and the daily news, through its popular music, its cinema, its contemporary literature. We will focus on the influence of France’s migrants, their ancestors, their children. This perspective will allow us to emphasize the impact of “other” cultures (or cultures viewed as “other”) on France’s traditional values in this highly sensitive time of the country’s history: in 2012 France will elect its President. To what extent is France becoming a highly cosmopolitan country? How are the politicians verbalizing those changes? Why France’s relationship to its colonies and ex-colonies is affecting the debates, the political discourse and the State’s strategies (cf. the changing configuration of the civil societies and states in around the Mediterranean Sea)? The purpose of this course is to try to answer

these questions while focusing on three types of products: the news, literature and film. Two short essays and a final paper will be required, as will active participation in class discussions.

ROFR 30310-01 ANALYZE THIS! 01:30-02:45 MW

A. Rice

Students of "Analyze This!" will learn how products of French culture from a variety of epochs combine timeless traditions with the utmost modernity. Focus is on skills of close textual analysis for study of poetry, prose, theater, film, journalism, advertising and allied works of popular culture.

ROFR 30320-01 ADVANCED GRAMMAR & WRITING 03:00-04:15 MW

MC Escoda - Risto Advanced-level course given in French. We will discuss the themes, style, and rhetorical structures of a varied group of texts (literary, political, cultural, and critical). The emphasis lies in the development of advanced writing skills focusing on clarity and correctness of the language through various weekly writing assignments and written explications de texts.

ROFR 30710 : From Perceval to Puss-in-Boots :
Old Regime French Literature in Cultural Context
[alias "Survey I"]

J.Douthwaite 12:30-01:45 TR

Why is President Sarkozy so angry about *La Princesse de Clèves* (1678)? What can Galland's *1001 Nuits* (1704) teach us about modern Arab-French relations? This course is designed as an introduction to French literatures of the medieval and early modern periods. The method of "contrapuntal" readings will allow us to shuttle back and forth between the Old Regime and the 21st century in France, and to examine how literature represents the intersection of politics, gender, and explosive cultural issues across several centuries. (Fulfills ROFR req.)

ROFR 30720-01 SURVEY OF FRENCH LITERATURE II 09:30-10:45 TR

A. Toumayan

This course is designed as an introduction to French and Francophone literatures from the 18th century to the late 20th century. It will cover works of representative authors (such as Montesquieu, Graffigny, Voltaire, Sand Zola, Le Clézio, and Djavan), focusing this semester on the theme of the "other" in literature. The juxtaposition of works by male and female authors who wrote on similar themes will also enable us to examine how literature represents the intersection of gender and sexuality with ethnicity, class, and nationality across several centuries and cultures. The course will be conducted in French. A series of mini-essays, a term paper, and a final exam will be required, as will active and assiduous participation in class discussions. Cross list GS.

ROFR 37500 FILM AND LITERATURE: CONTEMPORARY ISSUES, PAST AND PRESENT

This advanced content-driven course is intended for students who want to broaden their knowledge of the French language and related cultures, as well as improve both their understanding of the French and Francophone cultures at the advanced level. Topics include Literature, Film and Revolutions.

ROFR 37500-01 "WARRIOR WRITERS AND OTHER FIGHTERS"

O. Morel (Extreme Writings, IV) 09:30-10:45 TR

"Warrior Writers and other Fighters" is a new course developed in 2011 (the first part was taught in the Spring). It focuses on two faces of the rich relationship between writing and violence in general: of course, it addresses the classical relationship between war and writing is an important topic, but from a very different perspective, it also envisions the type of "fight," of struggle and engagement,

that a writing process engages: as a process of creation, in oppressive conditions (war, dictatorship...) or within a more peaceful democratic regime in which the writer perceives herself or himself as a rebel, as an opponent, as a resistant. From a broad point of view, this is a class about literature and power (understood as a field of forces at both political and polemical levels). It has been designed as the third "chapter" of a research and an ongoing production of films and photographs, conducted by the professor, about "extreme writings." Active participation, oral presentations and two research papers will be requested for this class. Writing and violence, Literature and power, Fiction and Creation and resistance oppression

ROFR 40100 INTRODUCTION TO OLD FRENCH 09:30-10:45 TR

M. Boulton

The course is designed to be an introduction to the language of medieval literature. We will read selections from several texts of the twelfth and thirteenth centuries in the original, as well as others in translation. Among the works included will be Marie de France's *Lai de Fresne*, *Aucassin et Nicolette*, Chrétien de Troyes' *Perceval*, the prose romances of *Tristan and Lancelot*, and poetry of the *trouvères*. The dialect of French used in England after the Conquest will receive particular attention. The course will be taught in English, but requires a good reading knowledge of modern French. May satisfy the second language requirement for the M.A. in French. Requirements: In-class translations; 3 short papers; final examination. Cross List MI 60531/MI 40531

ROFR 40411 A REVOLUTION IN FICTION 11:45-01:00 MW

J. Douthwaite

This course will allow undergraduates with advanced proficiency in French (and graduate students with permission) to delve into literary study of key works that all turn around the French Revolution: the cataclysmic period from 1789-1803 when Europe watched in horror (or glee) as an ancient feudal monarchy that was slowly crumbling under the weight of its own intellectual ambitions suddenly morphed into a nation with radically egalitarian aspirations. The striking personalities that marked this epoch—of thick-witted Louis XVI and his frivolous wife Marie-Antoinette, the gargantuan orators Danton and Mirabeau, the sly and eloquent Robespierre—coupled with the dramatic sequence of events that led from the storming of the Bastille to the bloody days of the Terror, provide a fascinating *toile de fond* for a variety of literary experiments. Coupled with our literary study will be an inquiry into the political forces that abruptly brought down the monarchy and by fits and starts throughout the 19th century led to the establishment of modern democracy. Students will receive training in scholarly writing in French, techniques for in-depth analysis of literary texts, and a greater familiarity with revolutionary history, as well as background on the literary trends and movements that gave birth to the works to be studied (*littérature engagée*, romanticism, feminism) and genres featured (allegory, memoirs, historical novel, detective story and "frenetic" tale). Requirements include: assiduous reading and contribution to daily discussions, three short essays (2 pp.) in response to the readings, and a 12-15 page research paper. Students will also work in small teams to prepare a 2-page article report and oral presentation for the class. The research project will evolve gradually: over the course of the semester, students will present a *précis* explaining their research idea, then an annotated bibliography, and a first draft, before submitting a revised final version at the end of the semester. Novels to be studied include: J.-J. Regnault-Warin, *Le Cimetière de la Madeleine* (1800); Honoré de Balzac, *Les Chouans* (1829); Chantal Thomas, *Les Adieux à la Reine* (2002) We will also study pamphlet literature from the revolutionary era such as Anon., *Histoire véritable de Gingigolo, roi de Mano-Emugi* (1789), and short stories by writers such as Alfred de Vigny, Alexandre Dumas, and Charles Nodier.

ROFR 40830 FRANCOPHONE PICARESQUE 03:00-04:15 MW

A. Rice

This course will focus on Francophone novels that depict movement, particularly in the form of travel. We will

read in chronological order works by writers from the Caribbean, Sub-Saharan Africa, and the Maghreb in an examination of the ways in which movement to and from (as well as within) the country of origin is addressed over time. A recurring theme will be the "return" to the country of origin after a stay in the French metropole.

ROFR 41590 FRENCH THEATR PRODUCTION 04:30-05:45 TR

P. McDowell

This is an incredible opportunity to know a great piece of literature inside out, and in the process, form remarkable bonds with your classmates. In this unique undertaking, students will collaborate on the production of a French play, and even those who have never acted before will discover their hidden talents. There is absolutely no acting experience required; through the years, the vast majority of actors in the French play had never set foot on a stage before their French theatrical debut. Auditions will likely be held the first Tuesday and Thursday of the fall semester. Crosslist FTT 41000