

French Undergraduate Courses - Spring 2013

ROFR 20300-01/02 CONVERSATIONAL FRENCH MWF 10:40-11:30/11:45-12:35

M.C. Escoda-Risto

This is a one semester course intended for students who have had a significant exposure to the basic principles of the French language, and who are interested in acquiring greater proficiency in their oral expression. It will not provide a comprehensive review of grammar, but will instead assume this knowledge. In addition to the exercises set forth in the syllabus, students will be asked to participate in the creation of a video. Prerequisite: ROFR 20202 or 20215.

ROFR 20305 FRENCH THROUGH ACTING TR 11:00-12:15

P. McDowell

This is NOT an acting class. This is a class that offers a nontraditional approach to conversational French that asks students to collaborate on the creation of scenes for a soap opera centered on a large cast of student-created characters who live together in an apartment building in France. Love affairs, murders, shady characters, nosy neighbors. . .almost anything goes.

Scenes are performed in class after a workshop on phonetics, typically French gestures, and mastering French idioms. This spring, we will place a new emphasis on overcoming phonetic-phobia, in other words, you will finally overcome your fear of the French R [r] and the French U [y]. Not intended for international study returnees.

ROFR 20680 CREOLE LANGUAGE AND CULTURE II TR 3:00-4:15

K. Richman

This course introduces students to the vivid, sonorous language of Kreyòl, or Creole, and to the fascinating culture of its speakers. This intensive, beginning-level course is intended for students with no knowledge of Creole. In small-group teaching sessions, students will be prepared for conversational fluency with basic reading and writing skills, emphasizing communicative competence as well as grammatical and phonetic techniques. Our study of Kreyòl is closely linked to our anthropological exploration of how the language is tied to Caribbean society and culture. The course takes a holistic, anthropological approach to the history, political economy, and religion of Haiti. In addition to class work, audio tapes, music and film enhance the study of the Haitian language and culture. Crosslisted with ILS 30103/ ANTH 30018/LAST 20404.

ROFR 21205 FRANCE: ATELIER PRÉPARATOIRE TR 7:00-8:15

J. Douthwaite

What you need to know to flourish in Angers or Paris while you're studying there, and how to build lasting ties to France for the future. A six-week, 1.0 credit preparation for studies at all of Notre Dame's three international study programs in France: at Angers (Université Catholique de l'Ouest) and in Paris (for students going to the Institut d'études politiques or the Université Paris Diderot). A course packet will form the core of the course, and lectures by faculty in ROFR and other departments will shine light on diverse aspects of French culture, history, and current events. Course will be taught in French and English, and feature student-centered discussions and ample opportunity for Q&A. Enrollment will take place after students have been selected for the programs. Course will begin meeting one week after Spring break. A sister class, FRANCE: ATELIER DE RETOUR, will be offered to returnees in the first six weeks of Fall semester, beginning Fall 2014. This course will build on the goals that students set for their time abroad, and enable students to prepare grant proposals, develop methodologies, and create a workplan for research in France during Fall or Winter break, 2014.

ROFR 23500 LA CHANSON FRANCAISE W 7:00-8:15

A. Toumayan

This class will study French culture and focus on developing pronunciation, diction, and articulation skills in

French through the examination of French popular, folk, and traditional songs. Songs of various eras and genres will be considered as well as the role of traditional and folk music in other art forms and musical adaptations of poems by Villon, Lamartine, and Baudelaire. Requirements: class participation, one oral presentation and a short essay (2-3 pages).

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 languages and related cultures, as well as improve both their understanding of the French and Francophone world and their communication skills in the French Language.

•ROFR 27500-01 L'ETAT DE LA FRANCE AUJOURD'HUI MW 1:30-2:45

M.C. Escoda-Risto

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 30310 THE ART OF INTERPRETATION: PARIS TR 3:30-4:45

J. Douthwaite

This new version of a required course familiarizes students with the French technique of explication de texte, or tight analysis of a “text” (understood as work of literature, an image, a film clip, a song, an advertisement, or even a cartoon), by focusing on the city of Paris and its people. Students will engage in oral and written analyses, learning vocabulary terms and concepts and applying them to different texts about Paris and Parisians, past and present. Each student is required to present two 15-minute in-class discussions with a partner (which will be filmed), two reaction papers on their work as discussant (one page), two analytic papers of 4 pages (or one research paper of 8 pages), two quizzes, and a final exam.

We will begin with a fun collection of Parisian tales (Gripari, La Sorcière de la rue Mouffetard) and end with Suite française by Irène Némirovsky, who tragically died in a Nazi concentration camp before finishing it. (We will read half of this book.) Other texts will include poetry by Baudelaire and Apollinaire, photography by Eugène Atget, film clips from Paris by Cédric Klapisch, and Hôtel du nord by Marcel Carné, and songs by Zaz and Piaf; they will be posted on e-reserve or Sakai. Bi-weekly grammar lessons will refresh students’ mastery of the language, all the while revealing linguistic particularities of the texts in question. Roger Hawkins and Richard Towell, French Grammar and Usage (3rd ed.) is required. À nous deux, Paris!

ROFR 30320 ADVANCED GRAMMAR & COMPOSITION: THE ART OF WRITING

V.Askildson MW 3:00-4:15

Advanced-level course given in French for students who want to refine their writing expression. Through practice of various forms of writing, and with an approach to a multiphased writing process (generating ideas, planning, translating ideas with words, revising, and editing), students will deepen their understanding, reflection, and analysis of the French language.

The course goals are:

- Structure of Language. To acquire a thorough knowledge of the structure of the French language.
- Writing. To be manifestly able to write sustained compositions which illustrate specific grammatical points and to become sensitive to, and able to imitate, various types of French prose compositions and style.
- Preparation: become prepared linguistically to take more advanced French.

The goal of this French course is to advance your comprehension and use of the French language. This course will combine a selective grammar review with intensive writing, reading, and discussion.

ROFR 30710 OVERVIEW OF FRENCH LITERATURE AND CULTURE I

M. Boulton TR 12:30-1:45 The course is designed to serve as an introduction to French literature of the Middle Ages, the Renaissance and the Seventeenth Century. We will read a selection of representative whole works from authors of each period, including Marie de France, Chrétien de Troyes, Marguerite de Navarre, Ronsard, DuBellay, Labé, Montaigne, Molière and Racine. In addition to acquiring a basic familiarity with early French literature, students will be introduced to the vocabulary of literary criticism. Close readings, some oral presentations (or explications), and active participation in classroom discussions are expected. All discussions and written work will be in French.

The course will be organized in reverse chronological order, beginning with the 17th century with Molière's *Tartuffe*, and the class will have the opportunity to attend a performance of the play to be presented in English translation by the Actors' Gang in early February.

Two moderate length (7 pages) or three shorter papers, a midterm and a final exam will be required. Crosslisted with the Medieval Institute, MI 30530.

ROFR 37500 CONTEMPORARY ISSUES MW 1:30-2:45

C. Perry

In this new course, we will discuss contemporary French and Francophone texts and films that dramatize forms of exclusion—such as discrimination, exploitation, inequality, and injustice—as well as possibilities of inclusion and intercultural communication in France and other European countries today. The selection of works, including press articles and other media, will give us an opportunity to reflect upon issues such as exile and immigration in a globalized world, the dynamics of Muslim cultures within and in relation to “Western” cultures, and concerns about health and environmental sustainability. Films will be screened in original version, most with English subtitles. Students will be responsible for carefully reading the texts and viewing the movies outside of class (available in streaming video online and in DVD format at the Hesburgh Library). They will also be responsible for participating in thoughtful class discussions, giving a team oral presentation, writing two 5-6 page papers (with the possibility of rewriting the first), and successfully completing a final exam. This course will be conducted in French.

Texts will include *Une Forme de vie* (2010) by Amélie Nothomb, *No et moi* (2009) by Delphine de Vigan, and *Ulysse from Bagdad* (2008) by Éric-Emmanuel Schmitt. Films to be screened will include at least six from the following: *Aïcha* (2009-2010) by Yamina Benguigui, *La Belle Verte* (1996) and *Solutions locales pour un désordre global* (2010) by Coline Serreau, *Exils* (2004) by Tony Gatlif, *Hadewijch* (2011) by Bruno Dumont, *Nos Enfants nous accuseront* (2008) by Jean-Paul Jaud, *Omar m'a tuer* (2011) by Roschdy Zem, and *Un Prophète* (2009) by Jacques Audiard.

ROFR 40110 FROM ROLAND TO THE HOLY GRAIL TR 9:30-10:45

M. Boulton

This course is designed as an introduction to the literature of twelfth- and thirteenth-century France, including such works as the *Chanson de Roland*, the *Lais of Marie de France*, the romances of Chrétien de Troyes, the poetry of the troubadours and trouvères, and the *Quête du saint Graal*. We will pay particular attention to medieval obsessions with love and chivalry, and examine how different writers reconciled these concerns with the often conflicting demands of Christianity. Students will have the opportunity to examine facsimiles of manuscripts, and will visit Notre Dame's manuscripts in the Hesburgh Rare Book Room.

Classes, conducted in French, will combine discussion, lecture and student presentations. Two moderate (7-8-page) papers or one longer (15 pages) paper, class participation, and a final examination will be required. Crosslisted with Medieval Institute.

ROFR 47500 TIMELESSNESS AND MODERNITY: VERSAILLES TR 2:00-3:15

L. MacKenzie

The purpose of this course, conducted in French, will be to flesh out the term "Versailles" in an effort to

appreciate how this huge "text" works as a coherent and decipherable whole. To this end, we will consider the topographical, architectural, artistic, musical and literary aspects of the court (understood both as the place and the society). In so doing we can hope to appreciate the mythopoetic underpinnings of Louis XIV's political agenda. Among the specific subjects/sources we will be working on: Fouquet and Vaux-le-Vicomte; La Fontaine's recounting of the famous (and "fatal") extravaganza at Vaux in 1661; the evolution of the palace of Versailles; detailed study of statuary in the garden and of the "planetary" rooms known as the King's Apartment; La Bruyere's reflections on the court; the thoughts of the 20th century sociologist, Norbert Elias on "La vie de cour"; the music, both instrumental and operatic of Lully, Charpentier and Delalande. Classes will generally be organized around lectures, the viewing of slides and film and the audition of musical selections. There will be a midterm and a final exam, periodic quizzes and a term paper. Prerequisite: at least one 30000 level course.

ROFR 53000 SENIOR SEMINAR: POLYGRAPHIES: WOMEN WRITING ALGERIA

A.Rice MW 11:45-1:00

This course focuses on recent creative works of fiction in French by women writers who were born in Algeria. Maïssa Bey, Marie Cardinal, Hélène Cixous, Assia Djebar, Malika Mokeddem, Leïla Sebbar, and Zahia Rahmani, have different ethnic, racial, and religious backgrounds, but they have a native country in common, and their writing bears witness to its lasting impact on their lives, even though all but one left Algeria behind in a definitive departure. We study their texts alongside theoretical work by critics from a variety of disciplines, including feminism, literary theory, philosophy, and postcolonial studies, as we examine the important phenomenon of women writing Algeria 50 years after this former colony gained independence from France. Assignments include a mid-term paper of approximately 6-7 pages and a final paper of 12-14 pages, as well as short in-class writing assignments and a 15-minute oral presentation.