

Spring 2018 French Undergraduate Courses

Subject to change. Please refer to InsideND for the most up-to-date, accurate information.

ROFR 20300 -01 - Conversational French

MWF 10:30-11:20

A. Reaves

This course is intended to further develop student's oral communication skills both formal and informal through the discussion of several contemporary French films. Students will view and discuss several films, relating them to current affairs. Assignments include a variety of oral presentations, including a final video project and a debate as well as minimal written work including a brief review of vocabulary and structures relevant to the films under discussion.

ROFR 20400-01 – French Business

MW 12:30-1:45

A. Reaves

This course will focus on the practical use of French in an international professional environment. Emphasis will be placed on developing communicative skills and cultural knowledge necessary for the professional world. Students will review relevant structures and vocabulary needed to accomplish specific tasks and skills necessary in a broadly-defined formal professional setting. Assignments will prepare students to apply for an internship in a francophone environment including the preparation of a resume and cover letter in French as well a variety of other oral and written tasks.

ROFR 20710-01 – Introduction to French Pronunciation and Phonetics

MW 2:00-3:15

A. Haileselassie

French Pronunciation and Phonetics is an introductory course to the production and perception of the sounds of French. Students will learn minimal theoretical background and phonetic transcription skills and will have a better understanding of the sound patterns of standard French.

Through audio lab exercises and practices in language computer rooms, students will improve over time their pronunciation.

ROFR 21205-01 – Pre-Study abroad

TR 7:00-8:15

L. MacKenzie

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 primarily in 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.

ROFR 30310-01 – The Art of Interpretation

TR 9:30-10:45

L. MacKenzie

Students 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 Composition: The Art of Writing

MW 2:00-3:15

S. Stojanovic

This advanced-level course, taught in French, is designed for students including those returning from abroad who wish to improve their speaking and writing skills and for students already in the 30000-40000 sequence who seek additional assistance with writing skills and grammar.

ROFR 30653-01 – “States of Exception: Media Ethnicity and Politics in France, 2015-2018”

TR 2:00-3:15

O. Morel

How do recent tensions and shocks (terrorist attacks) affect the media and political landscapes in France? How does the extension of power devoted to repression and to the police, impact culture and the State in France? In this course we will pay special attention to the “state of exception” and analyze its history, its impact on discourses of race, class and gender. Our notion of “state of exception” will revolve around the legal concept (state of emergency, state of siege...) as well as, in a broader sense, an ideological and cultural formation that tends to dominate politics since 9/11. In this context, we will pay special attention to inclusive and exclusive ideologies and see how these are translated in artistic forms (cinema, music, literature, art), and political cultures and formations. We will study recent and older “films policiers” and “romans noirs,” non-fiction investigative journalism exploring political scandals and crimes (with graphic novels), music (protest songs), theatre (Ariane Mnouchkine’s work with the Théâtre du Soleil), and new forms of activism through alternative cultures of resistance (“Nuit Debout,” “ZAD Notre Dame des Landes”...). We will welcome guests on Skype: authors, filmmakers. Two written assignments, oral presentations as well as active participation in our class will constitute the basic requirements.

ROFR 30656-01 – Rich and Poor in Paris

MW 3:30-4:45

J. Douthwaite

This new course familiarizes students with the French technique of explication de texte by focusing on the fortunes of Paris and its people in a broad variety of sources. Students will engage in oral and written analyses, learning vocabulary terms and concepts and applying them to different texts about Paris and Parisians, transactions and inheritances, past and present. Designed to complement a special exhibit at the Snite Museum of Art (["Money Worries," Jan.- March 2018](#)), the course questions the essential relation between people, goods, and money. With a partner, each student is required to serve as discussant on one occasion (20 minutes in-class; filmed). Written work includes one report on the work as discussant (two pages); an analytic / comparative mémoire of 8 pages total (two 4-page papers); and eight grammar lessons.

Our reading materials will be as lively and diverse as the great city itself. They will include tales and historical legends for young Parisians; poetry by Charles Baudelaire, and excerpts from classic novels by Victor Hugo (Notre Dame de Paris and Les Misérables). Visual “texts” include film clips from Paris by Cédric Klapisch, and Woody Allen’s Midnight in Paris. Musical “texts” include songs by Enzo Enzo, Jacques Dutronc, and Thomas Dutronc. We will also read the first half of the prize-winning novel, Suite française (2004; written 1942) by Irène Némirovsky, who tragically died in a Nazi concentration camp before finishing it. 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 tous, Paris!

ROFR 30720-01 -French Literature & Culture II

TR 11:00-12:15

Alain Toumayan

The purpose of this course is to acquaint the student with some major authors and representative works from the period 1750 to the present. Although some works may be studied through selected passages, the course’s emphasis is on the study of complete works by major authors representing the important literary schools and movements from the Enlightenment to the contemporary era. Readings of: Voltaire, Rousseau, Flaubert, Baudelaire, Proust, Camus, and Makine.

ROFR 33500-01 "La Chanson Française"

W 7:00-8:15

A. Toumayan

This course proposes to study French culture through the examination of French popular, folk, and traditional songs from the medieval period to the modern era. Songs of various periods, regions, and genres will be studied as well as the relation of folk and popular songs to other cultural forms such as poetry, short story, cinema, or opera.

ROFR 40854-01 - Francophone Migrations

MW 9:30-10:45

A. Rice

This course examines Francophone literary texts that depict migration toward Europe from various locations (Sub-Saharan Africa, the Maghreb, the Indian subcontinent) and for diverse reasons (war, persecution, economy, ecology) in an attempt to understand the complexities of the contemporary crises we see playing out on and around the Mediterranean Sea. We will read works by Patrick Chamoiseau (Martinique), Ananda Devi (Mauritius), Fatou Diome (Senegal), Gaël Faye (Burundi), Fabienne Kanor (France), and Shumona Sinha (India) in our study of the factors contributing to what it means to be a refugee in France today. As a complement to our literary analyses, we will also examine musical compositions and cinematic creations that focus from different angles on migration and exile in the present context. Cross-listed with AFST 40179, IIPS 40405

ROFR 40950-01 – Existentialism to Ethics

TR 2:00-3:15

A. Toumayan

The first portion of this course will be devoted to an in-depth examination of the humanist doctrines of André Malraux, Jean-Paul Sartre, and Albert Camus. The course will then focus on the challenges brought to these doctrines by Emmanuel Levinas, in particular, the manner in which Levinas will revise the existentialist conceptions of the individual and the themes of freedom, action, and responsibility. The possibility of extending the thought of Levinas into the sphere of political theory will be considered in connection with the specific problems of humanitarian intervention and protection.

ROFR 53000-01- Senior Seminar: Laugh to Keep From Crying: The Comic Tradition in Medieval and Early Modern Literature**MW 11:00-12:15****Fr. G. Haake**

The sixteenth- and early seventeenth-century English philosopher, Thomas Hobbes, described life outside society as “nasty, brutish, and short.” In the Middle Ages and in Early Modern times in France, life inside society was pretty nasty, brutish, and short. Laughter provided relief, an escape, and a means of critique. From the carnivalesque to satire, the comic tradition reveals much about the hopes, fears, and the deadly serious of the Medieval and Early Modern literary tradition. From Marie de France to Villon to Rabelais to Molière, students will discover the richness of the comic and how it manifested itself in all seriousness.