

Spring 2017 French Undergraduate Courses

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

ROFR 20300 - Conversational French

MWF 10:30-11:20 and 11:30-12:20

A. Reaves

This course is designed to further develop the student's conversational skills and grasp of a wide variety of styles and registers in French. Spoken French will be practiced through various types of classroom activities and assignments. Emphasis will be on topics of current interest.

ROFR 20691-01- French Fictions: Diversity in Literature and Film

MW 11:00am-12:15pm

A. Rice

This course focuses on the diversity of people from around the world who speak French today. It features short stories, plays, and personal essays by writers such as Nathacha Appanah (Mauritius), Maïssa Bey (Algeria), Fatou Diome (Senegal), Nancy Huston (Canada) Alain Mabanckou (Congo), and Brina Svit (Slovenia), as well as films that illustrate to what extent what is considered to be “French” in our time is constantly evolving, thanks to a variety of cultural and linguistic changes that reflect a globalized world. Students will be encouraged to engage in creative writing in this course, composing their own “French fictions” that reveal their own relationships to all things French.

ROFR 21205-01- Angers: Atelier Préparatoire

TR 7:00-8:15

G. Haake

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 – The Art of Interpretation

MW 9:30-10:45am

G. Haake

The aim of this course is to familiarize students with interpreting texts of various genres and periods. By texts, we may understand not only works of literature such as poetry, prose or theater, but also images, film clips, songs, or advertisements. This course will give special attention to the French technique of explication de texte, a close reading and analysis of a short text. Because students will learn to do both oral and written interpretations, or explications, increasing facility in correct written and spoken French will be a significant benefit of this course.

Requirements: Students will do two oral explications and are expected to participate actively in class discussions. In addition to the oral explications in class, there will be two written analyses (3-5 p.) done in two drafts each, and a final exam. Additional work includes daily written preparation questions concerning vocabulary or allusions pertinent to the assigned text of the day.

ROFR 30320-01- Advanced Grammar & Composition: The Art of Writing

MW 3:30-4:45pm

A. Haileselassie

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 30652-01- French Tensions Today: Graphic Novels (“BD”) between journalism, cinema, and literature

TR 2:00-3:15pm

O. Morel

Whether it is non-fiction graphic novels or traditional comics, the French and Francophone “bande dessinée” is extremely popular with a strong economic sector, a fast growing adult audience and a crucial influence on the public sphere. While cartoonists were targeted in January 2015, many graphic novels describe a difficult present. While focusing on very recent examples, this course’s goal not only consists of studying contemporary graphic novels in French, but also meet with young authors of the French scene with a special interest on intersections with literature, journalism and cinema. During the past few years French graphic novels have also led to very successful cinematic adaptations like *Quai D’Orsay* (Lanzac-Blain/Tavernier, 2014), *Lulu Femme Nue* (Davodeau/Anspach, 2013) or the renowned *La Vie d’Adèle* (Maroh/Kechiche, 2013) which won the Palme d’Or in the Cannes Film Festival in 2013. Other explicitly focus on the current xenophobic and cultural tensions.

We will have opportunities to meet “real” authors on Skype: Maël & Kris (*Notre Mère la Guerre*, 2010-2012), for example. We will pay a special attention on how these “BD” perceive and depict today’s world, from France’s relationship to its former colonies, to social issues, forgotten wars, poverty or immigration, and even intellectual debates. While always starting our investigation with a graphic novel, we will study a number of literary texts, historical periods, the news, cinematic fictions, etc. Two written assignments, oral presentations as well as active participation in our class will constitute the basic requirements.

ROFR 30710 – Overview of French Literature & Culture I

MW 12:30-1:45

G. Haake

This course is designed as an introduction to French literature and culture of the Middle Ages, Renaissance, and Classical periods. Students will primarily read and analyze several texts in their entirety—or nearly so—that are exemplary of the three main eras under study. This approach will not preclude smaller excerpts from other texts that will supplement the students’ understanding of the literature and culture of this time. In addition, students will have a chance to hone their skills in literary analysis through exposure to literary commonplaces, rhetorical figures, and versification, as well as through the classic French practice of explication de texte. As a final component, students will have the opportunity to develop their cultural literacy of the respective periods through lectures and

presentations on art, architecture, music, history, and politics. Texts and authors will include La Chanson de Roland, Villon, Rabelais, Ronsard, Molière, Corneille, and others.

ROFR 33500-01 "La Chanson française"

W 7:00-8:15

A. Toumayan

M. Aloia

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 40150- Imaginary Landscapes

TR 11:00am-12:15pm

M. Boulton

The course will examine landscapes, both real and imagined, that inspired French writers from the middle ages to the twentieth century, and from both sides of the Atlantic. Literary texts will be placed in dialogue with artists' visions of the places that inspired the texts. Among the texts and authors to be read will be the Roman de la Rose (extracts), DuBellay (Les Antiquités de Rome), Diderot (Le Voyage de Bougainville), George Sand (La Mare au Diable), Gabrielle Roy (Détresse et enchantement, La montagne secrète), Robert de Roquebrune (Testament de mon enfance). Artists will include Claude Lorrain, Gauguin, Corot, and Cézanne.

ROFR 40635- "Phantasmes et Fantastique": La Nouvelle au Dix-Neuvième Siècle.

TR 12:30-1:45pm

A. Toumayan

This course will focus on the development of the genre of short narrative during the nineteenth century in France. Representative works of Balzac, Nerval, Baudelaire, Barbey d'Aurevilly, Flaubert, Gautier, Mérimée, Maupassant, and Villiers de l'Isle Adam will be considered. The themes of obsession, trauma and madness will compose common motifs in the corpus of texts that we will examine. We will also study the distinctive features of the aesthetics of Romanticism, Realism and Symbolism as well as generic considerations relating to the conte fantastique. Course requirements include one oral presentation, two papers of moderate length and a final exam.

ROFR 53000-01- Senior Seminar Spring: Mediterranean Francophonies: Migration, Translation & Music

MW 2:00-3:15pm

A. Rice

In the current context of transcontinental migration, movements from one location to another have spurred writers and musicians to adapt to their new surroundings by becoming skillful at composing in another key. The result is a variety of new Euro-Mediterranean literary and musical Francophonies enriched by translations. This course will focus on the ways in which writers and musicians, key transcultural agents in twenty-first-century patterns of cultural encounters and exchanges, negotiate and translate identities, belongings and experiences, effectively transposing French language and culture. We will read works by Tahar Ben Jelloun, Fabienne Kanor, Marie NDiaye, and Boualem Sansal, among others, and study musical compositions and cinematic works that depict various Mediterranean movements that are presently leading to a variety of new forms of French.