

# FRENCH (FREN)

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## FREN 1210 - Elementary French (4 Credits)

FREN 1210-FREN 1220 is a two-semester sequence. FREN 1210 is the first half of the sequence designed to provide a thorough grounding in French language and an introduction to intercultural competence. French is used in contextualized, meaningful activities to provide practice in speaking, listening, reading, and writing. Development of analytical skills for grammar leads students toward greater autonomy as language learners. Students develop their writing skills by writing and editing compositions. Readings are varied and include literary texts. Daily preparation and active participation are required.

**Distribution Requirements:** (FL-AG), (OCL-IL)

**Exploratory Studies:** (AFLANG, EULANG)

**Last Four Terms Offered:** Fall 2025, Summer 2025, Fall 2024, Fall 2023  
Schedule of Classes (<https://classes.cornell.edu/>)

## FREN 1220 - Elementary French (4 Credits)

FREN 1210-1220 is a two-semester sequence. This is the second half of the sequence designed to provide a thorough grounding in French language and an introduction to intercultural competence. French is used in contextualized, meaningful, and critical thinking activities to provide practice in speaking, listening, reading, and writing. Development of analytical skills for grammar leads students toward greater autonomy as language learners. Students continue developing their writing skills by writing and editing compositions. Readings are varied and include literary texts and a short novel.

**Prerequisites:** FREN 1210 or LPF score of 37-44 or SAT II 410-480.

**Forbidden Overlaps:** FREN 1120, FREN 1220

**Distribution Requirements:** (FL-AG), (OCL-IL)

**Exploratory Studies:** (AFLANG, EULANG)

**Last Four Terms Offered:** Spring 2026, Fall 2025, Spring 2025, Spring 2024  
Schedule of Classes (<https://classes.cornell.edu/>)

## FREN 1230 - Continuing French (4 Credits)

FREN 1230 is an all-skills course designed to improve oral communication, listening comprehension, and reading ability, to establish a groundwork for correct writing, and to provide a substantial grammar review. The approach in the course encourages the student to see the language within the context of its culture.

**Prerequisites:** FREN 1220 or an LPF score of 45-55 or SAT II 490-590.

**Distribution Requirements:** (FL-AG), (OCL-IL)

**Exploratory Studies:** (AFLANG, EULANG)

**Last Four Terms Offered:** Spring 2026, Fall 2025, Spring 2025, Fall 2024  
Schedule of Classes (<https://classes.cornell.edu/>)

## FREN 2070 - Medical French (3 Credits)

This course is specifically designed for premed students and students at large with an interest in medical related topics who wish to be better equipped with language skills that will enable them to convey more empathy and multicultural sensitivity while communicating with diverse patient populations throughout the Francophone world. This course aims as well to prepare students to engage in global health equity and promote awareness of language barriers in today's medical field, both domestically and abroad. This is a mid-intermediate level course, and as such, it will continue to develop and reinforce writing, reading, speaking, listening and presentational skills via an array of communicative tasks based on real-life situations.

**Prerequisites:** FREN 1230, LPF score 56-64, SAT II 600-680, or AP French language 4, or CASE Q.

**Forbidden Overlaps:** FREN 2070, FREN 2080, FREN 2090

**Distribution Requirements:** (FL-AG), (FLOPI-AS)

**Exploratory Studies:** (CU-CEL)

**Last Four Terms Offered:** Fall 2024, Spring 2023, Spring 2021  
Schedule of Classes (<https://classes.cornell.edu/>)

## FREN 2080 - French for Business (3 Credits)

This intermediate conversation and composition French course is designed for students interested in business fields such as Hospitality, Business Management, and Marketing, those looking for an internship or a job in French-speaking businesses or students interested in exploring the language and cultures of the French-speaking business world. The course will focus on improving oral and written skills through the acquisition of specific vocabulary and the review of essential grammatical structures commonly used in business. Students will use authentic written, visual and listening materials and engage in interactive activities relevant to the professional world and its intercultural dimension.

**Prerequisites:** FREN 1230, LPF score 56-64, SAT II 600-680, AP French language 4 or CASE Q.

**Forbidden Overlaps:** FREN 2070, FREN 2080, FREN 2090

**Distribution Requirements:** (FL-AG), (FLOPI-AS)

**Last Four Terms Offered:** Spring 2026, Spring 2025, Fall 2023, Fall 2022  
Schedule of Classes (<https://classes.cornell.edu/>)

## FREN 2090 - French Intermediate Composition and Conversation I (3 Credits)

This intermediate-level course is designed for students who want to focus on their speaking and writing skills. Emphasis is placed on strengthening of grammar skills, expansion of vocabulary and discourse levels to increase communicative fluency and accuracy. The course also provides continued reading and listening practice as well as development of effective language learning strategies.

**Prerequisites:** FREN 1230, LPF score 56-64, or SAT II 600-680 or AP French language 4, or CASE Q.

**Forbidden Overlaps:** FREN 2070, FREN 2080, FREN 2090

**Distribution Requirements:** (FL-AG), (FLOPI-AS), (OCL-IL)

**Exploratory Studies:** (AFLANG, EULANG)

**Last Four Terms Offered:** Spring 2026, Fall 2025, Spring 2025, Fall 2024  
Schedule of Classes (<https://classes.cornell.edu/>)

**FREN 2092 - Pronunciation of Standard French (3 Credits)**

Working on pronunciation improves your ability to communicate in two ways. First, learning to distinguish and produce all of the sounds of French increases both your ability to understand the spoken language and your ability to make yourself understood when speaking. Second, it allows you to diminish the foreign accent that can distract some listeners and prevent you from getting your message across even if you speak quite fluently. This course focuses specifically on accent reduction and should interest anyone intending to use French in such professional arenas as international business, law, and project management, the import-export and hospitality industries, art restoration and curation, secondary and post-secondary teaching, or the performing arts. By the end of the semester students will achieve noticeably improved pronunciation, greater fluency, improved aural comprehension, and increased self-assurance in spoken French.

**Prerequisites:** FREN 2070, FREN 2080, or FREN 2090 or higher, or CASE Q+.

**Distribution Requirements:** (FL-AG), (FLOPI-AS)

**Exploratory Studies:** (AFLANG, EULANG)

**Last Four Terms Offered:** Fall 2025, Fall 2023, Fall 2020, Fall 2018  
Schedule of Classes (<https://classes.cornell.edu/>)

**FREN 2095 - French Intermediate Composition and Conversation II (3 Credits)**

This advanced-intermediate course is highly recommended for students planning to study abroad as it aims to develop the writing and speaking skills needed to function in a French speaking university environment. A comprehensive review of fundamental and advanced grammatical structures is integrated with the study of selected texts (short stories, literary excerpts, poems, articles from French periodicals, videos) all chosen for thematic or cultural interest. Students write weekly papers, participate in class discussions of the topics at hand, and give at least one oral presentation in class.

**Prerequisites:** FREN 2070, FREN 2080, or FREN 2090 or CASE Q+.

**Distribution Requirements:** (FL-AG), (FLOPI-AS), (OCL-IL)

**Exploratory Studies:** (AFLANG, EULANG)

**Last Four Terms Offered:** Spring 2026, Fall 2025, Spring 2025, Fall 2024  
Schedule of Classes (<https://classes.cornell.edu/>)

**FREN 2180 - French through News, Current Events, and International Relations (3 Credits)**

In this course, furthering oral communication skills and writing skills is emphasized. A comprehensive review of fundamental and advanced grammatical structures is integrated through a variety of topics such as social unrest and inequality, immigration crisis, social and geopolitical issues within and outside the Eurozone, post-Brexit, cutting-edge technology, media, environment, and pop-culture via short stories, literary excerpts, videos, poems, and articles from French magazines or newspapers, all chosen for thematic or cultural interest. Students write weekly papers (essays and translations), have daily conversations focusing on the topics at hand, and give at least one presentation in class.

**Prerequisites:** FREN 2095 or CASE Q++ or permission of instructor required.

**Distribution Requirements:** (FL-AG), (FLOPI-AS)

**Exploratory Studies:** (AFLANG, EULANG)

**Last Four Terms Offered:** Fall 2025, Spring 2024, Fall 2022, Spring 2022  
Schedule of Classes (<https://classes.cornell.edu/>)

**FREN 2270 - Versions of Versailles (3 Credits)**

The palace of Versailles has been an object of fascination for over three hundred years. A place of splendor and squalor Versailles has been identified with French culture as the epitome of elegance and grace from Louis XIV to Karl Lagerfeld. It has also been the scene of scandal and tragedy. This course will examine the importance the reality and mythology of Versailles has played across the centuries and across the world. We will examine the construction, the art, architecture, garden construction music and social history of the palace and its place both in Absolutist France and in our contemporary world. Using movies, reproductions or art and architecture as well as revealing the secrets of its sexual politics and murderous plots we will attempt to understand why the fascination of the greatest of all palaces continues to draw millions of visitors each year trying to discover its grandeur and decadence.

**Distribution Requirements:** (HA-AG, SBA-AG), (HST-AS, SSC-AS)

**Last Four Terms Offered:** Spring 2026, Fall 2024, Spring 2017, Fall 2015  
Schedule of Classes (<https://classes.cornell.edu/>)

**FREN 2310 - Introduction to French and Francophone Literature and Culture (3 Credits)**

This course, designed to follow FREN 2095, introduces students to an array of literary and visual material from the French and Francophone world. It aims to develop students' proficiency in critical writing and thinking, as well as presenting students with the vocabulary and tools of literary and visual analysis. Each section of FREN 2310 will have a different focus—for example, colonialism and the other, or the importance of women and sexual minorities in French and Francophone history, performance in literature and film, or image and narrative—but all sections of FREN 2310 will emphasize through writing assignments and in-class discussions, the development of those linguistic and conceptual tools necessary for cultural and critical fluency.

**Prerequisites:** FREN 2095 or CASE Q++ or permission of instructor required.

**Distribution Requirements:** (ALC-AS, FLOPI-AS, SCD-AS), (CA-AG, D-AG, FL-AG, LA-AG)

**Last Four Terms Offered:** Spring 2026, Fall 2025, Spring 2025, Fall 2024  
Schedule of Classes (<https://classes.cornell.edu/>)

**FREN 2320 - Introduction to French and Francophone Film (3 Credits)**

This course designed to follow FREN 2095, introduces students to key cinematic techniques used in analysis of films and to major movements in the twentieth century French cinema. Students will view a broad range of French and Francophone films spanning from 1945-2004 that includes canonical as well as contemporary works. Topics studied include: the evolution of gender representation in French and Francophone films, the depiction of decolonization, and the films de banlieu genre. The class will combine discussion, presentations, class scene analysis and readings from journalistic and film criticism texts, and will be conducted in French.

**Prerequisites:** FREN 2095 or CASE Q++ or permission of instructor required.

**Distribution Requirements:** (ALC-AS, FLOPI-AS, GLC-AS), (FL-AG)

**Last Four Terms Offered:** Spring 2026, Spring 2025, Spring 2024, Spring 2023

Schedule of Classes (<https://classes.cornell.edu/>)

**FREN 2440 - Paris: Exploring the History of a Modern Metropolis Through the Arts (3 Credits)**

This course explores the rich and varied history of Paris, from its origin as a small Gallic settlement to its development as one of the world's most influential cities. Students will learn about key events, figures, and cultural movements that have shaped Paris throughout the centuries, examining the city both as backdrop for political struggle and cultural change and as a character in literature and film. Our promenades through Paris will include explorations of art, architecture, urban planning, politics, literature, and social history.

**Distribution Requirements:** (ALC-AS)

Schedule of Classes (<https://classes.cornell.edu/>)

**FREN 2550 - From Black Bile to Digital Depression: The History of Melancholy in Medicine, Philosophy, Art, Media (3 Credits)**

Crosslisted with COML 2552

Throughout Western history, the nature of melancholy (aka depression, its modern counterpart) has both inspired and baffled philosophers, doctors, artists, and writers. Compared to other ailments, affects, or conditions, this mysterious sadness has provoked a proliferation of concepts, theories, therapies, and artworks. This seminar offers a comparative survey of discourses on melancholy/depression and their related ideological, social, aesthetic, and scientific issues, from the Ancient Greeks onwards. We will focus on the ways in which melancholy/depression has been theorized in medicine, theology, psychoanalysis, psychiatry, ethnography, philosophy, and ecology; on how its shifting forms are related to issues of politics, society, culture, race, and gender; and on the many modes through which it has been felt and expressed in literature, visual art, music, and today's social media.

**Distribution Requirements:** (ETM-AS), (KCM-AG)

**Last Four Terms Offered:** Spring 2025

Schedule of Classes (<https://classes.cornell.edu/>)

**FREN 2692 - Thinking Difference in the 21st Century (3 Credits)**

This course adopts an interdisciplinary lens to reflect on how we can think difference productively in our current global condition, through examining some of the challenges that traditionally normative legislative systems (French secularism, shari'a laws in Francophone muslim countries) come up against when faced with increasingly multi-ethnic and pluralistic societies. We will examine a wide array of contemporary issues in the French metropole and the Francophone sphere, as well as their particular histories. Combining an interdisciplinary approach, we will look at a set of current events, legislations, and public debates, such as the burqa ban, terrorism, the same-sex marriage debate (marriage pour tous), and immigration 'question'.

**Prerequisites:** FREN 2095 or permission of instructor.

**Distribution Requirements:** (ALC-AS, FLOPI-AS), (CA-AG, FL-AG, LA-AG)

**Last Four Terms Offered:** Fall 2024

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**FREN 2695 - Cold Cases: Crime, Politics, Truth (3 Credits)**

The history of the Francophone world is riddled with cold cases: political scandals, investigative enigmas, and cover-ups that either remain unanswered today, or that look decades to finally be "solved": Who killed Patrice Lumumba? How did Maurice Audin 'suddenly' disappear in Algiers? In this course, we will examine some of the most haunting political assassinations, disappearances, and cover-ups, through public media, political essays, history, but also through fiction and film. We will grapple with how the 'truth' becomes the locus of political struggle, but also the means to justice, and potential repair. The course fulfills the Francophone requirement.

**Distribution Requirements:** (FLOPI-AS, GLC-AS)

**Last Four Terms Offered:** Fall 2025

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**FREN 2860 - The French Revolution (4 Credits)**

Crosslisted with HIST 2860

The French Revolution was one of the most dramatic upheavals in history, sweeping away centuries of tradition and ushering in the political and cultural modernity we arguably still live in today. Although often remembered for mass executions by guillotine and the rise of Napoleon, it was much more. Between 1789 and 1815, the French people experimented with virtually every form of government known to the modern world: absolutist monarchy, constitutional monarchy, representative democracy, radical left-wing republicanism, oligarchy, and right-wing autocracy. This course explores the rapidly changing political and social landscape of this extraordinary period, the evolution of political culture (the arts, theater, songs, fashion, the cult of the guillotine), and shifting attitudes towards gender, race, and slavery.

**Distribution Requirements:** (D-AG, HA-AG), (HST-AS, SCD-AS)

**Last Four Terms Offered:** Spring 2026, Fall 2023, Fall 2021, Fall 2019

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**FREN 2900 - Contemporary Canadian Literature (3 Credits)**

Crosslisted with ENGL 2901

This course offers an introduction to Canadian literature of the late twentieth and early twenty-first centuries, with a special focus on the multilingual, multicultural character of Canadian cultural production. We'll take a look at texts from both French-speaking (in translation) and English-speaking Canada, including Indigenous and immigrant authors who locate themselves at once inside and outside those linguistic traditions. Special emphasis will be given to queer voices and other engagements with the representation of gender, sexuality, and desire. An additional independent study, conducted in French, may be taken by students who wish to explore Francophone material in greater depth.

**Distribution Requirements:** (ALC-AS)

**Last Four Terms Offered:** Spring 2026

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**FREN 3120 - French Stylistics (3 Credits)**

Part theory, part textual analysis, and part creative writing, this course aims to help students develop a richer, more nuanced understanding and command of both the spoken and written language. As students refine their understanding of style and learn techniques for characterizing stylistic varieties, they apply these concepts both to the reading of a singular (and yet very plural) literary text. Raymond Queneau's *Exercices de style*, and to the writing of new exercises de style of their own. We also consider the relevance of stylistics to translation and of translation to Queneau's text. Seminar-style participation in class discussions and activities is expected.

**Prerequisites:** FREN 2180 or CASE Q++ or permission of instructor.

**Distribution Requirements:** (FL-AG), (FLOPI-AS)

**Exploratory Studies:** (AFLANG, EULANG)

**Last Four Terms Offered:** Fall 2024, Fall 2023, Fall 2021, Fall 2019  
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**FREN 3160 - Translating French: Theory and Practice (3 Credits)**

In this course, both seminar and workshop, students discuss writing about translation, mostly in French, and practice translating from French to English. The theoretical texts studied represent a variety of perspectives and the French texts translated, a variety of literary and non-literary genres. Students will investigate ways of addressing various types of difficulties they encounter in the process of translating across languages and cultures with the aim of developing their own principled approach to translating.

**Prerequisites:** FREN 2310 or CASE Q++ placement.

**Distribution Requirements:** (ALC-AS), (FL-AG)

**Last Four Terms Offered:** Spring 2026, Spring 2025, Spring 2024, Spring 2023

Schedule of Classes (<https://classes.cornell.edu/>)

**FREN 3210 - Modern French Literature and Culture (3 Credits)**

This course is designed to teach ways of reading and understanding works created from the Romantic period to the present day, in their cultural context. A range of texts from various genres is presented, and students refine their analytical skills and their understanding of various methodologies of reading. Texts by authors such as Balzac, Baudelaire, Cixous, Duras, Genet, Mallarme, Michaux, Proust, Rimbaud, Sarraute, and Sartre.

**Prerequisites:** FREN 2310, or CASE Q++ placement.

**Distribution Requirements:** (FL-AG), (FLOPI-AS)

**Exploratory Studies:** (EUAREA)

**Last Four Terms Offered:** Spring 2025, Spring 2024, Spring 2022, Spring 2021

Schedule of Classes (<https://classes.cornell.edu/>)

**FREN 3270 - French Laughter: Comedic Literature, films and Caricature (15th-21st C) (3 Credits)**

I hasten to laugh at everything, for fear of being obliged to weep is a famous quote of 18th C. French writer Beaumarchais; it presents a durable trait of French culture, where laughter used to be - and still remains - a powerful way to interact socially. From humour bon enfant to comedic transgressions, from biting irony to conservative strategies fueling the fear of ridicule, laughter in France is neither marginal nor anodyne. Our course will bring together literary texts from the 15th C. onward (theatrical plays as well as poetic satires or novels) with visual media (including political caricatures from the French Revolution up to Charlie Hebdo, or 20th C. movies). Studied authors could include: Rabelais, Moliere, Voltaire, Jarry, Bergson. Conducted in French.

**Prerequisites:** FREN 2310 or CASE Q++ or permission of instructor.

**Distribution Requirements:** (ALC-AS, FLOPI-AS), (FL-AG)

**Exploratory Studies:** (EULANG)

**Last Four Terms Offered:** Fall 2025, Fall 2022

Schedule of Classes (<https://classes.cornell.edu/>)

**FREN 3295 - Bankers, Gamblers, Hustlers (3 Credits)**

Modern capitalism is intimately connected to the ethics of play. Through French and Francophone literature, this course explores a host of capitalist players and the vexed moral questions they raise from casino gamblers and roulette addicts to bankers who invented speculative finance by domesticating fortune through probability, a middle-class founded on ruinous debts, and hustlers who create an informal economy in order to make their own luck in the capitalist game. Readings may include: Balzac, Flaubert, Zola, Guitry, Mabankou, Carrere, among others.

**Prerequisites:** FREN 2310 or permission of instructor required.

**Distribution Requirements:** (D-AG, FL-AG), (FLOPI-AS, SCD-AS)

**Last Four Terms Offered:** Spring 2024, Fall 2021

Schedule of Classes (<https://classes.cornell.edu/>)

**FREN 3400 - French Identities: 21st Century Culture and Society in France (3 Credits)**

This course is conceived as a critical introduction to a cultural and political debate that appeared in the years of Mitterrand's France and reached its climax in the last decade. It will focus on a French society deeply shaped by immigration and globalization. In which way do the youth of the banlieue - mostly formed by postcolonial Blacks and Muslims - create their own culture with the French culture? How have literature, essays, movies, documentary films, national identity carried on by governments reacted to these transformations? Selecting literary texts (by Maryse Conde, Zahia Rahmani, Adb El Malik) and other cultural productions, the course will explore the new expressions of France as an imagined community.

**Prerequisites:** FREN 2310 or CASE Q++ or permission of instructor required.

**Distribution Requirements:** (CA-AG, D-AG, FL-AG), (FLOPI-AS, GLC-AS, SCD-AS)

**Last Four Terms Offered:** Spring 2026, Spring 2023, Spring 2022, Spring 2021

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**FREN 3460 - Intellectuals: A French History (3 Credits)**

The concept of intellectual - the writer or scholar who takes a political commitment - was born in France at the end of the nineteenth century. From the Dreyfus Affaire to the recent polemics on French identity, passing through Vichy, the Algerian War and May 68, intellectuals established a symbiotic relationship between culture and politics, becoming a sort of national brand, object of both admiration and contempt outside of the country. The aim of this course is to revisit some crucial moments of this history, focusing on different attempts to define the nature and function of the intellectual, from Emile Zola to Jean-Paul Sartre, from Simone de Beauvoir to Michel Foucault.

**Prerequisites:** FREN 2310 or CASE Q++ or permission of instructor required.

**Distribution Requirements:** (ALC-AS, ETM-AS, FLOPI-AS), (FL-AG)

**Last Four Terms Offered:** Fall 2025, Fall 2024, Fall 2022, Fall 2021  
Schedule of Classes (<https://classes.cornell.edu/>)

**FREN 3485 - Cinematic Cities (4 Credits)**

Crosslisted with SPAN 3485, ITAL 3485, COML 3485, PMA 3485  
Beginning in the early days of silent cinema, a rich tradition of what are called city films, combines technological innovation with the exploration of specific urban spaces. Students in this class will learn how to think about the possibilities of limits of cinema as a way of knowing a city and its cultures, including linguistic cultures. This course will be offered in English and is open to all students. The focus will be on the relationship between the cinema and the development of urban centers, including Madrid, Rome, Paris, Barcelona, Buenos Aires, Rio de Janeiro, and Venice.

**Distribution Requirements:** (ALC-AS, GLC-AS), (CA-AG, LA-AG)

**Last Four Terms Offered:** Spring 2026, Spring 2024, Fall 2019, Summer 2019

Schedule of Classes (<https://classes.cornell.edu/>)

**FREN 3520 - (Dis)ability Studies: A Brief History (3 Credits)**

Crosslisted with FGSS 3520, SHUM 3520

This course will offer an overview of theoretical and historical responses to bodily and cognitive difference. What was the status of people with (dis)abilities in the past, when they were called monsters, freaks, abnormal? How are all of these concepts related, and how have they changed over time? How have we moved from isolation and institutionalization towards universal design and accessibility as the dominant concepts relative to (dis)ability? Why is this shift from focusing on individual differences as a negative attribute to reshaping our architectural and more broadly social constructions important to everyone? Authors to be studied include: Georges Canguilhem, Michel Foucault, Lennard Davis, Tobin Siebers, David T. Mitchell and Sharon L. Snyder, and Jasbir Puar.

**Distribution Requirements:** (D-AG), (SCD-AS)

**Last Four Terms Offered:** Spring 2026, Fall 2023, Fall 2021, Fall 2020  
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**FREN 3525 - Bodies in Medicine (3 Credits)**

Literature offers valuable perspectives on medicine and the human body that help us focus on the humanity of the individual who is the object of medical interventions. This focus often occurs as a result of carefully chosen languages that can be seen as constituting a poetics of the body. In this course, we will examine the poetics of the body in a range of literary, philosophical, and scientific works. We will explore how literary authors revise or rework medical representations of the body and of the individual in order to evoke the value and complexity of the human body.

**Prerequisites:** FREN 2310 or permission of instructor.

**Distribution Requirements:** (ALC-AS, FLOPI-AS), (CA-AG, FL-AG, LA-AG)

**Last Four Terms Offered:** Fall 2024

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**FREN 3535 - Monstrous Narrative (3 Credits)**

This course will examine how monster stories are told, from medieval tales of giants and dragons to modern horror films. We will discuss why these stories are often monstrous in their form, disorient the reader with disorderly narratives. What are strategies the authors deploy to unsettle us, rhetorical strategies like silence, euphemism, hyperbole, and chronological and perspectival disruptions? We will examine the complex meanings of these tales, often torn between acceptance of radical difference (corporeal or cognitive) and rejection of the other. Texts will include: *Le Chevalier au Lion*, *Le Fantome de l'Opera*, *Les Revenants*, and horror stories by Maupassant.

**Prerequisites:** FREN 2310 or permission of instructor.

**Distribution Requirements:** (ALC-AS, FLOPI-AS)

**Last Four Terms Offered:** Fall 2025

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**FREN 3540 - On Paying Attention (3 Credits)**

Crosslisted with RELST 3540

In the age of smartphones and social media, it's a cliché to say that the competing claims made on our attention only seem to be multiplying. But a cliché can be true. This course is an opportunity to enact certain practices of attentiveness and concentration, drawing largely from religious, literary, artistic, philosophical sources. We'll be trying to slow down our normal critical processes, to suspend the appropriate, pragmatic, and goal-oriented nature of much of the modern university. Through various exercises, from memorizing poems to immersing ourselves in our surroundings to reading about the ways in which our senses reach out to the world, we'll try to make ourselves more attentively available to that world.

**Distribution Requirements:** (ETM-AS), (KCM-AG)

**Last Four Terms Offered:** Spring 2025, Fall 2021, Fall 2017, Fall 2016  
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**FREN 3545 - Every Body: Theories of the Body from the Sixteenth Century to the Present (3 Credits)**

Crosslisted with FGSS 3545

Discussions surrounding controversies about gender often exclude intersex, perpetuating the assumption that nonbinary gender is not "natural". We will examine the social and political stakes of including intersex in our thinking about gender, guided by the work of Hil Malatino, David Rubin, Iain Morland, and others, as well as by early modern theories of intersex and transgender elaborated by Ambrois Pare, Michel de Montaigne, and Jacques Duval, who recognized intersex as a natural variation. Intersex theory will be linked to George Canguilhem's critique of the concepts of normal and abnormal and contrasted with John Money's problematic theories of gender.

**Distribution Requirements:** (SCD-AS)

**Last Four Terms Offered:** Fall 2025

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**FREN 3560 - Freud and Psychoanalysis (3 Credits)**

Crosslisted with COML 3781, STS 3651, FGSS 3651, GERST 3561, ROMS 3560

Psychoanalysis considers the human being not as an object of treatment, but as a subject who is called upon to elaborate an unconscious knowledge about what is disrupting her life, through analysis of dreams, symptoms, bungled actions, slips of the tongue, and repetitive behaviors. Freud finds that these apparently irrational acts and behavior are ordered by the logic of the fantasy, which provides a mental representation of a traumatic childhood experience and the effects it unleashes in the mind and body-effects he called drives. As unbound energies, the drives give rise to symptoms, repetitive acts, and fantasmatic stagings that menace our health and sometimes threaten social coexistence, but that also rise to the desires, creative acts, and social projects we identify as the essence of human life. Readings will include fundamental texts on the unconscious, repression, fantasy, and the death drive, as well as case studies and speculative essays on mythology, art, religion, and group psychology. Students will be asked to keep a dream journal and to work on their unconscious formations, and will have the chance to produce creative projects as well as analytic essays.

**Distribution Requirements:** (ETM-AS, SSC-AS), (KCM-AG, SBA-AG)

**Last Four Terms Offered:** Spring 2026, Fall 2024, Spring 2021, Spring 2019

Schedule of Classes (<https://classes.cornell.edu/>)

**FREN 3750 - Ecofeminisms and Wonder Stories in the Francophone World (3 Credits)**

This course will introduce students to the contemporary ecofeminist theories which are being developed in the francophone world today in parallel with the analysis of different case studies, using literary, philosophical, scientific French and Francophone works. The course seeks to look at some of the engendered frameworks that have led to political, sociological and ecological impasses and explores how solutions to ethical, environmental and economical problems may require a feminist perspective. The goal of the course is to open a dialogue between these works, as they represent, symbolize, translate the so-called universal knowledge of the Western World and the emerging situated knowledges of the Other Non Western World.

**Prerequisites:** FREN 2310, or CASE Q++, or permission of instructor required.

**Distribution Requirements:** (ALC-AS, FLOPI-AS), (FL-AG)

**Last Four Terms Offered:** Fall 2024, Fall 2021

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**FREN 3770 - On Practice and Perfection (3 Credits)**

Crosslisted with MEDVL 3760, RELST 3770

Practice makes perfect, the old saying goes, but the nature of that connection remains opaque. This course, conducted in English and intended as a sequel to FREN 3540 - On Paying Attention, gives students the opportunity to engage with everyday material and spiritual practices, and to reflect upon the kinds of things these practices make. What is the place of routine and repetition in our lives? How can we open a conversation about our habits? We'll look for models to the long history of writing on the subject, largely but not exclusively by Christian thinkers (e.g. Augustine, Benedict, Aelred, Francis, Ignatius), even as we develop new ways of accounting for, and developing, the practices that make our lives meaningful. Artists, athletes, and introverts especially welcome.

**Distribution Requirements:** (CA-AG, KCM-AG), (ETM-AS, GLC-AS)

**Last Four Terms Offered:** Fall 2025, Fall 2022, Fall 2019, Spring 2017

Schedule of Classes (<https://classes.cornell.edu/>)

**FREN 3775 - Future Past: Fantasy Fiction (3 Credits)**

Crosslisted with MEDVL 3775

This course will introduce students to the relationship between modern fantasy fiction and the Middle Ages. What kind of world is the world of quests and secret love affairs, swords and sorcery? We'll begin with the two main models for adventure stories in medieval French literature, the Song of Roland and Lancelot, before examining how they appear in modern literature and film. Along the way, we'll consider more familiar exchanges between medieval literature and modern allegory in the work of C.S. Lewis and J.R.R. Tolkien, and we'll ask what fantasy fiction allows us to fantasize about.

**Distribution Requirements:** (ALC-AS), (CA-AG, LA-AG)

**Last Four Terms Offered:** Spring 2026, Spring 2023

Schedule of Classes (<https://classes.cornell.edu/>)

**FREN 3790 - French Thought (3 Credits)**

Crosslisted with COML 3791

Readings in French and Francophone philosophy and theory, from the 16th century to today. Themes may vary each offering, but can include questions of: death and finitude, gender, existence, affect, literature, art, and aesthetic, humanism and posthumanism, ecology, responsibility, ethics politics, violence, slavery, education, capitalism, and colonialism. Texts from numerous authors, such as: Montaigne, Derrida, Irigaray, Deleuze, Rousseau, Fanon, Pascal, De Beauvoir, Blanchot, Sartre, Levi-Strauss, Debord, Merleau-Ponty, Foucault, Levinas, Cixous, Mbembe, Descartes, Badiou, Latour, Althusser, Weil, and others.

**Distribution Requirements:** (ETM-AS)

**Last Four Terms Offered:** Fall 2025

Schedule of Classes (<https://classes.cornell.edu/>)

**FREN 3840 - Occupied France Through Film (3 Credits)**

Crosslisted with COML 3891

The Second World War and the Occupation of France by German forces had a traumatic impact on the nation's identity. We will examine the way France has tried to deal with this conflicted period through a series of films that each deal, directly or indirectly with the major questions posed by history to French memory of the Occupation. What was the role of collaboration, resistance, anti-Semitism, of writers and intellectuals during this traumatic period? How has film helped to define and re-shape the ways in which France has come to terms with its conflicted past?

**Distribution Requirements:** (ALC-AS, HST-AS), (CA-AG, HA-AG, LA-AG)

**Last Four Terms Offered:** Spring 2026, Fall 2024, Spring 2023, Fall 2021

Schedule of Classes (<https://classes.cornell.edu/>)

**FREN 4140 - Thinking With Montaigne: The Essays in The History of Philosophy and Theory (3 Credits)**

Western modernity and humanism have been the target of decisive critique over the past decades in philosophy and theory. But these trends are not contemporary in any simple sense; they have strange affinities with the premodern modes of writing and thinking put forth in the Essays (1580-95) of Michel de Montaigne. This seminar interrogates the contemporaneity of Montaigne by rereading the Essays in dialogue with influential philosophers and theorists, such as Plato, Aristotle, Descartes, Hegel, Nietzsche, Freud, Adorno, Heidegger, Levi-Strauss, Foucault, Deleuze, Agamben, Derrida, and Haraway. While studying Montaigne's untimely place in intellectual history, we will examine related aesthetic modes and explore how the unprecedented (anti)philosophical gesture of the Essay resonates with posthumanist styles and questions in ecological thought, philosophy, politics, and indigenous studies.

**Distribution Requirements:** (ALC-AS), (CA-AG, LA-AG)

**Exploratory Studies:** (EUAREA)

**Last Four Terms Offered:** Fall 2024

Schedule of Classes (<https://classes.cornell.edu/>)

**FREN 4190 - Special Topics in French Literature (2-4 Credits)**

Guided independent study of special topics.

**Exploratory Studies:** (EUAREA)

**Last Four Terms Offered:** Fall 2025, Fall 2024, Fall 2023, Fall 2022

Schedule of Classes (<https://classes.cornell.edu/>)

**FREN 4200 - Special Topics in French Literature (2-4 Credits)**

Guided independent study of special topics.

**Exploratory Studies:** (EUAREA)

**Last Four Terms Offered:** Spring 2026, Spring 2025, Spring 2024, Spring 2023

Schedule of Classes (<https://classes.cornell.edu/>)

**FREN 4265 - One French Novel (3 Credits)**

A number of well-known French novels have been adapted, appropriated, and reimagined, giving them a life well beyond France and beyond the time in which they were produced. We will explore how one novel can serve various, sometimes contradictory, purposes in different times and cultures by examining the context in which it was written, the text itself, and the variations that have arisen over time.

**Prerequisites:** fluency in French.

**Distribution Requirements:** (ALC-AS, FLOPI-AS), (FL-AG)

**Last Four Terms Offered:** Spring 2025, Fall 2023, Spring 2022

Schedule of Classes (<https://classes.cornell.edu/>)

**FREN 4290 - Honors Work in French (4 Credits)**

Consult director of undergraduate studies for more information.

**Enrollment Information:** Enrollment limited to: juniors and seniors.

**Exploratory Studies:** (EUAREA)

**Last Four Terms Offered:** Fall 2025, Fall 2024, Fall 2023, Fall 2022

Schedule of Classes (<https://classes.cornell.edu/>)

**FREN 4300 - Honors Work in French (4 Credits)**

Consult director of undergraduate studies for more information.

**Prerequisites:** FREN 4290.

**Enrollment Information:** Enrollment limited to: juniors and seniors.

**Exploratory Studies:** (EUAREA)

**Last Four Terms Offered:** Spring 2026, Spring 2025, Spring 2024, Spring 2023

Schedule of Classes (<https://classes.cornell.edu/>)

**FREN 4375 - The Holocaust and History Writing (3 Credits)**

Crosslisted with ROMS 4370, GERST 4375, HIST 4237

In the last decades, Holocaust Studies witnessed an extraordinary expansion, covering different fields of scholarship, from history to literature, from philosophy to aesthetics. This course will retrace the major steps of Holocaust history writing. It will analyze the classical debates between intentionalism and functionalism, the discrepancies between the analytical approaches focused on the perpetrators and those focused on the victims, the inscription of the Holocaust into the broader context of war violence, and its comparison with the genocidal violence of colonialism. Finally, it will investigate some methodological problems concerning the place of testimony in history writing and the permanent connections, both fruitful and problematic, between history and memory. This means taking into account the entanglement of the most productive areas of Holocaust scholarship (Germany, France and the United States) as well as the relationship between the historiography of the Holocaust and other disciplines (memory studies, postcolonial studies, etc.).

**Distribution Requirements:** (ALC-AS, HST-AS), (CA-AG, HA-AG, LA-AG)

**Last Four Terms Offered:** Spring 2021, Spring 2018

Schedule of Classes (<https://classes.cornell.edu/>)

**FREN 4610 - Racine (3 Credits)**

**Distribution Requirements:** (ALC-AS, FLOPI-AS), (CA-AG, LA-AG)

**Exploratory Studies:** (EUAREA)

**Last Four Terms Offered:** Fall 2013

Schedule of Classes (<https://classes.cornell.edu/>)

**FREN 4630 - Ghost Stories: Literature, Cinema, and TV Series (3 Credits)**

Taking the form of ghosts, revenants, and zombies, dead are regularly summoned up in literature, film, and TV series. Their eternal return and narrative power reflect the upheavals of our troubled times as either disquieting or mischievous, tragic, or comic characters. How can we explain this return of the repressed? How do they manifest themselves in contemporary French-language fiction? What do they tell us about ourselves, our hidden memories, our conceptions of the invisible, and our projections into the future? This seminar will scrutinize many novels, films and TV series that raise these questions by combining literary, psychological, and anthropological approaches. This will provide the opportunity of rethinking some key methodological notions such as uncanny, hauntology, and spectral turn.

**Prerequisites:** proficiency in French.

**Distribution Requirements:** (ALC-AS, FLOPI-AS), (CA-AG, LA-AG)

**Last Four Terms Offered:** Spring 2026

Schedule of Classes (<https://classes.cornell.edu/>)

**FREN 4720 - Women's Stories From The Margins (3 Credits)**

This course will examine a rich literary, artistic and cinematic collection of women's stories and gendered narratives that were usually considered as belonging to the margins of History. Simone de Beauvoir's *Second Sex* was one of the first to attempt to unveil the philosophical and ideological workings of the sexual ordering of the Occident, its prejudiced and obfuscations. While analyzing some of the West's traditional myths, tales, representations and narratives, this course will extend the scope of Beauvoir's inquiry into a non-Western and transnational perspective. The texts and material to be examined will include works by Germaine de Staël, George Sand, Flora Tristan, Marguerite Duras, Helene Cixous, Assia Djebar, Maryse Conde among others.

**Prerequisites:** FREN 2310, or permission of instructor.

**Distribution Requirements:** (FLOPI-AS)

**Last Four Terms Offered:** Fall 2022, Spring 2019

Schedule of Classes (<https://classes.cornell.edu/>)

**FREN 4745 - Romantic Quests, Imperial Conquests (3 Credits)**

The course will propose a parallel reading of some of the most famous texts of romantic literature with texts less known in order to develop and challenge both the canon of literary history but also to extend the field of romantic studies beyond purely literary concerns and geographies. Taking as a starting point Harold Bloom's famous definition of Romanticism as the internalization of romance, particularly of the quest we propose to scrutinize some of these canonical works. Texts to be read could include Stendhal's *Le rouge et le noir*, Germaine de Staël's *Corinne ou l'Italie*, Chateaubriand's *Atala*, Flora Tristan *Pelreginations d'une noir*, George Sand's *Indiana*, Suzanne Voilquin, *Memoires d'une fille du peuple en Egypte*, Louise Michel's *L'ère nouvelle*.

**Distribution Requirements:** (ALC-AS, FLOPI-AS), (CA-AG, FL-AG, LA-AG)

**Last Four Terms Offered:** Fall 2024, Fall 2021, Fall 2019, Fall 2016

Schedule of Classes (<https://classes.cornell.edu/>)

**FREN 4825 - Literature and Science: Transfers in Poetics and Epistemology (3 Credits)**

Crosslisted with COML 4825, ROMS 4825, SHUM 4025

Part epistemology and part experimental humanities, this seminar looks at improbable encounters between the divergent regimes of thought and knowledge expressed by literature and the sciences. Our main concern is not the literary thematization of the scientific, nor is it an exploration of science fiction as a genre. Our reflexive focus is rather on the noetic and poetic transfers different modes of textuality could unfold, beyond their hiatus in terms of writing, apparatus, signification, and mental experience. Readings include scholars such as Foucault, Kuhn, Strabo, Haraway, or Hayles, and writers such as Homer, Rousseau, Shelley, or Borges. Several discrete disciplines, such as geometry, cognitive science, botany, primatology, or AI, could be analyzed. The seminar is also linked to the research activities of the Humanities Lab.

**Distribution Requirements:** (ALC-AS, ETM-AS), (CA-AG, KCM-AG, LA-AG)

**Last Four Terms Offered:** Spring 2025

Schedule of Classes (<https://classes.cornell.edu/>)

**FREN 4836 - Transcultural Theory (3 Credits)**

Crosslisted with COML 4836, ROMS 4836

Cultures are never monolithic, and they are very rarely impervious to foreign influences. Exchanges allow for the inception of individual cultures: the widespread process of dual integration and alteration of external behaviors, ideas, objects, texts, or practices is constitutive of the plasticity of group evolution. This research seminar will offer a critical inquiry on the rise of the concept of "culture" and of its prefixations (multi, inter, cross, trans), contrasting it with categories such as "global(ized)," "planetary," "universal," "cosmopolitics." We'll articulate literary theory with anthropology, experimental psychology with political theory, or ethics with biology ("animal culture" now forming a legitimate category). We'll additionally study some cases of transcultural circulations in the human context (science, literature and the arts), especially between Europe, Asia, and the Caribbean.

**Distribution Requirements:** (CA-AG), (GLC-AS)

**Last Four Terms Offered:** Spring 2026

Schedule of Classes (<https://classes.cornell.edu/>)

**FREN 6140 - Thinking With Montaigne: The Essays in The History of Philosophy and Theory (3 Credits)**

Western modernity and humanism have been the target of decisive critique over the past decades in philosophy and theory. But these trends are not contemporary in any simple sense; they have strange affinities with the premodern modes of writing and thinking put forth in the Essays (1580-95) of Michel de Montaigne. This seminar interrogates the contemporaneity of Montaigne by rereading the Essays in dialogue with influential philosophers and theorists, such as Plato, Aristotle, Descartes, Hegel, Nietzsche, Freud, Adorno, Heidegger, Levi-Strauss, Foucault, Deleuze, Agamben, Derrida, and Haraway. While studying Montaigne's untimely place in intellectual history, we will examine related aesthetic modes and explore how the unprecedented (anti)philosophical gesture of the Essay resonates with posthumanist styles and questions in ecological thought, philosophy, politics, and indigenous studies.

**Last Four Terms Offered:** Fall 2024

Schedule of Classes (<https://classes.cornell.edu/>)

**FREN 6212 - Michel Foucault: Sovereignty to BioPolitics (4 Credits)**

Crosslisted with ASRC 6212, ENGL 6912, GOVT 6215, COML 6212

This course will explore the ways in which Michel Foucault's oeuvre transitions from a concern with sovereignty to a preoccupation with biopolitics. Foucault's early work (one understands that there is no absolute Foucaultian division into sovereignty and biopolitics), such as *Madness and Civilization*, attends to the structure, the construction and the force of the institution - the birth of asylum, the prison, while his later career takes up the question of, for want of a better term, political efficiency. That is, Foucault offers a critique of sovereignty insofar as sovereignty is inefficient (neither the sovereign nor sovereign power can be everywhere; certainly not everywhere it needs or wants to be; ubiquity is impossible, even/especially for a project such as sovereignty) while biopower is not. Biopower marks this recognition; in place of sovereignty biopower devolves to the individual subject the right, always an intensely political phenomenon, to make decisions about everyday decisions - decisions about health, sexuality, lifestyle. In tracing the foucaultian trajectory from sovereignty to biopower we will read the major foucaultian texts - *Madness and Civilization*, *Birth of the Prison*, *History of Sexuality* as well as the various seminars where Foucault works out important issues.

**Last Four Terms Offered:** Fall 2021, Spring 2019, Spring 2018, Fall 2015

Schedule of Classes (<https://classes.cornell.edu/>)

**FREN 6300 - French Reading for Graduates (3 Credits)**

Designed for those with little or no background in French. Aims primarily to develop skill in reading French. Covers grammar basics, extensive vocabulary, and strategies for reading in a foreign language. Some flexibility in selecting texts according to fields of interest.

**Enrollment Information:** Enrollment limited to: graduate students.

**Exploratory Studies:** (AFLANG, EUAREA, EULANG)

**Last Four Terms Offered:** Spring 2026, Spring 2024, Spring 2023, Spring 2022

Schedule of Classes (<https://classes.cornell.edu/>)

**FREN 6368 - Reading Édouard Glissant (3 Credits)**

Crosslisted with COML 6368, ASRC 6368

This seminar will focus on the writings of the polymorphous Martinican poet and thinker, Édouard Glissant (1928-2011). We will attend to the historical context of French colonialism, particularly in the Caribbean, that gives his writing part of its impetus and to the anticolonial intellectuals with whom he engages (chiefly Aimé Césaire and Frantz Fanon) as well as to his major self-professed influences (William Faulkner, Saint-John Perse, Hegel) and to an array of interlocutors and fellow-travelers as well as a few dissenters. The seminar will examine the main preoccupations of Glissant's writing (world histories of dispossession and plantation slavery, creolization, Relation, opacity, flux, transversality, Caribbean landscapes as figures of thought, the All-World, etc.) but our focus will be on reading Glissant and attending carefully to the implications of his poetics and of his language for decolonial thought.

**Last Four Terms Offered:** Fall 2024, Spring 2023, Spring 2019

Schedule of Classes (<https://classes.cornell.edu/>)

**FREN 6390 - Special Topics in French Literature (1-4 Credits)**

Guided independent study for graduate students.

**Exploratory Studies:** (EUAREA)

**Last Four Terms Offered:** Fall 2025, Fall 2024, Fall 2023, Fall 2022

Schedule of Classes (<https://classes.cornell.edu/>)

**FREN 6400 - Special Topics in French Literature (2-4 Credits)**

Guided independent study for graduate students.

**Exploratory Studies:** (EUAREA)

**Last Four Terms Offered:** Spring 2026, Spring 2025, Spring 2024, Spring 2023

Schedule of Classes (<https://classes.cornell.edu/>)

**FREN 6424 - Beauty, Grief (3 Credits)**

Crosslisted with ROMS 6224, COML 6424, ITAL 6224, SPAN 6224

This course is for anyone drawn to beauty-and anyone who, within the beautiful, finds the trace of a loss. What do we grieve, what do we miss, when we find ourselves in the presence of beauty? And what, in every retrospective, prospective or otherwise non-present beauty, do we nonetheless crave and nonetheless mourn? What is the beauty hidden within mourning? We'll take a look at thinkers, poets, and artists from both modern and premodern culture, potentially including Anne Carson, Augustine of Hippo, Fra Angelico, Gillian Rose, Herve Guibert, Pepe Espaliu, and others, as we try to sit with dual summons of beauty and grief: beauty or grief.

**Last Four Terms Offered:** Fall 2024

Schedule of Classes (<https://classes.cornell.edu/>)

**FREN 6485 - Kissing Books: Queer Romance (3 Credits)**

Crosslisted with ITAL 6485, ROMS 6485, MEDVL 6485, FGSS 6485

There's a moment in the movie *The Princess Bride* when, listening to an adventure story, a kid worries that this might be a "kissing book." This course takes kissing books as places where "romance" and "fantasy," two overcharged words and two overlapping genres, are stages for our enjoyment. If medieval romances give us a template for narrating desire, and if medieval monastics use kissing, especially in the *Song of Songs*, to articulate an erotics of reading, the recent explosion of queer romance and fantasy fiction may give us a new way to read (and, who knows, maybe even kiss) with our manifold bodies and desires. Expect Chretien de Troyes, Brnard of Clairvaux, Dante, and lots of queer fiction.

**Last Four Terms Offered:** Fall 2025

Schedule of Classes (<https://classes.cornell.edu/>)

**FREN 6580 - The Case of the Perversions (3 Credits)**

Crosslisted with COML 6784

This seminar will offer a critical examination of the literature of perversion (sadism, masochism, fetishism), with readings drawn from major texts of the libertine or S/M traditions (Sade, Sacher-Masoch, Lautremont, Reage, Flanagan), as well as recent works of philosophy that share with these writers an investment in what I will term writing the real. We will consider works of perversion not merely as literary or clinical cases, therefore, but as illuminating how the discourse of perversion, broadly understood, posits or constructs the real-its cases or modes of postulation or figuration. We will focus our attention on three modes of construction that purport to straddle the alleged gap between language and its real-figure, fetish, and formalization-considering in each case their relation to the problematic of the drive. In addition to the authors mentioned above, readings will include selections from Badiou, Freud, Deleuze, Ferenczi, Foucault, Lacan, Lyotard, Meillassoux, Perniola, and Zizek.

**Last Four Terms Offered:** Fall 2025, Spring 2020

Schedule of Classes (<https://classes.cornell.edu/>)

**FREN 6689 - Sex, Gender, and the Natural World in Medieval Culture (3 Credits)**

Crosslisted with SHUM 6689, FGSS 6689, MEDVL 6689, LGBT 6689

**Last Four Terms Offered:** Spring 2024

Schedule of Classes (<https://classes.cornell.edu/>)

**FREN 6725 - Women's Stories From The Margins (3 Credits)**

This course will examine a rich literary, artistic and cinematic collection of women's stories and gendered narratives that were usually considered as belonging to the margins of History. Simone de Beauvoir's *Second Sex* was one of the first to attempt to unveil the philosophical and ideological workings of the sexual ordering of the Occident, its prejudiced and obfuscations. While analyzing some of the West's traditional myths, tales, representations and narratives, this course will extend the scope of Beauvoir's inquiry into a non-Western and transnational perspective. The texts and material to be examined will include works by Germaine de Stael, George Sand, Flora Tristan, Marguerite Duras, Helene Cixous, Assia Djebbar, Maryse Conde among others.

**Last Four Terms Offered:** Fall 2022

Schedule of Classes (<https://classes.cornell.edu/>)

**FREN 6745 - Romantic Quests, Imperial Conquests (3 Credits)**

This course will propose a parallel reading of some of the most famous texts of romantic literature with the field of romance studies beyond purely literary concerns and geographies. Taking as a starting point Harold Bloom's famous definition of Romanticism as the internalization of romance, particularly of the quest we propose to scrutinize some of these canonical works. Texts will be read could include Stendhal's *Le rouge et le noir*, Germaine de Stael's *Corinne ou l'Italie*, Chateaubriand's *Atala*, Flora Tristan *Perregrinations d'une noir*, George Sand's *Indiana*, Suzanne Voilquin, *Memories d'une fille du peuple* on Egypt's Louise Michel's *Lere nouvelle*.

**Last Four Terms Offered:** Fall 2021

Schedule of Classes (<https://classes.cornell.edu/>)

**FREN 6825 - Literature and Science: Transfers in Poetics and Epistemology (3 Credits)**

Crosslisted with COML 6825, ROMS 6825

Part epistemology and part experimental humanities, this seminar looks at improbable encounters between the divergent regimes of thought and knowledge expressed by literature and the sciences. Our main concern is not the literary thematization of the scientific, nor is it an exploration of science fiction as a genre. Our reflexive focus is rather on the noetic and poetic transfers different modes of textuality could unfold, beyond their hiatus in terms of writing, apparatus, signification, and mental experience. Readings include scholars such as Foucault, Kuhn, Strabo, Haraway, or Hayles, and writers such as Homer, Rousseau, Shelley, or Borges. Several discrete disciplines, such as geometry, cognitive science, botany, primatology, or AI, could be analyzed. The seminar is also linked to the research activities of the Humanities Lab.

**Last Four Terms Offered:** Spring 2025

Schedule of Classes (<https://classes.cornell.edu/>)

**FREN 6836 - Transcultural Theory (3 Credits)**

Crosslisted with COML 6836, ROMS 6836

Cultures are never monolithic, and they are very rarely impervious to foreign influences. Exchanges allow for the inception of individual cultures: the widespread process of dual integration and alteration of external behaviors, ideas, objects, texts, or practices is constitutive of the plasticity of group evolution. This research seminar will offer a critical inquiry on the rise of the concept of "culture" and of its prefixations (multi, inter, cross, trans), contrasting it with categories such as "global(ized)," "planetary," "universal," "cosmopolitics." We'll articulate literary theory with anthropology, experimental psychology with political theory, or ethics with biology ("animal culture" now forming a legitimate category). We'll additionally study some cases of transcultural circulations in the human context (science, literature and the arts), especially between Europe, Asia, and the Caribbean.

**Last Four Terms Offered:** Spring 2026

Schedule of Classes (<https://classes.cornell.edu/>)

**FREN 6940 - Hybridity, Creoleness, Coolitude (3 Credits)**

This course is a broad survey of the theoretical and aesthetic movements that have attempted to grapple with trans-cultural or multicultural contexts, in contact zones produced historically by colonialism, slavery, and indenture labor, and more recently by migration. The seminar will ask the following questions: How did theories of hybridity emerge in the colonial context, and how did they evolve in their postcolonial enunciation? How did Caribbean and Indian Ocean intellectual traditions negotiate their own multi-racial identities through, respectively, Creoleness and Coolitude? How do more recent forms of trans-cultural identity, like Afropolitanism, renegotiate between multiple identities? Includes works by Senghor, Césaire, Chamoiseau, Glissant, etc.

**Last Four Terms Offered:** Fall 2025

Schedule of Classes (<https://classes.cornell.edu/>)

**FREN 6945 - Aesthetics, Before and Beyond Kant (3 Credits)**

Crosslisted with COML 6943

Kant's third Critique is often read as a text that inaugurates aesthetic philosophy proper and confirms the essential connection between aesthetics and (the modern metaphysics of) the human subject. Challenging this humanist understanding of Kant, this seminar studies pre- and post-Kantian philosophy, literature, and theory so as to rethink aesthetic categories as modes of being, ones deeply consequential in a time of nascent posthumanist and environmental thought. Alongside ancient, early modern, and contemporary readings, we will study relevant cases in the arts (the grotesque; landscape; sketching; the non-finito; fragments; ruins) and in ecological theory (fungi; plants; monstrosity; spontaneity).

**Last Four Terms Offered:** Spring 2026

Schedule of Classes (<https://classes.cornell.edu/>)