

FRENCH MAJOR

The major in French provides rigorous interdisciplinary training in the French language and the literary, cultural, and intellectual traditions of France and the French-speaking world.

Extensive coursework at all levels of language study prepares students to engage critically with a rich array of texts, images, and ideas from francophone cultures. Ranging in scope from the medieval period to the present, course content extends across regions and incorporates many genres, media, and historical documents, placing them in their social and political contexts. Majors acquire the tools for literary and cultural analysis, learn about the distinctive contributions of French critical thought, and complete an independent research paper. Students are thus prepared to be linguistically adept, global citizens who are attuned to the complexities of language and culture.

Students must also complete the Undergraduate Registration Requirement (<https://catalogs.northwestern.edu/undergraduate/requirements-policies/undergraduate-registration-requirement/>) and the degree requirements of their home school.

NOTE: This Catalog describes Weinberg College BA requirements that pertain to students who matriculated at Northwestern after spring quarter 2023. Refer to the Archives (<https://catalogs.northwestern.edu/archives/>) if you are following BA requirements described in the 2018-2019 through 2022-2023 editions.

Course	Title
Prerequisite	
FRENCH 201-0	Culture and Society (or equivalent proficiency)
Major Requirements (14 units)	
At most 5 200-level courses taught in French, including:	
FRENCH 202-0	Writing Workshop: Cultural Encounters in Contemporary France
FRENCH 210-0 or FRENCH 211-0	Reading Literatures in French Reading Cultures in French
At least 1 but at most 2 of:	
FRENCH 271-0	Introducing the Novel
FRENCH 272-0	Introducing Theatre
FRENCH 273-0	Introducing Poetry
At least 9 courses must be at the 300 level, including:	
At least 1 advanced language course chosen from:	
FRENCH 300-0	French Phonetics
FRENCH 301-0	Advanced Language in Context: Society and Popular Culture
FRENCH 302-0	Advanced Writing: Finding Your Voice in French
FRENCH 303-0	Advanced Conversation: Debating Contemporary France
FRENCH 309-0	French For Professions
FRENCH 391-0	Theory and Practice of Translation
FRENCH 393-0	Foreign Language Teaching: Theory and Practice
At least 4 literature and culture courses selected from FRENCH 310 through FRENCH 390. At least 2 must cover the period prior to 1800.	
1 senior seminar:	
FRENCH 395-0	Advanced Studies in Culture and Thought
At most 2 300-level courses taught in English may be counted toward the major. Of these, 1 may be a course with at least 50 percent French content offered outside the department; the course will count as an elective.	
Courses with the requisite French content include: ¹	

ART_HIST 350-1 & ART_HIST 350-2	19th-Century Art 1: 1789–1848 and 19th-Century Art 2: 1848–1914
HISTORY 341-0	Paris: World City, 1700 to the Present
HISTORY 342-1 & HISTORY 342-2	The French Revolution and Napoleon and History of Modern France: 19th c. to present
PHIL 315-0	Studies in French Philosophy
No more than 1 399 may count toward the major unless the student is completing an honors thesis.	
At least 2 300-level courses must be completed at Northwestern.	

¹ Other courses may be approved at the discretion of the director of undergraduate studies.

Exceptions and Waivers

- Majors who begin French studies in FRENCH 111-1 Elementary French, FRENCH 115-1 Intensive Elementary French, or FRENCH 121-1 Intermediate French may count FRENCH 201-0 Culture and Society as 1 elective course at the 200 level.
- Majors with an AP score of 5 or with departmental advanced placement, depending upon results of the French Language Placement Test, may either waive FRENCH 202-0 Writing Workshop: Cultural Encounters in Contemporary France or waive 1 elective course at the 200-level. In this case total course requirements for the major will be 13 courses, with a maximum of 4 200-level courses and at least 9 300-level courses.

Honors in French

Majors with strong academic records and an interest in pursuing honors should contact the director of undergraduate studies no later than spring quarter of junior year. The honors thesis is produced through 2 quarters of FRENCH 399-0 Independent Study; these FRENCH 399-0 enrollments will count toward the 14 required units for the major. The thesis may build on previous work done in a 300-level course.

Students whose theses and grades meet department criteria are recommended to the college for graduation with honors. For more information see the department website or consult with the director of undergraduate studies and see Honors in the Major (<https://catalogs.northwestern.edu/undergraduate/arts-sciences/#academicoptiontext>).

Courses

Introductory and Intermediate Language Courses

Course	Title
FRENCH 111-1 & FRENCH 111-2 & FRENCH 111-3	Elementary French and Elementary French and Elementary French
FRENCH 115-1 & FRENCH 115-2	Intensive Elementary French and Intensive Elementary French
FRENCH 121-1 & FRENCH 121-2 & FRENCH 121-3	Intermediate French and Intermediate French and Intermediate French
FRENCH 125-1 & FRENCH 125-2 & FRENCH 125-3	Intensive Intermediate French and Intensive Intermediate French and Intensive Intermediate French
FRENCH 198-0	Independent Study
FRENCH 199-SA & FRENCH 299-SA	Language and Culture and Language and Culture
FRENCH 201-0	Culture and Society

FRENCH 202-0	Writing Workshop: Cultural Encounters in Contemporary France
FRENCH 203-0	Oral Workshop: Individual and Society in France Today

FRENCH 390-0	Topics in Literature and Culture
FRENCH 391-0	Theory and Practice of Translation
FRENCH 393-0	Foreign Language Teaching: Theory and Practice
FRENCH 395-0	Advanced Studies in Culture and Thought
FRENCH 399-0	Independent Study

Introductory Literature and Culture Courses

Introduction to texts in various genres such as essay, poetry, drama, novel, and autobiography, from at least two periods from the Middle Ages to the present. Prerequisite: FRENCH 202-0 Writing Workshop: Cultural Encounters in Contemporary France, AP score of 5, or consent of instructor.

Course	Title
FRENCH 210-0	Reading Literatures in French
FRENCH 211-0	Reading Cultures in French
FRENCH 271-0	Introducing the Novel
FRENCH 272-0	Introducing Theatre
FRENCH 273-0	Introducing Poetry

Courses with Readings and Discussion in English

No prerequisite in French; readings, discussions, papers, and examinations in English.

Course	Title
FRENCH 277-0	French Existentialism
FRENCH 279-0	Theater in Translation
FRENCH 371-0	Giants, Cannibals, and Critique
FRENCH 374-0	Proust
FRENCH 375-0	French Film
FRENCH 376-0	Gender & Sexuality
FRENCH 378-0	Contemporary Theory
FRENCH 379-0	Topics in French Literature and Culture

Courses with Prerequisites in French

Course	Title
FRENCH 300-0	French Phonetics
FRENCH 301-0	Advanced Language in Context: Society and Popular Culture
FRENCH 302-0	Advanced Writing: Finding Your Voice in French
FRENCH 303-0	Advanced Conversation: Debating Contemporary France
FRENCH 309-0	French For Professions
FRENCH 310-0	The Middle Ages & Renaissance
FRENCH 322-0	Medieval French Narratives
FRENCH 333-0	Topics in Renaissance Literature
FRENCH 335-0	17th Century Literature
FRENCH 340-0	Sexual Politics and the Ancien Regime
FRENCH 344-0	Rousseau and the French Revolution
FRENCH 346-0	Studies in the Enlightenment
FRENCH 355-0	Topics in Modern and Contemporary French Literature and Culture
FRENCH 360-0	From Modernism to Postmodernism
FRENCH 362-0	African Literatures and Cultures
FRENCH 364-0	Caribbean Literatures and Cultures
FRENCH 365-0	The Maghreb and the Middle East
FRENCH 366-0	France and East Asia
FRENCH 380-0	Political & Social Thought in France
FRENCH 384-0	Women Writing in French
FRENCH 386-0	Gender & Writing