

DEPARTMENT OF FRENCH & ITALIAN



Intermediate French

FRE 105

Instructor:

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Fall
2020-2021
Courses

M W F
9:00 am – 9:50 am
10:00 am – 10:50 am
11:00 am – 11:50 am
12:30 pm – 1:20 pm

From World War II to contemporary Québec, from social inequalities and slavery in Martinique to current immigration issues in France, this course explores a wide array of topics across the French-speaking world and discusses themes such as education, language, family and identity, integration and exclusion. How do we become who we are? Why do we think the way we think, speak the way we speak? While tackling such questions, the course provides a thorough review of grammatical structures of the French language and introduces key concepts and vocabulary in a manageable way.

Learning Objectives and Outcomes:

The objective of FRE 105 is to give you the opportunity to develop equally your writing, reading, listening and speaking skills in meaningful, thought-provoking contexts that will provide diverse insights on Francophone cultures and societies and their history. As an introductory course, it aims at strengthening your command of the French language, both written and oral, while developing your analytical and critical skills through specific assignments and group discussions. By the end of the course, you will feel comfortable discussing complex subjects orally and in writing; you will be able to understand, analyze and interpret francophone works in a variety of formats (text, music, painting, film, etc.); you will have acquired methodological and analytical tools that will prove useful throughout your studies at Princeton and across disciplines.

Sample Reading List and Course Materials:

In addition to *Grammaire progressive du français*, which provides grammatical reinforcement and clarifications, FRE 105 will introduce you to a variety of materials, including songs by artists such as Stromae, Paul Wamo or Bigflo & Oli, and texts by authors such as Samuel Beckett, Maryse Condé, Magyd Cherfi, Natasha Kanapé Fontaine, etc. We will also watch three films (*Au revoir les enfants* – Louis Malle, 1987; *Rue Cases-Nègres* – Euzhan Palcy, 1983; *Bande de filles* – Céline Sciamma, 2014) and take advantage of the Princeton University Art Museum’s collection of paintings to discuss the artistic movement known as *impressionnisme*.

Assignments

FRE 105’s graded assignments include 2 exams, 2 compositions, an oral interview and a final project. The final project, conducted in pairs, will consist in a presentation that analyzes how a francophone work of art represents and problematizes one or more of the themes discussed in class. In addition, you will also engage in online conversations on Canvas with your peers on a regular basis to further discuss the topics addressed in class; this assignment is factored in the participation grade.

Grading:

Attendance, Participation, Homework	30%
Exams (2)	20%
Compositions (2)	20%
Mid-Term Oral Interview	15%
Final Project	15%

Testimonials

“This class is perfect for intermediate French learners. It provides a good balance of grammar rules and French culture, and includes watching movies and reading interesting excerpts. The teacher prompts class participation and the papers are manageable. Overall, I would recommend this class for people who want to improve their French grammar and writing abilities with hopes of taking that next step in the French language.”

“The readings were so great I would do them for fun outside of class.”

“The classes were very helpful and definitely helped me learn to speak French more fluently.”

“The films and readings we were assigned were very interesting, and they reflected the content we were studying in class. Discussions about the texts were thought provoking and challenging.”

“The visuals and readings were awesome! I felt like I got to look into the Francophone and almost be a part of it.”

“This is an amazing course taught by an amazing professor! This course, however, requires your focus and dedication. Do the homework because the skills he expects you to employ are informed by the homework. You will see amazing results in the end, though!”

“As the French say, ‘Super!’”

“This is a fantastic course and you should definitely take it!”