

# French and Francophone Studies

The concentration in French and Francophone Studies is committed to the pursuit of an interdisciplinary, linguistically rigorous, and textually informed understanding of French and Francophone literatures and cultures. Concentrators engage actively through their coursework with a wide range of texts and critical perspectives, pertaining to multiple literary genres, media, and contexts. They have opportunities to study different periods of French history as well as Francophone cultures beyond France.

## Concentration Requirements

A minimum of ten courses is required for the concentration in French and Francophone Studies. Concentrators must observe the following guidelines when planning their concentration. It is recommended that course choices for each semester be discussed with the department's concentration advisor.

Of the minimum ten courses:

### At least four courses in French and Francophone Studies numbered 950 and above, such as:

FREN 0950A	Advanced Written and Oral French: Traduction	1
FREN 0960A	Ateliers d'écriture	1
FREN 1070M	La question animale	1
FREN 1110F	Le Roman contemporain	1
FREN 1120F	L'enfer, c'est les autres	1
FREN 1130G	Modernismes poétiques	1
FREN 1210F	L'œuvre romanesque de Marguerite Duras	1
FREN 1310N	La Pornographie	1
FREN 1310P	La théorie féministe en France	1
FREN 1410X	Dés/Accords franco-américains	1

### At least one course covering a pre-Revolutionary period (i.e. a course focusing on medieval, Renaissance, 17th or 18th century France), such as:

FREN 1000B	Littérature et culture: Chevaliers, sorcières, philosophes, et poètes	1
FREN 1040B	Pouvoirs de la scène: le théâtre du XVIIe siècle	1
FREN 1040C	Le Grand Siècle à l'écran	1
FREN 1040D	Molière et son monde	1
FREN 1410I	Sorcellerie et Renaissance: le sort de la sorcière	1

### At least one course focusing primarily on a Francophone literature or a cultural context other than that of France, such as:

FREN 1410R	Images d'une guerre sans nom: The Algerian War in Literature and Film	1
FREN 1410T	L'expérience des réfugiés: déplacements, migrations	1

- FREN 0600, FREN 0610, and FREN 0620 (Advanced French) and FREN720 (First Year Seminar) may count for concentration credit

Additional guidelines:

- A senior capstone project (<https://www.brown.edu/academics/french-studies/undergraduate/senior-capstone/>) will be completed during the senior year.
- Up to four courses (taken in French) from a semester's study abroad (and up to five courses from a full year abroad) may count towards the concentration. A year or semester of study abroad in France or a Francophone country is considered an integral part of the concentration and is therefore highly recommended. Students should

consult the concentration advisor prior to going abroad to find out which types of courses will count for the concentration.

- Up to two 1000-level courses taught in English with a meaningful engagement with French/Francophone texts and/or contexts may be accepted for concentration credit. These may be courses offered within the Department of French and Francophone Studies or other departments at Brown. (Appropriate courses on French or Francophone topics from other departments must be approved by the concentration advisor.)
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|------------|--|---|
| FREN 1140A | French Theory                              | 1 |
| FREN 1150G | New Wave Cinema from Paris to Hollywood    | 1 |
| FREN 1330A | Fairy Tales and Culture                    | 1 |
| HIST 1272D | The French Revolution                      | 1 |
| MUSC 1677  | Music and Culture in Third Republic France | 1 |

The Concentration Advisor for the Department of French and Francophone Studies, Prof. Lewis Seifert (fall 2021), will be happy to discuss the concentration program in French and Francophone Studies with interested students.

## The Senior Capstone

The senior capstone is a research project, a translation or a piece of creative work undertaken by all concentrators of French and Francophone Studies in their final year. As a culminating piece of work for their concentration, it is a conceptually rigorous, in-depth treatment of a subject (or a body of work) within French and Francophone Studies, and an opportunity for concentrators to demonstrate the specific strengths and forms of competence—linguistic, analytic, interpretive, critical, theoretical, cultural—developed in the course of the concentration. The learning goals of the capstone project include: building on writing proficiency in French, demonstrating critical reasoning skills, and showing, in writing, the ability to engage thoughtfully with salient questions of French and/or Francophone culture.

The senior capstone experience is usually fulfilled by a research essay completed for a 1000-level (or a 2000-level) course taken in the department during the senior year. In some cases, where appropriate to the course materials and focus, the capstone project may take the form of a work of translation or a piece of creative writing. The project will be 8-12 pages in length and will be written in French. By mid-semester, students will submit to the professor of the course a 300-word statement of the objectives and methods of the project. Students will then meet with the professor to discuss plans for the project. At the end of the academic year, students will give a presentation of 5-7 minutes on their projects at the annual Senior Forum. The professor evaluating the project will inform the DUS of successful completion of the capstone project.

In the case of students pursuing Honors, the senior thesis fulfills the role of the senior capstone.

The senior capstone is intended as a meaningful scholarly experience where concentrators may follow their intellectual passions and best express their growth as students of French and Francophone Studies. Concentrators should discuss their plans for the senior capstone with the Concentration Advisor at the end of their junior year or the beginning of their senior year.

## Honors

The Honors Program welcomes applications from students who wish to deepen their study of French and Francophone literature and culture by pursuing during their senior year an independent research-based inquiry into a particular set of texts or questions (literary, historical, cultural, theoretical or linguistic), a translation project or a creative work under the supervision of a thesis advisor. Students may earn honors in the concentration by successfully presenting a thesis, for the preparation of which they will normally enroll in FREN 1990 in either or both semesters of their senior year.

## Eligibility and Application Procedure

Candidates for honors in French Studies are expected to have a strong track record in courses taken for their concentration, and will have completed at least two-thirds of the courses required for the concentration (6 courses) by the application deadline.

Applications for admission to the Honors Program are submitted by the end of September in the student's seventh semester. This means that the candidate should ideally begin to think of their thesis project, and establish contact with a potential thesis advisor by the end of the spring semester of their junior year or in the first weeks of the fall semester of their senior year. Students generally choose as advisor a faculty member with whom they have taken a class, but they are also encouraged to contact others whose specialization aligns with their interests. If in doubt, the concentration advisor can be consulted for suggestions of an appropriate advisor. (Note that faculty may not be easy to contact over the summer. Students are thus advised to seek contact during the academic year.) For the application (form available below), the student will provide a brief thesis proposal (1 or 2 paragraphs in French presenting the object of study and intended approach). The application must also feature a thesis title, the name and signature of the thesis advisor, and two recommendations from French and Francophone Studies faculty. Upon admission, the student will also choose a second reader.

Students applying for admission to the Honors Program must submit a completed application ([https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfZ3UPzEjSxhCaCm-b\\_gJOgsaMvZghzuP5Q-a17rg3PK4K4Dg/viewform/](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfZ3UPzEjSxhCaCm-b_gJOgsaMvZghzuP5Q-a17rg3PK4K4Dg/viewform/)) to the French Studies Honors/Concentration Advisor by **September 26** (or the weekday closest to that date). Recommendations should be from department faculty who have close knowledge of the student's work, preferably through a course taken by the student during their sophomore or junior year. **Please submit these forms to your faculty recommenders no later than September 18** (or the weekday closest to that date). They will then be forwarded to the Honors Advisor who, after reviewing the complete application along with the student's transcript(s), will make a determination about admission to the Honors Program.

A successful application allows the student to pursue the Honors Thesis Project. Honors is officially granted only when the student's two readers approve the completed thesis.

## Requirements

Students pursuing honors in French Studies take a minimum of eleven courses. In addition to the standard requirement of ten courses, FREN 1990 (Senior Thesis) is to be taken in either or both semesters of the student's senior year. This independent study is designed for the student to devote time to thesis research and writing under the supervision of a thesis advisor.

The student is expected to work in close consultation with his/her thesis advisor and to respect deadlines for completion of the outline, drafts, and the final version of the thesis, which at the latest must be submitted by the end of the week after Spring Recess (see deadlines below). It is expected that the student and the thesis advisor will establish a schedule and meet on a regular basis through the entire year. (Meetings once every two weeks on average, particularly during the spring semester, are encouraged). The second reader may or may not be from the Department of French and Francophone Studies, and may be consulted less frequently during the earlier stages of the research/writing, according to their availability and the student's needs. However, the student is expected to share at least one advanced draft with the second reader before the final submission.

The final complete version of the thesis must be submitted by **April 16** (or whichever weekday falls closest to that date). Students should submit one copy to each reader and one electronic **and** one hard copy of the thesis to the Concentration advisor.

**Work submitted after the final submission deadline will not be accepted for Honors.** In such cases, a grade will be given for the Senior Thesis course, but Honors cannot be awarded.

## The Senior Thesis

Theses ordinarily range from 50 to 80 pages and are written in French. Topics, approach, and precise calendar of work should be decided in close consultation with the thesis advisor. Students are encouraged to consult previous French Honors theses to get a sense of the range of projects that are possible. At every stage of their research and writing, students are expected to adhere rigorously to Brown University's Academic Code ([http://www.brown.edu/Administration/Dean\\_of\\_the\\_College/curriculum/academic\\_code.php](http://www.brown.edu/Administration/Dean_of_the_College/curriculum/academic_code.php)) which may be consulted online.

**The Research Essay:** The thesis is usually a research-based essay dealing with primary sources (literary works, historical archives, etc.) consulted and cited in the original French. A meritorious Honors thesis will be written in competent and precise language and evince meaningful internal structure and coherence. It will formulate precisely its framing questions and provide textual support for its propositions while making clear their furthest stakes. While students are encouraged to cultivate the originality of their own questions or perspectives, they are also expected to be in productive dialogue with scholarship in the field. Accordingly, to be awarded Honors, a thesis will demonstrate a consistent citation style and clear and correct attribution of all terms and ideas not the student's own.

**The Translation Thesis:** Students may alternatively choose to undertake for their Honors thesis a work of translation. This choice must be made with prudence and in close consultation with the thesis advisor, so that there is agreement on the difficulty level of the chosen text, the argument for translating it, and expected standards of ambitiousness and precision in the translation. Usually the translation will be from French to English, though the case may be made on the rare occasion for translation from English to French. Students may choose to translate a whole work, select excerpts, or a series of texts (as in the case of poems or shorter narratives). In all cases, a translation thesis must, to qualify for French Honors, include a critical introduction or preface (a minimum of 10 pages) in which the translator demonstrates advanced knowledge of the place of the chosen text in its original cultural and literary context, engages reasonably with scholarship pertaining to the original text, and shows a mature understanding of the stakes and debates of translation as a practice.

**The Creative Project:** Some students may elect to undertake for their Honors project a creative work. This decision must be made in close consultation with the thesis advisor, so that there is agreement on the level of ambition and interest of such a project. The creative thesis may be a narrative, poetic, theatrical or experimental/hybrid text. Written in French, it is expected to involve a reading- or research-based dimension. In other words, the creative work will demonstrate meaningful engagement with analogous work in the French/Francophone context, and the pursuit of a certain scholarly intention through creative means—whether to advance knowledge or examination of a certain topic, to experiment with the formal means by which to express or explore a certain issue, or to creatively rewrite an existing work with a view to questioning it or investing it with new meanings. As with the translation thesis, a creative thesis must, to qualify for Honors, include a critical introduction or preface (a minimum of 10 pages) in which the author discusses, in informed and articulate terms, the cultural, literary and/or critical stakes of the project: its intentions, its context and background, its formal choices.

Honors students will be invited to present their work to members of the Department and fellow and potential French concentrators at the end of term sometime after the April final submission date.

## Calendar of Deadlines:

Precise details regarding deadlines and nature/length of submissions must be established clearly between the student and his/her advisor. Suggested deadlines for major stages are as follows:

- Submission of Applications to Honors Program - - **September 26**
- Rough outline of thesis due to thesis advisor by **the first week of November**
- First portion of written work due to thesis advisor (**minimum of 20 pages**) by **mid-December**
- Submission of full draft to both readers by **March 10**

· **Completed thesis** submitted to both readers by **April 16**