FRENCH AND ITALIAN

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Studies in French and Italian provide unique insights into the language, thought, and character of cultures different from our own. Such knowledge builds an awareness of our own society's diversity and the ways it resembles and differs from others. Proficiency in language and knowledge of culture are keys to careers in communication, media, business, the arts, and academia and are valuable components of any university education.

The department's programs are varied. Language courses, from the elementary through the graduate levels, develop communication skills for functioning at ease with foreign texts or in a foreign environment. Courses in literature and culture not only broaden and deepen insights into the thought and writing of other societies but also train students to think independently, to organize and analyze materials thoughtfully, and to discuss ideas effectively.

The department offers a minor in French, a major in French studies, MA and PhD programs in French, and a minor and a major in Italian. These may be supplemented by study abroad, which allows students to increase their knowledge of a foreign language and society while continuing university work abroad in a variety of fields. It is not necessary to be a major to participate in these programs.

French Study Abroad

Students studying abroad in France or other francophone countries may receive up to 7 credits (depending on program length) if the content of courses taken abroad relates in a substantive way to some aspect of French or francophone culture or society.

Programs of Study

- French Major (https://catalogs.northwestern.edu/undergraduate/arts-sciences/french-italian/french-major/)
- French Minor (https://catalogs.northwestern.edu/undergraduate/arts-sciences/french-italian/french-minor/)
- Italian Literature and Culture Major (https://catalogs.northwestern.edu/undergraduate/arts-sciences/french-italian/italian-literature-culture-major/)
- Italian Minor (https://catalogs.northwestern.edu/undergraduate/arts-sciences/french-italian/italian-minor/)
- French BA/MA (https://catalogs.northwestern.edu/undergraduate/arts-sciences/french-italian/french-ba-ma/)

See below for Italian Courses (p. 3).

French Courses

FRENCH 105-6 First-Year Seminar (1 Unit) WCAS First-Year Seminar

FRENCH 106-0 French for Research (0 Unit)

FRENCH 111-1 Elementary French (1 Unit) Conversation, grammar, reading, and writing for beginners. Four class meetings a week.

FRENCH 111-2 Elementary French (1 Unit) Conversation, grammar, reading, and writing for beginners. Four class meetings a week. Prerequisite: Grade of at least C- in FRENCH 111-1 or Department placement.

FRENCH 111-3 Elementary French (1 Unit) Conversation, grammar, reading, and writing for beginners. Four class meetings a week. Prerequisite: Grade of at least C- in FRENCH 111-2 or Department placement.

FRENCH 115-1 Intensive Elementary French (1 Unit) For students with some previous experience in French. Review and development of skills in speaking, understanding, reading, and writing as preparation for work at the second-year level. Four class meetings a week. Prerequisite: Department placement.

FRENCH 115-2 Intensive Elementary French (1 Unit) For students with some previous experience in French. Review and development of skills in speaking, understanding, reading, and writing as preparation for work at the second-year level. Four class meetings a week. Prerequisite: Grade of at least C- in FRENCH 115-1 or Department placement.

FRENCH 121-1 Intermediate French (1 Unit) Grammar review, conversation, reading, and writing. Four class meetings a week. Prerequisite: Grade of at least C- in FRENCH 111-3 or Department placement.

FRENCH 121-2 Intermediate French (1 Unit) Grammar review, conversation, reading, and writing. Four class meetings a week. Prerequisite: Grade of at least C- in FRENCH 121-1 or Department placement.

FRENCH 121-3 Intermediate French (1 Unit) Grammar review, conversation, reading, and writing. Four class meetings a week. Prerequisite: Grade of at least C- in FRENCH 121-2 or Department placement.

FRENCH 125-1 Intensive Intermediate French (1 Unit) French language and culture: conversation, composition, reading of cultural and literary texts, and grammar review. Three class meetings a week. Prerequisite: Grade of at least C- in FRENCH 115-2 or Department placement.

FRENCH 125-2 Intensive Intermediate French (1 Unit) French language and culture: conversation, composition, reading of cultural and literary texts, and grammar review. Three class meetings a week. Prerequisite: Grade of at least C- in FRENCH 125-1 or Department placement.

FRENCH 125-3 Intensive Intermediate French (1 Unit) French language and culture: conversation, composition, reading of cultural and literary texts, and grammar review. Three class meetings a week. Prerequisite: Grade of at least C- in FRENCH 125-2 or Department placement.

FRENCH 198-0 Independent Study (1 Unit) Credit for 1 quarter only. Prerequisite: Department approval.

FRENCH 199-SA Language and Culture (2 Units) Grammar, conversation, reading, writing, and culture study. Restricted to students in Northwestern’s Paris programs. Students completing this course must take a placement exam before continuing French at Northwestern.

FRENCH 201-0 Culture and Society (1 Unit) Development of fluency, accuracy, and creativity in speaking, comprehension, reading, and writing French; introduction to social, cultural, and literary topics. Prerequisite: Grade of at least C- in FRENCH 121-3 or Department placement.

FRENCH 202-0 Writing Workshop: Cultural Encounters in Contemporary France (1 Unit) Practical study of French grammar and structure; students develop and improve writing skills through practice in preparing short compositions. Prerequisite: FRENCH 125-3, FRENCH 201-0, or Department placement.

FRENCH 203-0 Oral Workshop: Individual and Society in France Today (1 Unit) Practical course to increase listening comprehension, build vocabulary and idiom use, and enhance communication skills. Prerequisite: FRENCH 125-3, FRENCH 201-0 or Department placement.
FRENCH 204-0 Acting French (1 Unit) Use of dramatic scenes, dialogues, songs and performance to help students improve their language skills and develop their interpretive, interpersonal and intercultural competence at the Intermediate Mid/High level. Prerequisite: FRENCH 121-3 or FRENCH 125-3 or FRENCH 201-0 or consent of instructor.

FRENCH 210-0 Reading Literatures in French (1 Unit) 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, AP score of 5, or consent of instructor. Literature Fine Arts Distro Area

FRENCH 211-0 Reading Cultures in French (1 Unit) Introduction to French and/or francophone cultures through texts and media from at least two periods; major themes, issues, and debates. Prerequisite: FRENCH 202-0, AP score of 5, or consent of instructor. Literature Fine Arts Distro Area

FRENCH 210-0 Introducing the Novel (1 Unit) Textual interpretation and analysis of short French novels from different periods, with special attention to formal issues. Prerequisite: FRENCH 210-0 or FRENCH 211-0, AP score of 5 in literature, or consent of instructor. Literature Fine Arts Distro Area

FRENCH 272-0 Introducing Theatre (1 Unit) Textual interpretation and analysis of French plays from different periods, with special attention to formal issues. Principles of tragedy and comedy; contemporary developments. Prerequisite: FRENCH 210-0 or FRENCH 211-0, AP score of 5 in literature, or consent of instructor. Credit not allowed for both FRENCH 272-0 and FRENCH 279-0. Literature Fine Arts Distro Area

FRENCH 273-0 Introducing Poetry (1 Unit) Textual interpretation and analysis of French poetry from different periods, with special attention to formal issues. Overview of major poetic movements. Prerequisite: FRENCH 210-0 or FRENCH 211-0, AP score of 5 in literature, or consent of instructor.

FRENCH 277-0 French Existentialism (1 Unit) Existentialism in its literary, philosophical, and cultural manifestations. Ethics Values Distro Area Interdisciplinary Distro - See Rules (https://catalogs.northwestern.edu/undergraduate/arts-sciences/#schoolrequirementstext) Literature Fine Arts Distro Area

FRENCH 279-0 Theater in Translation (1 Unit) Representative French plays from the 17th through 20th centuries; basic concepts of genre; social and historical context. Credit not allowed for both FRENCH 279-0 and FRENCH 272-0. Literature Fine Arts Distro Area

FRENCH 299-SA Language and Culture (2 Units) Study of French language and culture in Paris. Restricted to students in Northwestern’s Paris programs. Students completing this course must take a placement exam before continuing French at Northwestern. Prerequisite: Weinberg College French language proficiency.

FRENCH 300-0 French Phonetics (1 Unit) Development of near-native spoken French through practice in correct pronunciation. Phonetic system of contemporary French; introduction to basic issues of theoretical phonetics. Prerequisite: FRENCH 202-0, FRENCH 203-0, or consent of instructor.

FRENCH 301-0 Advanced Language in Context: Society and Popular Culture (1 Unit) Practical study of structure, syntax, and usage of French through contemporary media, cinema, theater, and popular culture. Prerequisite: FRENCH 202-0 or consent of instructor.

FRENCH 302-0 Advanced Writing: Finding Your Voice in French (1 Unit) Development of written expression for different communicative needs and functions based on the study of French writing styles and techniques. Prerequisite: FRENCH 202-0 or consent of instructor.

FRENCH 303-0 Advanced Conversation: Debating Contemporary France (1 Unit) Development of advanced proficiency and confidence in spoken French through practice of speech and discussion of issues in current French media and culture. Emphasis on culturally appropriate usage. Prerequisite: FRENCH 202-0, FRENCH 203-0, or consent of instructor.

FRENCH 309-0 French For Professions (1 Unit) French language as used in professional contexts. May include study of a specific field and differences from its American counterpart. May be repeated for credit with change of topic. Prerequisite: FRENCH 202-0 or consent of instructor.

FRENCH 310-0 The Middle Ages & Renaissance (1 Unit) Study of literary texts of the French Middle Ages and Renaissance with emphasis on their historical and literary-historical contexts. Prerequisite: FRENCH 271-0, FRENCH 272-0, or FRENCH 273-0, or consent of instructor. Literature Fine Arts Distro Area

FRENCH 322-0 Medieval French Narratives (1 Unit) Major narrative works of the French Middle Ages in historical context. Content varies; may include epics such as the Song of Roland, romances such as Chrétien de Troyes’s Perceval, and narratives of childhood. Texts read in modern French versions. Prerequisite: FRENCH 271-0, FRENCH 272-0, or FRENCH 273-0, or consent of instructor. Literature Fine Arts Distro Area

FRENCH 333-0 Topics in Renaissance Literature (1 Unit) Study of literary and other texts of the French Renaissance with emphasis on their literary, historical, and political contexts. May be repeated for credit with change of topic. Prerequisite: FRENCH 271-0, FRENCH 272-0, or FRENCH 273-0, or consent of instructor.

FRENCH 334-0 Montaigne and Modernity (1 Unit) In-depth study of the work of Michel de Montaigne and his models within the context of Renaissance history, politics and philosophy. All readings and discussion in French. Prerequisite: FRENCH 271-0, FRENCH 272-0, or FRENCH 273-0, or consent of instructor. Literature Fine Arts Distro Area

FRENCH 335-0 17th Century Literature (1 Unit) Topics and issues related to the literature and culture of 17th century France. Content varies; topics covered previously include theater and its social and political contexts, the rise of rational thought, and the development of fiction and poetry. May be repeated for credit with change of topic. Prerequisite: FRENCH 271-0, FRENCH 272-0, or FRENCH 273-0, or consent of instructor. Literature Fine Arts Distro Area

FRENCH 340-0 Sexual Politics and the Ancien Regime (1 Unit) Literary, intellectual, and political role of women in view of the debates generated by the issues of women’s power in the public sphere before the French Revolution. Prerequisite: FRENCH 271-0, FRENCH 272-0, or FRENCH 273-0, or consent of instructor. Literature Fine Arts Distro Area

FRENCH 344-0 Rousseau and the French Revolution (1 Unit) Analysis of Rousseau’s political thought and major literary works and their impact on Revolutionary ideology and culture. Prerequisite: FRENCH 271-0, FRENCH 272-0, or FRENCH 273-0, or consent of instructor. Literature Fine Arts Distro Area

FRENCH 346-0 Studies in the Enlightenment (1 Unit) Authors such as Rousseau, Diderot, Montesquieu, Voltaire, and Graffigny in relation to Enlightenment debates about science, religion, political authority, human nature, colonialism, gender, and slavery. Prerequisite: FRENCH 271-0, FRENCH 272-0, or FRENCH 273-0, or consent of instructor. Literature Fine Arts Distro Area

FRENCH 350-0 The Novel in French (1 Unit) Content varies; may include the novel of the ancien régime, the psychological novel, and the
Major trends in contemporary French theory and the way they have influenced literary studies in the United States. Literature Fine Arts Distro Area

FRENCH 379-0 Topics in French Literature and Culture (1 Unit) Advanced exploration of special topics in French studies. May be repeated for credit with change of topic. Prerequisite: consent of instructor. Literature Fine Arts Distro Area

FRENCH 380-0 Political & Social Thought in France (1 Unit) Major political and social trends in France from the ancien régime to the 20th century. Content varies. May be repeated for credit with change of topic. Prerequisite: FRENCH 271-0, FRENCH 272-0, or FRENCH 273-0, or consent of instructor. Literature Fine Arts Distro Area

FRENCH 384-0 Women Writing in French (1 Unit) Analysis of texts by women authors with regard to their respective social, cultural, political, and historical contexts. Prerequisite: FRENCH 271-0, FRENCH 272-0, or FRENCH 273-0, or consent of instructor. Literature Fine Arts Distro Area

FRENCH 386-0 Gender & Writing (1 Unit) Issues of gender and sexuality in the production of literary and other creative texts in various historical periods. May be repeated for credit with change of topic. Prerequisite: FRENCH 271-0, FRENCH 272-0, or FRENCH 273-0, or consent of instructor. Literature Fine Arts Distro Area

FRENCH 390-0 Topics in Literature and Culture (1 Unit) Topics, issues, and questions in French and francophone culture. Content varies; may include French and francophone cinema, the intellectual in France. May be repeated for credit with change of topic. Prerequisite: FRENCH 271-0, FRENCH 272-0, or FRENCH 273-0, or consent of instructor. Literature Fine Arts Distro Area

FRENCH 390-SA Topics in Literature and Culture (1 Unit) Topics, issues, and questions in French and francophone culture. Content varies; may include French and francophone cinema, the intellectual in France. May be repeated for credit with change of topic. Prerequisite: FRENCH 271-0, FRENCH 272-0, or FRENCH 273-0, or consent of instructor. Literature Fine Arts Distro Area

FRENCH 391-0 Theory and Practice of Translation (1 Unit) Intercultural communication through analysis of translation theories and translated works; translation exercises. Content varies; genres may include prose, poetry, graphic novels, and theater. Prerequisite: FRENCH 301-0, FRENCH 302-0, study abroad, or consent of instructor.

FRENCH 393-0 Foreign Language Teaching: Theory and Practice (1 Unit) Theoretical foundation and practical applications of second-language acquisition and applied linguistics. Analysis and design of pedagogical materials. Self-reflection and analysis of teaching style and teaching philosophy. Prerequisite: senior status or consent of instructor.

FRENCH 395-0 Advanced Studies in Culture and Thought (1 Unit) Theoretical perspectives and paradigms for understanding culture through in-depth study of a historical, cultural, or theoretical issue or of a literary or artistic work. Independent term paper. Prerequisite: senior status or consent of undergraduate advisor. Literature Fine Arts Distro Area

FRENCH 399-0 Independent Study (1 Unit) Independent reading and research. Topics arranged through consultation with an instructor and approval of the department.

Italian Courses

ITALIAN 101-1 Elementary Italian (1 Unit) Emphasis on oral communication, supported by grammar, writing, reading, and listening. Four class meetings a week. Prerequisite: none.

ITALIAN 101-2 Elementary Italian (1 Unit) Emphasis on oral communication, supported by grammar, writing, reading, and listening.
Four class meetings a week. Prerequisite: Grade of at least C- in ITALIAN 101-1 or Department placement.

ITALIAN 101-3 Elementary Italian (1 Unit) Emphasis on oral communication, supported by grammar, writing, reading, and listening. Four class meetings a week. Prerequisite: Grade of at least C- in ITALIAN 101-2 or Department placement.

ITALIAN 102-1 Intermediate Italian (1 Unit) Grammar review, conversation, composition, and readings in modern prose and drama. Four class meetings a week. Prerequisite: ITALIAN 101-3 or equivalent.

ITALIAN 102-2 Intermediate Italian (1 Unit) Grammar review, conversation, composition, and readings in modern prose and drama. Four class meetings a week. Prerequisite: Grade of at least C- in ITALIAN 102-1 or Department placement.

ITALIAN 102-3 Intermediate Italian (1 Unit) Grammar review, conversation, composition, and readings in modern prose and drama. Four class meetings a week. Prerequisite: Grade of at least C- in ITALIAN 102-2 or Department placement.

ITALIAN 103-1 Italian for Musicians (1 Unit) Italian language course for musicians, focusing on developing comprehension and pronunciation skills for operatic performance. Analysis of libretti and scores of Italian operas. Prerequisite: Grade of at least C- in ITALIAN 101-2 or Department placement.

ITALIAN 105-6 First-Year Seminar (1 Unit) WCAS First-Year Seminar

ITALIAN 106-0 Research (0 Unit)

ITALIAN 110-0 Italian in the Business World (1 Unit) Italian language course with an emphasis on communication and a cultural focus on business and its practices.

ITALIAN 133-1 Intensive Italian (1 Unit) Intensive double course covers two years of Italian language, the equivalent of Italian 101 and Italian 102, in a single academic year. Students enroll concurrently in ITALIAN 133-1 and ITALIAN 134-1 and receive 2 credits a quarter. Four two-hour class meetings a week. Prerequisite: none.

ITALIAN 133-2 Intensive Italian (1 Unit) Intensive double course covers two years of Italian language, the equivalent of Italian 101 and Italian 102, in a single academic year. Students enroll concurrently in ITALIAN 133-2 and ITALIAN 134-2 and receive 2 credits a quarter. Four two-hour class meetings a week. Prerequisite: Grade of at least C- in ITALIAN 133-1 and ITALIAN 134-1 or Department placement.

ITALIAN 133-3 Intensive Italian (1 Unit) Intensive double course covers two years of Italian language, the equivalent of Italian 101 and Italian 102, in a single academic year. Students enroll concurrently in ITALIAN 133-3 and ITALIAN 134-3 and receive 2 credits a quarter. Four two-hour class meetings a week. Prerequisite: Grade of at least C- in ITALIAN 133-2 and ITALIAN 134-2 or Department placement.

ITALIAN 134-1 Intensive Italian (1 Unit) Intensive double course covers two years of Italian language, the equivalent of Italian 101 and Italian 102, in a single academic year. Students enroll concurrently in ITALIAN 133-1 and ITALIAN 134-1 and receive 2 credits per quarter. Four two-hour class meetings per week. Prerequisite: Grade of at least C- in ITALIAN 133-1 and ITALIAN 134-1 or Department placement.

ITALIAN 134-2 Intensive Italian (1 Unit) Intensive double course covers two years of Italian language, the equivalent of Italian 101 and Italian 102, in a single academic year. Students enroll concurrently in ITALIAN 133-2 and ITALIAN 134-2 and receive 2 credits per quarter. Four two-hour class meetings per week. Prerequisite: Grade of at least C- in ITALIAN 133-2 and ITALIAN 134-2 or Department placement.

ITALIAN 134-3 Intensive Italian (1 Unit) Intensive double course covers two years of Italian language, the equivalent of Italian 101 and Italian 102,
ITALIAN 275-0 Dante's Divine Comedy (1 Unit)  Introduction to the Divine Comedy, its artistic and intellectual achievement, and its cultural and historical context. Literature Fine Arts Distro Area

ITALIAN 277-0 Global Neorealism (1 Unit)  Exploration of Italian neorealism and its influence on European (especially the French New Wave), New Latin American, West African, and Indian cinema. Literature Fine Arts Distro Area

ITALIAN 304-0 Politics and Mass Culture (1 Unit)  Culture of Italy from World War II to the present. Novels, films, popular culture.

ITALIAN 306-0 Migrations (1 Unit)  Italian literary practice in contact with groups that Italy has defined as other—either beyond or within its geographical boundaries. Literature Fine Arts Distro Area

ITALIAN 310-0 Reading Italian Literature (in Italian) (1 Unit)  Introduction to principal genres of Italian literature in historical and cultural context from the Middle Ages to the present. Authors include Dante, Boccaccio, Goldoni, Leopardi, Verga, Pirandello, Levi, and Montale. Prerequisite: One 200-level course in Italian or equivalent proficiency. Literature Fine Arts Distro Area

ITALIAN 347-0 Italy in Art and Literature (1 Unit)  Interdisciplinary course on Italian culture from the Middle Ages to the present. Each week pairs an artist with an author—for instance, Giotto/Dante, Michelangelo/Vittoria Colonna, Caravaggio/Galilei, De Chirico/Pirandello, Fellini/Flaiano. Literature Fine Arts Distro Area

ITALIAN 348-0 The Italian Novella (1 Unit)  Exploration of Italian culture through the form of the novella from the Middle Ages to the present. Each week is devoted to a groundbreaking author, such as Boccaccio, Sacchetti, Basile, Pirandello, Flaiano, and Calvino. Literature Fine Arts Distro Area

ITALIAN 349-0 Topics in Italian Culture and Literature (1 Unit)  Advanced exploration of special topics in Italian studies.

ITALIAN 350-0 Advanced Topics in Italian Culture and Literature (1 Unit)  Advanced exploration of special topics in Italian studies determined by the research interests of a visiting scholar. May be repeated for credit with change of topic. Prerequisite: consent of instructor. Literature Fine Arts Distro Area

ITALIAN 351-0 Italian Film and Transnational Cinema (1 Unit)  In-depth exploration of key Italian filmmakers in the context of transnational cinema. Focus on relation between filmmakers (including Visconti/Renoir, Rossellini/Godard, and Antonioni/Wenders) and dynamics of cinematic style and cultural influence.

ITALIAN 360-0 From the Avant-Garde to the Post-Modern (1 Unit)  Major authors and movements animating the modern and contemporary literary scene. Content varies—for example, futurism, feminist Italian fiction, and intellectuals and politics from D'Annunzio to Pasolini, Calvino, Eco, and the postmodern. Literature Fine Arts Distro Area

ITALIAN 370-0 Major Figures in Italian History and Culture (1 Unit)  Investigation of the strategic roles played by Italian artists (da Vinci), scientists (Galileo), and political philosophers (Machiavelli, Vico) in forming the canon of modern thought.

ITALIAN 374-0 Love and Sexuality in the Early Modern Period (1 Unit)  Analysis of how love and sexuality work as generalized symbolic media of communication in early modern Italian society and culture. Literature Fine Arts Distro Area

ITALIAN 377-0 Gender and Sexuality in Italian Culture (1 Unit)  Interdisciplinary course on gender and visual practices in Italy (photography, film, television, and video). Prerequisite: ITALIAN 251-0 or consent of instructor. Literature Fine Arts Distro Area

ITALIAN 398-0 Undergraduate Seminar (1 Unit)  Advanced analysis and research of a topic in Italian culture. History of culture, literature, philosophy, the visual arts, film studies and theory of the image, gender and sexuality in contemporary Italy.

ITALIAN 399-0 Independent Study (1 Unit)  Supervised independent reading. Consult the director of undergraduate studies.