

Francophone Studies

Because of its association with language and global issues, the Francophone Studies minor opens a window on the Francophone world, which includes French-speaking Africa, the Caribbean, North America, Europe and East Asia. Courses offered in Francophone Studies help students acquire a basic cultural competency of the Francophone world through the study of topics related to literature, history, global studies, art, politics, or environmental studies. This program provides a better understanding of the tensions that divide the contemporary world, as well as an appreciation for the diversity of our global society.

Requirement for a minor in Francophone Studies: Twenty credits including a minimum of four credits and a maximum of 12 credits of courses in French beyond FRE 111, starting with the course in which students are placed by the online placement evaluation. Depending on the number of credits taken in French language courses, between 8 and 16 credits of courses in Francophone Studies are required. Students who register for a minor in Francophone Studies are not allowed to pursue a minor in French at the same time.

Course work completed in a French-speaking country, either through an In Focus course or a Ripon College-approved study-abroad program, may be applied toward the French minor upon approval by the members of the French program. Students should consult with their advisor in Francophone Studies before departure about possible courses of study.

Retroactive Credits do not count toward the minor.

Jean-Blaise Samou is the advisor for the minor in Francophone Studies.

Study Abroad: See the Off-Campus Study: Programs Abroad section of this Catalog for information on Ripon programs in Paris and Montpellier.

109. Love, Passion, and Breakups in French Literature

Poncelet

Four credits.

This course examines works of French literature in which love plays a major role, from courtly love in the Middle Ages to the sexual revolution of the twentieth and twenty-first centuries. Through close analysis of novels, plays, poems, and films, we will discuss how the very definition of love evolves, as well as the nature of the relationships between men and women, how social conventions rule human passions, and why happy endings are so elusive in literature. Taught in English and counts toward the Francophone Studies minor. May be taught with a component in French and count for the French minor. *Prerequisite for students minoring in French: FRE 222 or its equivalent or recommendation of the instructor.*

133. Wars, Rebellions, and Revolutions in French Cinema

Poncelet

Four credits.

A study of classic and recent French films about the First and Second World Wars, colonial wars, and the numerous revolts and revolutions that cross French history. In addition to the historical and cultural background of each film, class discussions will focus on how directors shape, praise, criticize, or simply try to make sense of traumatic events in their history. The course will be taught in English and the videos and DVDs are subtitled. Taught in English and counts toward the Francophone Studies minor. May be taught with a component in French and count for the French minor. *Prerequisite for students minoring in French: FRE 222 or its equivalent or recommendation of the instructor.*

142. Critical Perspectives on Africa and its Diaspora**Samou**

Four credits.

Africa is often portrayed in the media as the continent of dictatorship, civil wars, poverty, pandemic diseases, starvation, etc. This course purports to develop a balanced understanding of Africa and Africans. Students will learn about the African continent, from the pre-colonial days to our modern era, through the study of literature, films, songs, and other artistic works produced by Africans from within the continent and from the diaspora. Throughout the semester, students will be required to remain informed about current events in Africa. Taught in English and counts toward the Francophone Studies minor. May be taught with a component in French and count for the French minor. Prerequisite for students minoring in French: FRE 222 or its equivalent or recommendation of the instructor.

143. Environmental Issues in the Contemporary Francophone World**Samou**

Four credits.

Over the past decade, numerous issues of global interest – the global warming, the Keystone XL Pipeline Project, the oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico, tsunamis and massive floods, and the increase of nuclear threat – clearly highlight the importance of environmental consciousness in international relations. This course examines how environmental issues are represented in fiction, cultural productions, and media. Students will learn how to analyze those issues from an ecocritical perspective. The course will concentrate on aesthetic forms and structures while taking into account different contexts (historical, sociocultural, economic, ethical, political and geostrategic) that inform artistic creation. A variety of genres, narratives and forms will come into play, including poems, short stories, novels, songs, video clips, films and media. Taught in English and counts toward the Francophone Studies minor. May be taught with a component in French and count for the French minor. *Prerequisite for students minoring in French: FRE 222 or its equivalent or recommendation of the instructor.*

144. Identity, Community, and Diversity**Samou**

Four credits.

Innumerable events on the world stage in recent years – the genocide in Rwanda, the 9/11 attacks, the earthquake in Haiti, Boko Haram in Nigeria, the Quebec Charter of Values – make it clear that multicultural competence and interfaith discourse are no longer a luxury. Rather, they should be considered as essential for our common life in the 21st century. Focusing on concepts such as place, race, language, gender, age, sexual orientation, cultural behaviors, and religious beliefs that nurture our sense of identity and belonging, this course increases facility with multiculturalism and interfaith communication in order to enhance professional competency and collaboration. The exploration of the culture, beliefs, and traditions of other people around the world will offer an opportunity to participants to reflect on their own culture, beliefs, and traditions, in an attempt to contribute to a peaceful and sustainable future for the human family. Taught in English and counts toward the Francophone Studies minor. May be taught with a component in French and count for the French minor. *Prerequisite for students minoring in French: FRE 222 or its equivalent or recommendation of the instructor.*

245. Francophone Media and Culture**Samou**

Four credits.

This course will introduce students to Francophone cultures through the study of popular media. It will analyze the issues, aesthetics, concepts, and debates that influence the production and consumption of popular culture. Through the reading of different types of production such as songs, cartoons, advertisements, films, printing and electronic press, radio, television and social media, students will discuss the importance of popular culture in shaping beliefs, identities, and social practices. Taught in English and counts toward the Francophone Studies minor. May be taught with a component in French and count for the French minor. *Prerequisite for students minoring in French: FRE 222 or its equivalent or recommendation of the instructor.*

246. Ecocriticism and Francophone Fiction**Samou**

Four credits.

This course will examine how environmental issues are represented in Francophone fictions and cultural productions. Students will learn how to analyze fiction from an ecocritical perspective. The course will concentrate on aesthetic forms and structures while taking into account different contexts (historical, sociocultural, economic, ethical, political and geostrategic) that inform artistic creation in the Francophone world. A variety of genres, narratives and forms will come into play, including poems, short stories, novels, songs, video clips and films. Taught in English and counts toward the Francophone Studies minor. May be taught with a component in French and count for the French minor. *Prerequisite for students minoring in French: FRE 222 or its equivalent or recommendation of the instructor.*

315. Postcolonialism: Nation, Migration, Integration**Samou**

Four credits.

This course will study how globalization and its corollaries, especially as they are related to imperialism, colonialism and their aftermaths, have raised major political, cultural, economic and security concerns in many Western countries that are now forced to welcome large groups of immigrants. Drawing on thoughts from fields as diverse as history, geography, political philosophy, literary and cultural studies, the course will also attempt to investigate ways to address questions of diversity and integration in a multicultural community. Under the generalized rubrics of 'nation', 'immigration' and 'integration', some of the themes that will be explored include: a) imperialism, colonialism and decolonization; b) displacement, diaspora and homelessness; c) minorities, race and racism; d) integration, multiculturalism, and cosmopolitanism. Taught in English and counts toward the Francophone Studies minor. Does not count toward the French Minor.

541, 542. Independent Study**Staff**

Variable credit course, 1-4 credits each semester.

Designed for students who wish to pursue a research project of their own design in Francophone literatures and cultures. Students must submit their proposal, along with an outline of their research program and a description of their final project to a professor of French who will serve as project director. Approval must be obtained prior to registration. The course may not be used as a substitute for any course in French or Francophone Studies offered by the department. No more than twelve credit hours of independent study or internship may be taken, and no more than eight credit hours may be in one department. A registration

form is required. *Prerequisites: junior or senior standing, consent of the department chair and a department project director.*