

# FRENCH

## Program Overview

Students of French students at Rider acquire an international perspective and a unique intercultural sensitivity. Advanced foreign language skills combined with intercultural expertise increase the employment prospects of our students in the global marketplace of the 21st century.

A minor in French offers students the opportunity to receive a practical grounding in the French language and culture through a challenging curriculum which may include study abroad. In addition, our language, literature, film, and culture courses prepare students to understand cultural diversity abroad and at home, to appreciate their own language and culture, and to gain global awareness. An individual fluent in another language acquires insight into the world in which we live. Faculty engagement in research and teaching excellence combines with our unique "accent on the individual" perspective through advisement and co-curricular opportunities to create a challenging yet supportive atmosphere in which students can realize their potential.

A minor in French will also complement many degree programs in business, education, music, and the liberal arts.

Students have access to the Foreign Language Media Center with 25 computer workstations with internet access for self-paced work and classroom instruction including interactive audio, video, and text-based materials.

## Curriculum Overview

Classes in the French minor include an introduction to French literature, French composition and translation, French for Business and the professions, French culture and French phonetics, and conversation. Students also study literature, culture and liberal arts. Students are strongly encouraged to spend one semester abroad.

## Student Learning Outcomes

Graduates with a minor in French will be able to:

1. demonstrate communicative competence in French;
2. discuss cross-cultural topics;
3. analyze and critique the products, practices, and perspectives of world cultures of the French and Francophone communities;
4. compare and contrast value systems across cultures.

## Honors Programs in Languages, Literatures and Cultures

The department faculty will identify prospective honors students at the earliest possible moment and offer them challenges and encouragement to develop to their highest potential. A student who has a 3.25 cumulative average and a 3.5 in the major may be invited by the department, upon recommendation of a faculty member, to become a candidate for the 3-credit honors thesis or capstone project. Details of the thesis or capstone project will be arranged to accommodate the interests of the individual student.

*The thesis/capstone project is completed during the senior year. It represents the culmination of a student's academic experience and is an irreplaceable learning experience for the development of research, writing, and critical thinking skills for graduate school admissions and success, as well as work in numerous careers. Students who*

successfully complete the thesis or capstone project and retain the required cumulative and major grade point average will graduate with honors.

## Degree Offered

- Minor in French

## Contact

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Professor

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**Program Website:** French (<https://www.rider.edu/academics/colleges-schools/college-arts-sciences/humanities-social-sciences/undergraduate/french-minor/>)

**Associated Department:** Department of Languages, Literatures and Cultures (<http://www.rider.edu/academics/colleges-schools/claes/liberal-arts-programs/foreign-language-literatures/>)

## Related Programs

- Chinese (<http://catalog.rider.edu/undergraduate/colleges-schools/arts-sciences/majors-minors-certificates/chinese/>)
- Spanish (<http://catalog.rider.edu/undergraduate/colleges-schools/arts-sciences/majors-minors-certificates/spanish/>)

## French Minor Requirements

(18 credits)

Code	Title	Credits
FRE 200 & FRE 201	French III and French IV <sup>1</sup>	6
Select four French courses at the 300-level or above from the following list:		12
FRE 300	French Composition/Translation	
FRE 301	French for Business	
FRE 305	An Introduction to French Literature	
FRE 311	French Culture	
FRE 320	French Phonetics and Conversation	
FRE 422	Cultural Expression in French Film and Television	
FRE 425	Portrait of the Hero in French Fiction	
FRE 430	Mask & Reality in French Theater	
FRE 435	Self in French Prose & Poetry	
FRE 440	A Quest for Identity: Francophone Literature and Culture	
FRE 490	Independent Study: Research and Creative Expression	
FRE 491	Internship in Foreign Languages	
FRE 496	Special Studies	
<b>Total Credits</b>		<b>18</b>

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Two advanced (300- or 400-level) courses will be substituted upon demonstrated proficiency.

Some of the requirements for the minor may be met by Study Abroad by agreement with the department. Students must enroll in at least one upper-level course upon completion of a Study Abroad program.

## Courses and Descriptions

### **FRE 100 French I 3 Credits**

Conversational French is taught through basic vocabulary and grammar building. Students will enjoy an immersion-style method emphasizing real-life situations and vocabulary in authentic cultural context, through an interactive textbook, videos, on-line resources, and oral/aural skill building using the technology in the Foreign Language Media Center to enhance learning. This course counts towards the fulfillment of the Essential Competencies element of the CLAS general education curriculum.

**Prerequisite(s):** Placement test if French has been studied elsewhere.

### **FRE 101 French II 3 Credits**

Building on learning in French I, students will begin to converse using more complicated grammatical structures within immersion-style classroom interactions. While the focus is still on conversation and aural skill building, composition skills receive greater emphasis. Students will enjoy an interactive textbook, Internet usage, and authentic videos shot on location in France. This course counts towards the fulfillment of the Essential Competencies element of the CLAS general education curriculum.

**Prerequisite(s):** FRE 100 or placement test.

### **FRE 200 French III 3 Credits**

This course builds on linguistic skills previously acquired through an emphasis on conversation and oral comprehension, and through vocabulary building. Grammar study is continued at a more advanced level, and students begin to read short passages focusing mainly on francophone culture and civilization. Film clips, Internet resources, and other computer-aided learning tools are used to create a dynamic immersion-style learning experience. This course counts towards the fulfillment of the Essential Competencies element of the CLAS general education curriculum.

**Prerequisite(s):** FRE 101 or placement test.

### **FRE 201 French IV 3 Credits**

While continuing the emphasis on aural/oral production and grammar and vocabulary building, short passages of greater complexity taken from literary texts, newspapers, and magazines will become the focus of conversation/composition activities. Technological resources will continue to enhance the immersion-style learning experience consistent with a course in advanced French. Successful completion of this course, or its equivalent, serves as a prerequisite for French courses at the 300 and 400 level. This course counts towards the fulfillment of the Essential Competencies element of the CLAS general education curriculum.

**Prerequisite(s):** FRE 200 or placement test.

### **FRE 300 French Composition/Translation 3 Credits**

An in-depth study of style, shades of meaning, and correctness of expression. Translation of business/professional/scientific/political texts will receive emphasis, and students will continue to perfect their writing skills, and review and improve advanced grammatical structures.

**Prerequisite(s):** FRE 201 or above, or placement test at 300-level or above.

### **FRE 301 French for Business 3 Credits**

The fundamentals needed to survive in the French professional and business world are taught. Students will continue to perfect oral/written/aural skills while learning about the cultural climate within which these skills will be used. Students will learn how to prepare effective business/professional correspondence and, through role-playing activities, will use their knowledge in such real-life situations as interviewing, telephone conversations, and business meetings.

**Prerequisite(s):** FRE 201 or above, or placement test at 300-level or above.

### **FRE 305 An Introduction to French Literature 3 Credits**

A chronological overview of the evolution of French literature from the Middle Ages to the present. Study and interpretation of selected works, authors or literary movements through the Renaissance, the classical period, Enlightenment, romanticism, realism, naturalism to representative works by authors of our century from Proust to existentialism, the nouveau Roman, theatre absurde and beyond.

**Prerequisite(s):** FRE 201 or above, or placement test at 300-level or above.

### **FRE 311 French Culture 3 Credits**

A study of modern France and French value orientations as they are rooted in tradition and history and continue to shape everyday life as well as institutions, social organizations, artistic expression, education, attitudes and human interaction. A comparative approach will examine the underlying differences between France and the United States. Classes are in English.

### **FRE 320 French Phonetics and Conversation 3 Credits**

This course is an introduction to French phonetics and is designed to help students further develop their skills in speaking French accurately and fluently. The course requires students to learn basic linguistic symbols and the phonetic alphabet as a theoretical step toward improving articulation and pronunciation. Moreover, special emphasis will be placed on the development of vocabulary and of appropriate communication techniques to participate in discussions in French. The course will be a mix of lectures, class discussions, debates, face-to-face conversations, and role games requiring a strong active participation. Counts toward major and minor requirements.

**Prerequisite(s):** FRE 201 or above, or placement test at 300-level or above.

### **FRE 422 Cultural Expression in French Film and Television 3 Credits**

A systematic analysis of selected French films and television broadcasts will reveal cultural value orientations as they relate to love, family, community, leisure, work, social, and political organization. A comparative approach will stress the underlying cultural differences between France and the United States. Course taught in French.

**Prerequisite(s):** FRE 201 or above, or placement test at 300-level or above.

**FRE 425 Portrait of the Hero in French Fiction 3 Credits**

This course deals with modern French fiction and its depiction of the role of the hero as a figure who gradually loses control over his fate (Stendhal, Balzac) and is changed into someone who struggles against ever increasing odds, only to be finally vanquished (Flaubert). The main character may find fulfillment in recollections of the past (Proust), explore the moral parameters of existence (Gide, Camus) or become the incapacitated anti-hero of Beckett's novels. Course taught in French  
**Prerequisite(s):** FRE 201 or above, or placement test at 300-level or above.

**FRE 430 Mask & Reality in French Theater 3 Credits**

A study of theater through the optic of a unifying theme: the mask and reality. The goal is to gain a greater appreciation of the art of dramatic illusion whereby actors, while wearing the masks of the characters they play, allow us to examine ourselves and reality in true, unmasked form. Playwrights to be studied will range from the classical theater of Racine and Corneille, through the modern avant-garde, existentialist and Theater of the Absurd works of such playwrights as Ionesco and Beckett. Course taught in French.

**Prerequisite(s):** FRE 201 or above, or placement test at 300-level or above.

**FRE 435 Self in French Prose & Poetry 3 Credits**

Are we determining or pre-determined creatures? What is our essential nature? Is the quest for salvation justified? A study of the historical, political, and social realities in which the texts were composed will shed light on the concept of the self. Representative authors from the Renaissance to modern times will include: Montaigne, Descartes, Pascal, Montesquieu, Rousseau, Hugo, Baudelaire, Apollinaire, Sartre, Camus, Duras, Sarraute, Colette, de Beauvoir. Course taught in French.

**Prerequisite(s):** FRE 201 or above, or placement test at 300-level or above.

**FRE 440 A Quest for Identity: Francophone Literature and Culture 3 Credits**

This course introduces the cultures of countries or regions where French is used either as the (or one of the) official language(s) or, in a less official capacity, by a segment of the population. In readings, discussions, songs, film viewings, and written assignments, students will experience the Francophone cultures of specific areas and the amazing diversity of the Francophone world. They will also explore the difficult relation of the Francophone countries with France. The course considers issues of social status, history, resistance, and identity. Counts toward major and minor requirements. Course taught in French.

**Prerequisite(s):** FRE 201 or above, or placement test at 300-level or above.

**FRE 490 Independent Study: Research and Creative Expression 1-4 Credits**

Independent Research and Study allows juniors and seniors in good academic standing to investigate topics of interest under faculty supervision. Projects must be approved by the faculty member, department chairperson, and academic dean no later than the third week of the semester in which the project is to be conducted. Only one project can be scheduled in a semester, and for no more than four semester hours; up to 12 semester hours of independent research and study may be counted toward graduation. Note that individual departments may have additional restrictions.

**FRE 491 Internship in Foreign Languages 1-4 Credits**

A supervised work experience in an approved organization to gain knowledge of the importance and interrelationship of foreign languages and cultures in the workplace. Placements can be made in international governmental agencies, international trade associations, multinational corporations, social service agencies, and other appropriate workplace environments both in the United States and abroad. With permission of the supervisor and faculty advisor, a three-credit internship may be substituted for a collateral requirement as credit toward the major.

**Prerequisite(s):** students should have completed at least one 300-level course in the foreign language.

**FRE 496 Special Studies 3 Credits**

Offered as needed to complement the program in French. A seminar open to a variety of topics treating a particular author, period, genre or critical approach.

**Prerequisite(s):** FRE 201 or above, or placement test at 300-level or above.