



# FRENCH ADVANCED COURSES

Spring 2018



*Romance Studies*  
BOSTON UNIVERSITY  
[HTTP://WWW.BU.EDU/RS](http://www.bu.edu/rs)

**LEVEL 1 ADVANCED COURSES**

**LF 307**

**FRENCH ARTS AND SOCIETY**

***Inventing Paris (Yost)***

In 1853, Georges-Eugène Haussmann began an immense construction project in Paris. His plan replaced the winding, narrow streets that had endured since the Middle Ages with broad avenues and grand apartment buildings. This development coincides with the emergence of Paris as both a setting for contemporary literature, and as a character in its own right, holding different meanings for its many poets, writers, and painters. In this course we will explore how Paris changed over the nineteenth century through examining poetic and fictional responses to the Parisian landscape, and through their explorations of what it meant to live in the capital. Readings will likely include works by Balzac, Baudelaire, Hugo, Zola, and Maupassant, and feature cinematic works by Godard and Varda, in addition to examples from new media. *Prereq: CAS LF212 or equivalent; or placement test results.*

**LF 308A1**

**FRENCH THROUGH FILM AND MEDIA**

**(Mattox)**

This course seeks to continue the development of students' proficiency in speaking, reading, writing, and listening through the exploration and examination of an array of contemporary Francophone movies and newspaper articles. Films and newspaper articles will be selected and designed to highlight sociopolitical issues and their relation to cultural diversity in France and in the Francophone world. Topics such as the struggle of exile and immigration, the condition of women, discrimination in the work environment, class diversity, and coming of age and identity, will be touched upon through a variety of film genres and newspaper articles. *Prereq: CAS LF212 or equivalent; or placement test results.*

**LF 308B1**

**FRENCH THROUGH FILM AND MEDIA**

***Queer identities (Dusévoir)***

This course invites students to explore the representations of sexual and gender minorities and the evolution of norms and assumptions in contemporary media and films (and graphic novels) in France and Canada. Movies will include works by Xavier Dolan (*Laurence Anyways*, *Tom à la ferme*), Catherine Corsini (*La Belle Saison*), Abdellatif Kechiche (*La vie d'Adèle*), Céline Sciamma (*Tomboy*, *Water Lilies*), Océane Rose Marie (*Embrasse-moi!*, *La Lesbienne invisible*) etc. This class is taught in French and students will reinforce their proficiency in speaking, writing, reading and listening in French. *Prereq: CAS LF212 or equivalent; or placement test results.*

**LF 309**

**FRENCH IN THE WORLD**

**(Alkan)**

This course invites students to examine the relationship between France and several of its former colonies, while providing an overview of colonial and postcolonial Francophone world and culture. Though the major focus will be on the status and the experience of immigrants, we will also touch on the major themes that are at the center of postcolonial studies, such as language, race, gender, memory, identity, as well as the necessary historical context. Students will reinforce their proficiency in speaking, writing, reading and listening through the study of excerpts of novels, films, short stories, with the goal to be introduced to image and textual analysis. We will begin with an introduction to French colonialism focusing more closely on the Algerian War. The focus then will be switched to topics of modernity, tradition, nostalgia, and the consequences of the border crossing and their impacts on the identity. In doing so, we will deepen our understanding regarding the dynamics and the politics of colonialism and post-colonialism, and the historical impacts of France's role in relation with its former colonies and its current position in the world. *Prereq: CAS LF212 or equivalent; or placement test results.*

**LF 311 FRENCH POPULAR CULTURE**

***La Bande Dessinée (Nicolas)***

This course looks to broaden students' understanding and appreciation of the world of French language comics, or bandes dessinées, from its invention in the 19<sup>th</sup> century to its current status as the 9<sup>th</sup> art. We will explore the history and phenomenon of bandes dessinées, examine the characteristics of the genre and learn how to connect the texts to the images. We will study a variety of works, themes, and graphic styles and their cultural function in society. Themes will include humor, national identities, the European and colonial contexts and immigration. *Prereq: CAS LF212 or equivalent; or placement test results.*

**LEVEL 2 ADVANCED COURSES**

**LF305 CREATIVE WRITING IN FRENCH (ADVANCED WRITTEN EXPRESSION)  
(Huckle)**

Intensive study of the art of writing through translation exercises and development of individual style through readings, analysis of writing styles, free composition and class discussion. *Prereq: CAS LF 303, 307, 308, 309, 310 or 311; or equivalent; or placement test results.*

**LF306 ADVANCED SPOKEN FRENCH (ADVANCED ORAL EXPRESSION)  
(Hawkes)**

Advanced training in rapid and idiomatic French speech. Oral reports. Role playing. Vocabulary building; Targeted work on pronunciation, intonation, and aural comprehension. *Prereq: CAS LF 303, 307, 308, 309, 310 or 311; or equivalent; or placement test results.*

**LF 341 CONTEMPORARY TRENDS IN FRENCH CULTURE AND SOCIETY  
(Bekkai)**

Through current articles and headlines, films, songs and French comedians, this class, **designed for but not limited to students returning from abroad**, explores the meaning and preservation of French "Culture"; looks into areas of social debate from a French perspective; and considers the identity crisis generated by globalization. *Prereq: CAS LF 303, 307, 308, 309, 310 or 311; or equivalent; or placement test results.*

**LF 348 CIVILISATION FRANÇAISE ET FRANCOPHONE  
*Exploring Cultural Identity through Food and Fashion (Raycraft)***

In this course, we will examine historical events, political structures, and cultural and social traditions that continue to shape contemporary French life. Using primary source materials, short stories, essays, and films, we will explore aspects of French civilization, including food and fashion, that expose the complex relationships between cultural, social, religious, and ethnic identities. Students will have an opportunity to refine speaking, writing, and research skills through presentations, essays, and independent projects. *Prereq: CAS LF 303, 307, 308, 309, 310 or 311; or equivalent; or placement test results.*

## LITERATURE COURSES

- LF 350**     **INTRODUCTION TO ANALYSIS OF FRENCH TEXTS**  
**Section A1 (Onesta)**  
**Section B1 (Melhman)**  
Development of techniques for reading and interpreting French literary texts. Special attention to the study of lyric poetry, drama, and short narrative. Carries humanities divisional credit in CAS.  
*Prereq: CAS LF 303, 307, 308, 309, 310 or 311; or equivalent; or placement test results*
- LF 351**     **INTRODUCTION TO THE FRENCH NOVEL (Kelly)**  
Close readings in the French novel from its origins to the nouveau roman. Attention to narration, themes, symbols, and schools. Investigation of the roman d'analyse, Romantic prose, realist fiction, and other types of narrative. *Prereq: CAS LF 350*
- LF 453**     **FRENCH ENLIGHTENMENT (Row)**  
Theaters of Deception. Paradoxes of the theater. Topics include: the spectator's deception and theatrical illusion; the actor's complicity and craft in generating emotions; conflicts between Church, State, and theater. Features student theater performances. Authors studied: Corneille, Moliere, Rotrou, Marivaux, and Diderot. *Prereq: CAS LF 350*
- LF 569**     **TOPICS IN FRANCOPHONE WRITING (Autréaux)**  
Through a Writer's Eye. Traces the writer's intimate reading itinerary through works of literature, science, and arts, and how these impact a critical or writerly practice. Each session includes a lecture followed by a discussion, all conducted in French.
- LF 571**     **TOPICS IN NINETEENTH-CENTURY FRENCH LITERATURE (Kelly)**  
Women and Gender. Representations of women and gender in works by major authors, such as Balzac, Zola, and Baudelaire. Texts by lesser-known women authors, such as Claire de Duras and Rachilde, bring out similarities and differences in their representations of identity.
- LF 586**     **READING NARRATIVE FILM (in English translation) (Fabbri)**  
Explores how European filmmakers have approached filmmaking more as a theoretical activity than as entertainment. Students learn the tools of cinematic analysis and apply them to a series of seminal (predominantly French) films, each suggesting a particular theory of film itself. Class conducted in English; films with subtitles.