

The French and Italian department offers a major and minor in French and Francophone studies supported by an extensive and distinctive curriculum of courses based on literary texts, film, and cultural and historical documents and other media. We offer courses in beginning Italian as well as beginning and intermediate Arabic language courses. We strongly encourage students to continue their language study abroad in a variety of programs suited to their interests and level of mastery.

## CURRICULUM OVERVIEW

**French:** The program is built on four integrated objectives: mastery of spoken and written French; acquisition of critical appreciation of literature written in French, and of French-speaking cinema; the study of culture through cultural analysis; and awareness of the life-changing experiences entailed in the intellectual and personal challenges of learning a different way of being. We encourage majors to live in La Maison Francophone residence hall on campus, where they may immerse themselves in the target language and culture in daily contact with native speakers.

In addition to beginning and intermediate language courses in French, we offer advanced courses in writing and stylistics. The broad intellectual and literary currents of French and Francophone literature, culture, and film are introduced in intermediate courses, and more specialized courses at the advanced level take up specific authors, works, periods, trends, themes, or approaches. A Freshman/Sophomore Colloquium provides incoming students with the opportunity to explore specific topics in a small-class environment. At the advanced level, faculty work

individually with students in private readings and on senior honors projects. We may offer advanced courses in alternate years or they may vary year to year, reflecting faculty research interests and topics of current interest to students.

The French major is interdisciplinary, allowing students in other majors to combine their interests in history, art history, comparative literature, cinema studies, Middle Eastern and North African studies, politics, and other subject areas with a major or minor in French.

Majors may integrate classroom learning with study abroad programs in France, Africa, and other countries, on-campus activities at La Maison Francophone residence hall, and opportunities to serve the broader community.

**Italian:** Students can enroll in a year of beginning Italian and, upon consent of the instructor, can further pursue their interest in Italian by scheduling private readings arranged with the instructor. Courses are designed to develop your ability to use Italian as a means of oral and written communication and to increase your understanding of Italian culture.

Class instruction is supplemented by such extracurricular activities as a weekly Italian Movie Night and lunch meetings at La Tavola Italiana, where students talk about Italy and Italian culture and further practice their Italian.

Other resources include the Paul and Edith Cooper International Learning Center, a language lab with tapes and other interactive materials to assist students in improving pronunciation and comprehension of a variety of foreign languages.

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**Arabic:** Courses include a year of beginning Arabic and a year of intermediate Arabic. In addition to speaking, reading, writing, and translating classical Arabic, students use material from medieval and modern Arabic, language laboratory materials, computer programs, SCOLA and Skype. For further study, you can schedule private readings, whose subject will be agreed upon with the instructor.

**La Maison Francophone or Bailey House:** This coed program residence houses 30 students and has a staff that includes a French-speaking faculty member and two graduate assistants from France. Such programs as a film series, concerts and various fêtes, study breaks, lectures, French breakfasts, and other activities, provide an informal cultural component to the French curriculum. Students also come together to speak French over meals at Chez Nous, the French dining room at Stevenson Hall.

**Study Abroad:** The department expects that French majors will spend at least one semester, and preferably a year, in an academic program in a French-speaking country. We recently established a bilateral exchange with the Institut de Sciences-Politiques, a prestigious grande école in Paris specializing in politics, economics, history, and European institutions. Oberlin is affiliated with several consortia-sponsoring programs in French-speaking countries, with Oberlin financial aid being applicable to approved programs.

Approved programs for French include the Council on International Educational Exchange (CIEE) Center for Critical Studies in Paris; the CIEE Contemporary French Studies program in Paris; the CIEE program at the Uni-

versity of Haute Bretagne in Rennes; the American University Center of Provence (Aix; Marseille); the Great Lakes Colleges Association programs at the University Cheikh Anta Diop in Dakar, and at the University of St. Louis in St. Louis, Senegal. The Oberlin Conservatory of Music sponsors a summer program in Italian language and culture in Arezzo for students interested in Italian, especially vocal music

### COURSE SAMPLING

- FREN 103 – Français élémentaire accéléré
- FREN 250 – French Cinematic Experience
- FREN 301 – Expression orale et écrite
- FREN 371 – Littérature française I: Du moyen âge à la Révolution
- FREN 411 – L’animal et l’homme, 1200-1800
- FREN 425 – La Litterature des Caraïbes francophones: Un discours post-Négritude
- ITAL 101 – Beginning Italian I
- ITAL 203 – Intensive Intermediate Italian

### ABOUT THE FACULTY

#### EunJung (Grace) An

Assistant Professor of French

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Interests: French cinema and visual studies, film theory, French orientalisms, contemporary French literature

#### Ivana Di Siena

Instructor of Italian

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Interests: Italian language, literature, cinema, language pedagogy

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**Elah Elizabeth Murphy**

Assistant Professor of French  
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Interests: Research and teaching interests: 19th and 20th century French literature, culture and history, interactions between visual and literary cultures, WWI and literature, French theater, roman feuilleton

**Jack Murphy**

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Interests: Contemporary French literature and culture, social conflict in the banlieue, race relations, cinema, critical theory

**Matthew Senior**

Associate Professor of French  
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Interests: Early modern French literature, animals in art, literature, and philosophy, contes de fées and the marvelous

**Marie-Claude Thomas**

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Interests: Arabic language, culture, and literature, representations of women in the Middle East

**Loïc Thommeret**

Faculty in Residence and Lecturer in French  
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Interests: 18th century French literature, philosophies, authority in fiction, cultural translation

**Agnieszka Tworek**

Visiting Assistant Professor of French  
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Interests: Contemporary French theater, incarceration in theater, Samuel Beckett, Émile Zola, popular performance in the second half of the 19th century

**Amy Warthesen**

Visiting Assistant Professor of French  
Interests: Early modern French literature, art, architecture and gardens at Versailles, hunting and literature

**Ali Yedes**

Associate Professor of French  
Interests: North African literature (Francophone and Arabic), Beur literature, francophone literature and culture in general