

FRENCH AND FRANCOPHONE STUDIES

Journalist. Teacher. Linguist. World traveler. Diplomat. Professor. Translator. Librarian. Government official. Arts administrator. Businessman or woman. Computer specialist. Midwife. Training in a foreign language can prepare you for anything – just ask the graduates of Lawrence’s French and Francophone Studies department. More than just intensive language training, a French major teaches you to think and analyze, to approach problems creatively, and exposes you to some of the most dynamic cultures in the world.

The French and Francophone Studies department is grounded in a historical approach to the study of literature and culture of the French-speaking world. This encompasses both classical French literature and Francophone literature from Canada and the French-speaking nations of north and West Africa.

The goal of French language instruction is to develop a student’s capacity to read, write, and speak French, with only French being spoken in the classroom from the very first class. Immersion experiences are provided for students each year, including an off-campus retreat at Björklunden complete with French cuisine.

CURRICULUM – *The French and Francophone Studies Major*

To major in French and Francophone Studies, you take a minimum of 60 units in language, civilization, and literature beyond French 202. If possible, you study in a country where French is spoken, whether France, West Africa, or Canada. Generally, part of the freshman year is spent taking language and grammar classes. After that you are free to choose from a variety of literature and cultural courses at different levels offered by the department. All French and Francophone studies majors are required to do a project during their senior year, usually in a capstone seminar course.

The department offers a concentration within the major in French and Francophone literature. You take ten

classes in literature, film, culture, and current events from France and the Francophone world.

The French and Francophone Studies Minor

Students interested in a French minor must take a minimum of 36 units in language, civilization and literature beyond French 202. French minors are strongly encouraged to study for at least a term in France, Sénégal, or Canada.

ADVANCED WORK IN FRENCH

As you reach the advanced level in your French and Francophone studies, you may develop a personal interest in a particular topic and want to pursue it further in tutorial with a professor.

The senior seminar offers you the most exciting opportunity to pursue your interests. Seniors choose the course topic and select the common readings, then work on projects which may be presented to other students and faculty in the Lawrence community. Under the rubric of seminar topics such as *l’Exotisme, le colonialisme et le monde post-colonial, Vivre en exil and l’Orientalisme dans la littérature française*, students have developed a variety of projects, including a comparative study of the autobiographies of West African women, an examination of the diaries of a 17th-century Jesuit missionary writing about North American Indians, and a collaborative presentation on the masculine vision of women in 19th-century art and poetry.

STUDY ABROAD: THREE OPTIONS, THREE CULTURES

France

Students may choose to study for one term or a full academic year in Paris or Nantes, France. Students initially take an intensive course in French and then pursue study in French language and culture. Typically, students are placed in French families and take excursions to Paris, the Loire valley and its châteaux, Chartres, and Mont Saint-Michel.

Senegal

Students participating in this seminar live with a family in Dakar for one academic term. They study French and Wolof (the national language), Senegalese history, culture, music and African literature written in French. Students interested in developing an understanding of non-Western culture have found this to be a very exciting program.

Chicoutimi

This program combines study of language and culture with an internship in Quebec, province’s beautiful Chicoutimi. Students live with a family and study language and Québécois culture for the first part of their 16-week stay. After a trial placement in a business or organization, students return to the classroom to prepare for their last month as interns. The seminar includes cultural excursions and exploration of the Québécois landscape - in French, of course!

LANGUAGE STUDY

Lawrence has a humanities computer lab (built in 2000) housing twenty computer stations in addition to computer projection capabilities from an instructor's station. Students can enhance their language skills and cultural knowledge through use of tapes, software, and the Internet.

The Seeley G. Mudd library has an extensive collection of French books, academic journals, and periodicals, including *Le Monde*, *Jeune Afrique*, *L'Intelligent*, *L'Express*, and *Le Nouvel Observateur*. The Media Center has many French and Francophone African videos, CDs, tapes, and records for you to use and receives French television stations to supplement your language study.

The department sponsors a French assistant, who is a native French speaker. In addition to providing tutoring, the French assistant organizes two weekly French tables in the dining commons, which provides an informal place for students and faculty to converse in French.

Björklunden, Lawrence's 425-acre estate located on the shore of Lake Michigan, offers a unique opportunity for the French department. Students and faculty can spend an entire weekend away from the Lawrence campus, speaking only French, eating French food, and discussing issues of French culture. This allows for true immersion in the French language. The French department currently holds the record for the most students attending a Björklunden weekend – fifty-two students plus the entire French department faculty and their families!

SPECIAL PROJECTS

Our seniors regularly present their capstone projects at the Harrison Symposium in the Humanities and Social Sciences.

In 1999, five senior women, Claire Breaux, Erica Callaham, Katherine Jo Moore, Sarah Phelps and Elizabeth Ritzenthaler Theiss, took on the task of translating 150 letters from Mlle Amélie Sérafon (a professor at Milwaukee-Downer College) to Bessie Wolfner, a former student who also became a teacher of French. Over a two-year period, students researched the women's lives and perfected their translations. Three of those Lawrence graduates who majored in French, Katherine Jo Moore, Sarah Phelps, and Elizabeth Ritzenthaler, presented the culmination of their work—*A Common Bond: Letters from Amélie Sérafon*—to Milwaukee Downer alumnae at their October, 2001 sesquicentennial celebration.

AFTER LAWRENCE

Lindsay Wells, '05, English Language Assistant, Académie d' Aix-Marseille, France

Ignacio Morande, '03, worked as the Liaison Officer with APEC Economies in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic Chile. Currently Deputy Director of Strategic Planning University of Chile.

Vlad Dima, '02, received his M.A. in French and is currently working on his Ph.D at University of Minnesota.

Sarah Phelps, '01, received a Fulbright Teaching Fellowship in Limoges, France.

Erik Moen, '00, completed graduate study in French at Middlebury and is now teaching in a college preparatory school.

Erica Callaham, '00, completed her M.A. at Middlebury College in Paris and teaches at a private school in Maryland.

Katherine Jo Moore, '00, received a Fulbright Teaching Fellowship. She has worked in the Lawrence admissions office and is currently earning her M.A. at Middlebury College in Paris.

FACULTY

Catherine Blunk, instructor Manhattanville College, BA Univ. of Wisconsin-Madison, MA Interests: Late medieval French romance and chronicle and manuscript studies French Literature

Eilene Hoft-March, professor Carroll College, B.A.; University of California, Berkeley, M.A., Ph.D. Interests: evolution of the novel, autobiography, literary criticism, 18th-century literature, 20th- and 21st-century literature, gender studies

Judith Holland Sarnecki, professor Knox College, B.A.; Portland State University, M.A.T.; University of Iowa, M.A.; University of Wisconsin-Madison, Ph.D.

Interests: 20th-century French women writers, narratology, film studies, theatre, gender studies, tattoos

Lifongo Vetinde, associate professor Université de Yaoundé, Cameroun, B.A.; Université de Dijon, France; University of Oregon, M.A., Ph.D. Interests: Francophone literatures and cultures, cultural studies, the French colonial novel, Francophone African Cinema.