

The Department of French and Italian

The Department of French and Italian offers a broad spectrum of courses in French for students wishing to major or minor in French, or who have a general interest in studying French. The department also offers courses in beginning Italian. The curriculum in French and Italian is complemented by numerous department-sponsored co-curricular activities and by several options for study abroad.

The Curriculum in French. In addition to beginning and intermediate language courses in French, we offer advanced level courses in intensive writing and stylistics and techniques of translation. The broad intellectual and literary currents of French and Francophone literature, culture, and film are introduced in 300-level courses, and more specialized courses in these areas at the 400-level take up specific authors, works, periods, trends, themes, or approaches. Courses at the advanced level may be offered in alternate years or vary from year to year, reflecting faculty research interests and topics of current interest to students. Recent or current offerings at the advanced level include: “Le Théâtre de Molière ou l’offense comique,” “La Littérature des Caraïbes francophones,” “Framing French Non-Fiction Film,” “Les Barbares de la littérature française,” “Littérature, art, et révolution au XIXe siècle,” “La Culture du livre,” “Le Viêtnam et la littérature,” and “Theatres revolutionnaires.” A Freshman/Sophomore Colloquium provides incoming students with the opportunity to explore specific topics in a small-class environment. Colloquium topics vary from year to year, recently including such subjects as “Les Voix amoureuses,” “Le Voyage,” “La Prison littéraire,” “La Fontaine,” and “La Tolérance de la Renaissance aux Lumières.” At the advanced level, faculty also work individually with students in private readings and senior honors projects.

Italian. Beyond the beginning Italian courses, there are various opportunities for study abroad during the summer and academic year. On occasion, students are able to arrange for private readings in Italian beyond the beginning level. Students enrolled in Italian are also able to chat over lunch at **La Tavola italiana** and to participate in an Italian film series.

La Maison francophone is a co-ed program house affiliated with the Department of French and Italian, which houses around 35 students and is staffed by a Faculty in Residence, two graduate assistants from France, and a resident assistant. Residents and other interested students come together to speak French over lunch and dinner at **Chez Nous**, the French dining room at Stevenson Hall. The program of **La Maison**, which includes a film series, concerts, various fêtes, study breaks, lectures, French breakfasts, and other activities, provides an informal cultural component to the French curriculum.

Student Employment Opportunities in the Department. Each semester, the department selects and trains a number of paid apprentice teachers to help in the instruction of beginning language courses. These positions are awarded competitively to interested and qualified advanced or native speaker undergraduates. We also recommend qualified students to serve as tutors in French and Italian. As needed, qualified students are also hired as research assistants.

Study Abroad in French and Italian. The department expects that French majors will spend at least a semester and preferably a year in an academic program in a French-speaking country. Faculty advisers work closely with students in choosing the program that best suits the student’s linguistic level and academic interests. Oberlin is affiliated with a number of 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 University of Haute Bretagne in Rennes; the American University Center of Provence (Aix; Marseille); the Great Lakes Colleges Association (GLCA) programs at the University Cheikh Anta Diop in Dakar and at the University of St. Louis in St. Louis, Senegal. For students interested in Italian (especially vocal arts), the Oberlin Conservatory sponsors a summer program in Italian language and culture in Urbania, Italy.

Winter Term. Each year, in addition to sponsoring many individual projects, the French staff organizes one or two Winter Term projects for groups, ranging from intensive language courses to theater workshops.

Inquiries about the French or Italian program are welcome. Please contact Janice Zinser, Department Chair, janice.c.zinser@oberlin.edu or 440-775-8193.

Faculty of the Department of French and Italian

AN, EUNJUNG GRACE

Assistant Professor of French. Ph.D., Cornell University, 2004. Research and teaching interests: French cinema and visual studies, film theory, French orientalisms, contemporary French literature.

DE JESUS, NELSON

Professor of French. Ph.D., University of Illinois, 1974. Research and teaching interests: 16th and 17th century French literature; autobiography; pedagogy; literary theory; critical theory; educational technology.

DI SIENA, IVANA.

Instructor of Italian. Laurea in Italian Language and Literature, 1998. Research and interests: Italian language, literature, cinema; language pedagogy.

LUCIA, ELIZABETH CAVITCH

Visiting Assistant Professor of French. Ph.D., New York University, 2006. Research and teaching interests: Medieval and Early Modern French literature, the City in literature, the literary construction of female voices, *Le Roman de la Rose*.

MURPHY, ELAH ELIZABETH

Assistant Professor of French. Ph.D., Stanford University, 2006. 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.

THOMMERET, LOÏC

Faculty-in-Residence and Lecturer in French. Ph.D., University of California-Davis, 2002. Research and teaching interests: 18th century French literature, philosophes, authority in fiction, cultural translation.

YEDES, ALI

Associate Professor of French. Ph.D., University of California-Davis, 1999. Teaching and research interests: North African Literature (Francophone and Arabic); Beur literature; Francophone literature and culture in general.

ZINSER, JANICE

Professor of French. Ph.D., University of Wisconsin-Madison, 1977. Research and Teaching Interests: Medieval French literature; 14th-15th century lyric poetry, translation, history of reading.

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