

Department of French and Italian
University of Wisconsin-Madison
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FRENCH

Why Study French?

French is a global language.

- ✓ The official language of 33 countries, widely spoken in at least 10 more and the second most frequently used language on the Internet.
- ✓ The first or second language of over 20 African countries.
- ✓ One of two languages spoken on five continents.
- ✓ One of the official languages of many international organizations: the UN, UNESCO, NATO, the EU, the International Red Cross, the International Labor Bureau, and even the Olympics.
- ✓ Required or preferred by 53% of international jobs listed by the U.S. State Department; 33% Spanish; 11% Russian; and 3% German.
- ✓ The second most frequently taught foreign language.

French and francophone cultures define esthetics in the arts and literature.

- ✓ France has won more Nobel Prizes for literature than any other country and is one of the most prolific producers of international films.
- ✓ Francophone literatures, unified in their use of the French language, provide access to African, Caribbean, North American, European, and many other world cultures.

France is a world leader in science and technology.

- ✓ The Human Genome Project is located in Paris.
- ✓ U.S. Coast Guard helicopters are made by France's *Aérospatiale* and *Airbus* is one of the world's leading manufacturers of airplanes.
- ✓ The "smart card" (cards with embedded computer chips), Minitel (the precursor to email and the Internet), fiber optics, HDTV, and high-speed rail are just some of France's recent inventions.

Canada is the U.S.'s largest trading partner.

- ✓ U.S.-Canadian trade is in fact the largest in the world.
- ✓ Montreal is the second largest francophone city in the world after Paris.

France is the #1 tourist destination in the world.

- ✓ France welcomes 70 million visitors each year.
- ✓ Paris is home to many international conferences and conventions (in fact, they set a world record in 1993!).

Why Study French at UW-Madison?

Award winning Faculty, Academic Staff, and Teaching Assistants are committed to undergraduate education in language, literature, and civilization.

- ✓ 14 Faculty have been recognized for excellence in teaching.
- ✓ Since 1999, 14 graduate students in the Dept. of French and Italian have been singled out among the top one half of one percent of all teaching assistants on campus for excellence in teaching.
- ✓ Since 1993, 15 graduate students in French & Italian have been chosen as "Teaching Fellows" by the College of Letters and Science.
- ✓ The department has been twice the top humanities department in the competition for the "Chancellor's Award for Excellence in Departmental Teaching" and won the prestigious award in 2001.

The UW-Madison Department of French and Italian is one of the largest of its kind in the world.

- ✓ 22 faculty members, 6 long-term and 12 short-term academic staff

langue

- ✓ 180 majors and double majors. 60 graduate students
- ✓ 1500 - 2000 language students per semester

Introductory and intermediate courses in French language offer diverse approaches to learning.

- ✓ Students of French are immersed in a communicative and relaxed environment in the classroom.
- ✓ Through a variety of current methods and materials, language courses emphasize speaking, listening, writing and reading. These four skills are reinforced through exposure to French and francophone culture, literature, civilization, and current events.
- ✓ No previous exposure to French is necessary to do well in French 101. The French language curriculum has been carefully designed to maximize each student's potential for success in the language.
- ✓ Audio and visual components in each class, often including the Internet, strengthen growth in the language and offer an extensive look at francophone cultures and civilizations throughout the world.

Courses

The Beginning and Intermediate French sequence (Honors options available at all levels of French.):

French 101-102 First and Second semester French
 French 203-204 Third and Fourth semester French
 French 227-228 Intermediate Language & Culture
 French 271 Introduction to Literary Analysis

UW-Madison students of French have a wide variety of opportunities on campus and around the world to increase their knowledge, experience, and enjoyment of all things French.

- ✓ **The French House** has been a residence for UW students for over 80 years. It is also the central meeting place for departmental conferences, receptions, and other activities such as the weekly movie series and meals open to the public. A true immersion experience, the French House remains one of the few places in the U.S. (outside of the classroom) where only French is spoken on a daily basis.
- ✓ Each year, over 100 UW-Madison B.A. & B.S. students **study abroad** in France, Senegal, Quebec (Canada), or Morocco for a year, a semester, or a summer. In addition, the College of Engineering offers 6 programs in France, the School of Business organizes exchanges with French universities, and students in the Medical School can find internships in France. Most programs have requirements of 4-5 college-level semesters of French.
- ✓ The Department has established **cooperative programs** with the School of Political Science in Paris, and the University of Geneva (Switzerland). Through the French Cultural Services, the Department also arranges for graduates and undergraduates (over 70 in 2001) to spend a year as a teaching assistant in a French public school (K-12+).
- ✓ In addition to majors in French and French education, the Department of French and Italian continues to increase its offerings. For example, **business** and (soon) **engineering** students can obtain a **certificate** in French. Many French classes are "**cross listed**" with departments such as Women's Studies, Communication Arts, International Studies, African Studies, African Languages and Literature, and Medieval Studies.

Learning French will do more than satisfy a requirement for graduation, it will help get you out of school and on the job faster!

- ✓ "**Retro credits**" bring students closer to graduation. Students who enter the French program anywhere above the first semester, and who receive at least a B, are awarded retroactive degree credits for all courses leading up to that semester and, as a result, be able to register for classes earlier than many other students who entered the university at the same time.
- ✓ **Over 1,200 French companies in the U.S. employ half a million Americans.** Some of the most recognizable are Michelin, Mack Trucks, Zenith, RCA-Thompson, Air France, Bic, American National Can Corporation, and Dannon. Many American corporations have offices in French-speaking countries. **These include IBM, Microsoft, The Gap, Banana Republic, Harley Davidson, international banks, legal firms, hotels and restaurant chains, research laboratories and manufacturers of products from medical equipment to farm implements.**

Contact

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