



BA in French Studies with History

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Year 1

ULL101 - Grammar and written expression

Course value: 30 credits

Course type: Compulsory

Language of teaching and assessment: French

Semesters taught: both

Learning outcomes

- Show enhanced sensitivity to the subtleties of written language
- Analyse and evaluate differences in tone, style and register
- Improve and develop ability to write grammatically correct French
- Use a greater variety of grammatical structures
- Extend vocabulary

Course summary

Present tense: revision of key conjugations

Past tenses: imperfect, relationship between imperfect and perfect tenses

Compound tenses: choice of auxiliary, agreement of past participle, pluperfect

Future and conditional

Past and present subjunctive

Direct and indirect pronouns

Present participle and gerund

Modality: expressions relating to causality, consequence, intentionality, concession, opposition, hypothesis and conditionality

Relative pronouns and articles

Methods of assessment:

Two homework assignments (10% each) and one 2-hour examination (80%)



ULL102 - Oral and written communication strategies

Course value: 15 credits

Course type: Compulsory

Language of teaching and assessment: French

Semesters taught: both

Learning Outcomes

- Demonstrate enhanced proficiency in written and oral French language skills
- Present a correct and appropriate personal CV, and to have improved competence and confidence in professional communication situations (e.g. job interview), thus enhancing personal employability
- Have increased confidence in participation in group discussions in French
- Show improved pronunciation, accent, choice of vocabulary and registers of language appropriate to different situations
- Demonstrate enhanced capacity to produce correct and appropriate written French in a range of basic registers

Course summary

This course aims to enhance students' competence in the core skill areas of written expression, continuous oral expression (oral presentation work) and conversational competence (free conversation in group setting). It will also aim to improve pronunciation, fluency, accent, vocabulary and capacity to appreciate and produce different registers of oral and written language.

L102 (Professional communications) – CV preparation and review; role-play in mock job interview as candidate and panellist; group work on presenting a business 'pitch' with accompanying multi-media materials.

L102b - Stratégies de communication - aims to improve students' capacity to produce grammatically and stylistically correct and appropriate written French through the study of a range of writing exercises.

Methods of Assessment

Two pre-prepared oral presentations in French (15% each), one written test (50%) and one end-of-year oral exam (20%).



ULC100 - Oeuvres: Critical approaches to literature and visual arts

Course value: 30 credits

Course type: Compulsory

Language of teaching and assessment: French

Semesters taught: both

Learning Outcomes

- Use appropriate vocabulary for describing and commenting upon the expressivity of a written or visual work: composition, point of view, chronological perspective, etc...
- Situate works studied within the social, political and cultural context of post-1789 France
- Start to read literary and visual documents critically
- Demonstrate enhanced capacity to organise analysis into a sustained argument
- Demonstrate enhanced capacity to present written analytical work according to the conventions of academic writing in French
- Demonstrate increased familiarity with key cultural sites by undertaking recommended site visits

Course summary

This course aims to provide students with the critical and analytical skills needed to engage with a range of written and visual media, as seen from the point of view of generic construction, representative qualities and historical contextualisation.

Through participation in seminar discussion in French and presentation of analytic essays and commentaries written in French, students will improve their capacity to develop critical ideas in written and oral format.

Methods of Assessment

Four pieces of written work, either an essay or a commentary exercise (15% each) and one end-of-year written examination (40%).



ULC110 - *Histoire et Histoires*: Social, political and cultural issues: from the Revolution to the present day

Course value: 30 credits

Course type: Core

Language of teaching and assessment: French

Semesters taught: both

Learning Outcomes

- Identify the major institutional and ideological factors at play in the social, political and cultural development of modern and contemporary France
- Engage with relevant historical scholarship
- Analyse a range of historical sources including texts, images and Parisian sites and monuments
- Synthesise ideas into a sustained argument both orally and in written form
- Use an appropriate vocabulary in French for describing and commenting upon historical factors influencing sociological, political and cultural life from the Revolution to the present day
- Present written work in French according to standard academic conventions.

Course summary

This course aims to provide students with an awareness of the major political, social and cultural transformations in France and the empire from the end of the Ancien Régime to the Fifth Republic. Through the critical examination of historical scholarship and the analysis of a range of source materials, students will be introduced to key elements of historical methodologies. The course is taught and assessed entirely in French; students should develop enhanced capacity to organise and structure their ideas both orally and in written form.

Methods of Assessment

2 pieces of written work in French (one essay and one commentary – 25% each) and a 2-hour end-of-year written exam (50%).



ULC120 - La France contemporaine

Course value: 15 credits

Course type: Compulsory

Language of teaching and assessment: French

Semesters taught: both

Learning Outcomes

- Show basic understanding of French institutions and political practices developed between 1958 and the present day
- Undertake basic analysis of the major political institutions and events that have shaped French post-war society
- Discuss in French issues relating to government in France at local, national and supra-national levels
- Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of the above in a written examination requiring long and short essay answers in French.

Course summary

This course introduces students to the ways in which institutions and political practices have developed since 1958 and how they, in turn, have been shaped and responded to the changes affecting post-war French society. The first part of the course comprises a series of introductory lectures and workshops relating to some of the major characteristics of contemporary French politics (institutions, the state, party politics). Particular focus will be placed on the republican tradition's ongoing influence and the idea of a "French exception". The second part of the course offers a thematic approach by focusing on a selection of social and political issues (immigration, race and ethnicity, gender, religion), and analysing the ways in which they have contributed to shape common understandings about what being French means in the late 20th and early 21st century.

Methods of Assessment

1 group project in French (40%), an oral assessment in French (20%) and a 2-hour end-of-year written examination (40%).



Year 2

ULL200 - Advanced grammar of written and spoken French

Course value: 15 credits

Course type: Compulsory

Language of teaching and assessment: French

Semesters taught: both

Learning Outcomes

- Show enhanced capacity to communicate with grammatical accuracy in both oral and written French
- Demonstrate improved appreciation of different registers of written and oral French
- Show increased awareness of French print and broadcast media, and enhanced capacity to discuss and to present material from those media
- Demonstrate enhanced appreciation of different styles of French language in written and oral French
- Show increased ability to use different styles and registers of French in written and oral French

Course summary

This course aims to develop enhanced ability in relation to grammatical, lexical and stylistic aspects of French. In order to improve students' capacity to produce good quality written French, this course will also aim to address common grammar problems encountered by learners of French as a second language. Students will develop their oral proficiency in advanced continuous expression and conversational competence through activities based on reviewing print and broadcast media ('revue de presse'). Development of advanced grammatical structures and acquisition of an extended vocabulary appropriate to a variety of intellectual and social contexts will form a common core for both the oral and written elements.

Methods of Assessment

One summative written homework (10%), one oral presentation (15%), one oral examination (25%) and one 2-hour written examination (50%).



ULL210 - Introduction to translation

Course value: 15 credits

Course type: Compulsory

Language of teaching and assessment: French and English

Semesters taught: both

Learning Outcomes

- identify, contextualise and analyse different types of texts in French and in English in their given context prior to attempting to translate them
- pinpoint potential problem areas of translation in a text and examine proposed solutions critically
- select and use reference works and translation tools effectively
- carry out both in-depth close translations as well as freer improvised unseen translations of different types of text in target language
- demonstrate enhanced sensitivity to lexical and syntactical differences between French and English
- show improved capacity to produce different basic registers of language in both English and French

Course summary

This course aims to understand the basic principles and mechanisms of translation, acquire a sensitivity to textual register and improve students' capacity for written expression in French and English. The emphasis will be on 'academic' translation using a selection of contemporary literature texts (narrative, descriptive, conversational, discursive), although other types of text (journalistic, economic, scientific) will also be discussed.

Methods of Assessment

Two summative assessments during the year, (one translation into French and one translation into English), worth 25% each and one 2-hour examination with one translation into French and one translation into English.



ULC214 - History and Memory I – *Les récits nationaux*

Course value: 15 credits

Course type: Core

Language of teaching and assessment: French

Semester taught: 1

Learning Outcomes

- Demonstrate detailed historical knowledge of the French Revolution and republican political culture in the nineteenth century
- Understand the historical processes involved in the construction of individual, local, collective and national memories
- Apply historical methodologies to recognise and analyse diverse kinds of primary sources
- Construct and communicate an historical argument in oral and written work
- Understand the nature of historical debates concerning the Revolution and its legacy and engage critically with the relevant scholarship

Course summary

How do the stories we tell about the past shape our understandings of ourselves in the present? Focusing on official and unofficial practices of commemoration in the 19th and 20th centuries, this course examines the processes through which a French national community has been constructed and contested. Reflecting on the heritage of the French Revolution, imperial expansion and 19th-century political crises such as the Commune and the Dreyfus Affair, students will learn about republican political culture and its legacy of tension in contemporary France. Based on the historical analysis of festivals, texts, and social behaviours, and the architecture, monuments and artworks visible in Paris today, the course encourages students to reflect on the relationship between cultural practice and political structures.

Methods of Assessment

One 1500-word document analysis (50%) and one 1500-word essay (50%) in French.



ULC224 - History and Memory II: *conflit et commémoration*

Course value: 15 credits

Course type: Core

Language of teaching and assessment: French

Semester taught: 2

Learning Outcomes

- Demonstrate detailed historical knowledge of French society, politics and culture in the 20th century
- Understand the historical processes involved in the construction of individual, local, collective and national memories
- Apply historical methodologies to recognise and analyse diverse kinds of primary sources
- Construct and communicate an historical argument in oral and written work
- Engage critically with historical scholarship on memory and commemoration of the events covered in the course.

Course summary

Marked by two World Wars, bitter conflicts in colonial territories and popular uprisings in the metropole, the 20th century provoked emotional trauma in French society and posed considerable challenges to French political structures. This course examines the impact of such events on French cultural and political identifications, asking how such events have been remembered by different sections of French society. Students will consider the nature of 'collective memory', how it is formulated, and the social tensions it may engender. Who or what may be forgotten in commemorations of such events, and why? Using a variety of materials, including Parisian sites and monuments, newsreel footage, political speeches and contemporary films, students will reflect on the cultural expression of trauma, its potential for political manipulation, and the problematic attraction of nostalgia.

Methods of Assessment

One 2000-word essay in French (50%) and one two-hour examination (50%).



Students choose four of the following options.

ULC201 - Introduction to French linguistics

Course value: 15 credits

Course type: Optional

Language of teaching and assessment: French

Semester taught: 1

Learning Outcomes

- Interpret personal experience of language within the conceptual frameworks studied
- Apply linguistic analysis to a given text or situation
- Appreciate and contrast different theoretical approaches to and interpretations of a given text or situation
- Understand a broader range of academic texts dealing with linguistic issues
- Master the specialist vocabulary needed to describe and analyse a variety of linguistic concepts and phenomena

Course summary

This course explores linguistics as an intellectual discipline, taking particular account of the French context and aspects of the French language. The origins of human language, as well as the line of descent of Modern French from Indo-European through Latin, are considered, with particular attention to standardisation processes and linguistic policies affecting the other langues de France (Breton, Basque, Occitan, Créole, etc.). The various sociolects and français régionaux within France and the wider Francosphère as well as the issues at stake for the French language in a time of linguistic globalisation are examined (taught and assessed in French, one assessed essay, one exam).

Methods of Assessment

One essay of 2500 words in French - (60%) and one examination in French (40%).



ULC202 - Language, media, society

Course value: 15 credits

Course type: Optional

Language of teaching and assessment: English

Semester taught: 2

Learning Outcomes

- Understand research methodology at the appropriate level and appropriate to the study of media, politics and business
- Demonstrate an awareness of historical and political debates and issues appropriate to the material under consideration
- Articulate and debate complex ideas and material at the appropriate level
- Develop an understanding of the basic principles of the cultural theories studied
- Show improved capacity to analyse media in written and oral form

Course summary

This course is an introduction to theoretical principles – Ways of Seeing, Ways of Thinking, using texts from a variety of contemporary media, including business, advertising, politics and journalism. The course content will be a series of 10 weekly Seminars, exploring the following themes through media coverage, and using a range of methodologies derived from the cultural theorists studied:

National identity / colonialism

The State / liberalism

Democracy/ republicanism

Secularism/ religion

Banlieues/education.

Methods of Assessment

One group oral presentation in English (50%) and one 2-hour examination in English (50%) which will include a commentary and an essay question.



ULC212 - *Identities I: Gender and sexuality*

Course value: 15 credits

Course type: Optional

Language of teaching and assessment: French

Semester taught: 1

Learning Outcomes

- Show an extended knowledge of 20th-century French-language literature
- Have an improved understanding of the changes in twentieth-century France, especially regarding the role of women in the family and society
- Demonstrate heightened awareness of the issues relating to gender equality and the struggle for its acquisition in France
- Analyse autobiographical works and take into account the particularities of this genre
- Show enhanced ability to discuss the importance of historical context to cultural production

Course summary

This course will introduce students to the themes of gender and sexuality in a range of modern and contemporary literary texts in which autobiographical inspiration plays a strong role. Using a range of theoretical approaches and taking account of the changing historical and social contexts from which these texts emerged, students will develop their literary analysis skills through in-class discussions based on close readings of the primary texts. It offers students the opportunity to familiarise themselves with a range of important modern French-language authors.

Methods of Assessment

One 1000-word commentary (40%) and one 2000-word essay (60%) in French.



ULC213 - Twentieth-century art

Course value: 15 credits

Course type: Optional

Language of teaching and assessment: French

Semester taught: 2

Learning Outcomes

- Examine the progression of artistic movements in 20th-century France
- Understand the socio-historical, political and ideological influences behind these movements
- Develop an understanding of critical analyses of visual imagery
- Engage with various theoretical debates concerning artistic analysis and interpretation
- “Read” and present an analysis of a fixed image using contextual and theoretical approaches

Course summary

This course examines the major artistic movements which emerged during the 20th century in France. It begins by briefly considering the influential currents of the late 19th century which contributed to early expressions of the Avant-Garde. It then concentrates on the principal movements of the century, notably cubism, dada, surrealism and nouveau réalisme, studying the origins and evolution of these trends and closely analysing key artistic examples from these movements. The course concludes with a brief study of photography over the 1900s, before focusing in the last class on photo-textuality, a means of artistic expression popular at the close of this dynamic century.

Methods of Assessment

One 1000-word commentary (40%) and one 2000-word essay (60%) in French.



ULC220 - Instruction for the nation: L'Éducation nationale

Course value: 15 credits

Course type: Optional

Language of teaching and assessment: French

Semester taught: 1

Learning Outcomes

- Demonstrate proficiency in analysing different sorts of documentary resources, including academic histories, novels, statistical tables, monuments, exhibitions, documentary and film, pamphlets, posters, etc., and in applying critical evaluation techniques (comparison, contextualisation, critique) to these materials.
- Start to understand and make judgements about the relations between history and myth, reality and fiction, and fact and ideology.
- Demonstrate capacity for oral and written presentation of coherent critical analysis of the documentary material used in the course.
- Start to evaluate critically and coherently the current political and social landscape in France

Course summary

Divided into two halves, this course charts the context of the creation of the national education system in France in 1881, its consolidation through the Third Republic and its contribution to the stabilization of the Republic, and its evolution in the post-1945 era, focusing initially on the major reforms that extended the school leaving age and put in place the structures intended to provide 'égalité des chances'. The second phase of the course will analyse a series of contemporary representations of "school" in France, primarily filmic representations.

Methods of Assessment

One 1500-word commentary exercise in French (40%) and one 2000-word essay in French (60%).



ULC221 - A Tale of two cities

Course value: 15 credits

Course type: Optional

Language of teaching and assessment: English

Semester taught: 1

Learning Outcomes

- Show an extended knowledge of 19th and 20th-century literature
- Begin to think critically about the lived environment within a variety of conceptual frameworks
- Develop a historical and cultural framework in which to understand comparisons between London and Paris in the modern period
- Think comparatively about fictional texts emerging out of different cultural traditions and literary movements
- Demonstrate improved close reading skills and the ability to relate them to lived experience
- Integrate textual analysis into the development of a sustained argument

Course summary

This comparative literature course explores the interplay between fictional representation and material construction through the study of two of the great world cities, Paris and London. It considers how metaphors such as the labyrinth, the bowels and the monster have shaped visions of the city through the industrial era and on into the years following World War I. And it examines what certain key protagonists - the ambitious upstart, the destitute young girl, the society hostess... - of these “urban” texts tell us about comparative conceptions of the city.

Methods of Assessment

Two written assignments in English totalling 3000 words (50% each).



ULC222 - Economic issues- Part 1

Course value: 15 credits

Course type: Optional

Language of teaching and assessment: French

Semester taught: 2

Learning Outcomes

- Analyse and reflect critically on economics-related data
- Undertake background research and to synthesize and collate large amounts of information effectively
- Present ideas orally and in written form in business scenario situations
- demonstrate familiarity with three key areas of economics

Course summary

This course aims to introduce and discuss current themes relating to the field of economics, such as growth and development, the major factors involved in economic growth (innovation and productivity), employment and the consequences of unemployment and state intervention in the Economy. The course is shaped around the introduction of key aspects which contribute to the construction of a large portion of the economic information that we read in the media.

Methods of Assessment

One 2000-word essay in French (50%) and one two-hour written test including a commentary exercise and one essay question in French (50%).



ULC223 - Text, image and mass culture

Course value: 15 credits

Course type: Optional

Language of teaching and assessment: French

Semester taught: 2

Learning Outcomes

- Understand the interrelation of textual and visual elements in mass audience mixed-media forms
- Examine the progression of 20th-century French text-image forms
- Develop an understanding of critical analyses of visual imagery
- Engage with various theoretical debates concerning what makes or describes mass audience text-image media
- “Read” and present an analysis of a fixed image using both contextual and theoretical approaches.

Course summary

This course closely studies popular artistic forms mixing text and image. Starting with the emblem in the Early Modern world, we then consider the caricature—an artistic form so powerful in the late 18th and 19th century in France that its influence rivalled that of ‘the two legislative chambers combined’. The course then moves forward to closely study two forms of 20th century mass culture – the bande dessinée and advertising. We examine the utility of comic strips as a socio-historical document, and consider racialised and gendered representations within specific Francophone works, notably Hergé’s Tintin au Congo. Then we study advertising in France, considering the origins and evolution of this continually influential text-image form. The course finishes with an examination of the propaganda poster, a text-image form used to sometimes deadly effect throughout the 20th century.

Methods of Assessment

One 2000-word essay in French (50%) and one two-hour examination (50%).



ULC225 - Identités II: Introduction to the Francosphere

Course value: 15 credits

Course type: Optional

Language of teaching and assessment: French

Semester taught: 2

Learning Outcomes

- Demonstrate an appreciation of the diversity of literary representations of the Francophone world, and of issues relating to their reception
- Acquire an improved understanding of the issues raised by the reciprocal and dynamic influences of the French language and francophone cultures
- Critically assess the ways in which authors and their texts represent issues such as language, gender and national identity, 'Frenchness' and writing
- Engage with current theoretical debates regarding Francophone and postcolonial literature

Course summary

Contemporary literature in French represents a rich and diverse body of work by writers from the many French-speaking territories around the world, as well as by writers who have adopted the French language for different reasons. This course studies a number of literary texts by writers from across the francosphère which explore key themes such as national identity and language, gender and culture, memory, the act of writing and representation of the self in works infused with the transnational and with reciprocal cultural exchanges. Students will also take into account the historical and social context of the texts' production and consider the troubled notions of national and linguistic literary canons.

Methods of Assessment

One 2000-word essay in French (50%) and one 2-hour examination in French (50%).



Year 3

ULL300 – Advanced techniques in formal discourse

Course value: 15 credits

Course type: Compulsory

Language of teaching and assessment: French

Semesters taught: both

Learning Outcomes

- Enhanced mastery of syntactic constructions, articulations and rhetorical strategies at work in French academic discourse, both orally and in writing
- Knowledge and experience of various methodologies for formal writing (*résumé de texte, note de synthèse, analyse de texte, dissertation*)
- Avoidance of linguistic redundancy (coreference, anaphora, ellipsis)
- Justification of lexical and syntactical choices, formulating appropriate solutions to semantic and stylistic issues.
- Enhanced mastery of formal oral discourse in both the presentational and conversational modes

Course summary

The course aims to develop the students' linguistic and methodological skills necessary for the production of French formal writing and oral presentations.

Written classes will involve the study and practice of syntactic constructions at work in French formal discourse, as well as linguistic analysis of writing samples, and composition of business letters, reports, summaries, etc.

Oral classes will focus on the development of students' capacity to produce formal oral discourses suitable for academic or professional contexts, based on a range of current affairs topics (examined by continual assessment and examination).

Methods of Assessment

One summative written in-class assessment (20%), one 1.5-hour written exam in French (40%) and one oral exam (40%).



ULL311 – Advanced translation from English to French

Course value: 15 credits

Course type: Compulsory

Language of teaching and assessment: French

Semesters taught: both

Learning Outcomes

- Ability to assess text type by focusing on register, tense and narrative structure
- Capacity to identify specific problems of translation and implement the appropriate transpositions
- Capacity to produce idiomatic French drawing on a varied and judiciously deployed vocabulary
- Ability to use appropriate lexical and grammatical resources efficiently

Course Summary

The course is organised around specific translation exercises involving a range of text types, backed up with intermittent focus on specific problems of translation and grammar where necessary.

Methods of Assessment

Four summative exercises of varying length, two done in class and two done on a take-home basis (50%) and one two-hour exam (50%) with the translation of one text into French with the use of a monolingual French dictionary.



ULL312 – Advanced translation from French to English

Course value: 15 credits

Course type: Compulsory

Language of teaching and assessment: English

Semesters taught: both

Learning Outcomes

- Analysis of different sociolects and semi-technical registers of language within contemporary French
- Ability to identify the key concepts of a text (semantic construction, style, register, narrative viewpoint)
- Ability to reorganise a text in order to produce stylistic and rhetorical effects in the target language equivalent to those in the source text
- Ability to show improved mastery of English syntax and capacity avoid both redundancy and 'calque' translation technique
- Ability to use instructions / editorial feedback in order to address technical problems arising in relation to professional translation work (e.g. word- length; change of target audience; information management).

Course summary

Translation into English focuses on four different areas of translation: business and commercial, journalism, advertising and literature.

Methods of Assessment

Two summative translations with commentary (25% each) and one 2-hour exam in which students will translate two texts from any of the four text genres studied (Business and Contracts / Press / Advertising / Literature), of up to 350 words in total, with the aid of a French monolingual dictionary



Students choose five of the following options, including at least two of the designated 'History' Options.

ULC304 - *Fin de siècle* politics and ideology

Course value: 15 credits

Course type: Optional

Language of teaching and assessment: French

Semester taught: 2

History module: yes

Learning Outcomes

- Demonstrate enhanced knowledge of French socio-political history, viewed within the broader European context, and of the dominant literary schools in France during the period 1880-1910
- Analyse and evaluate the texts studied in relation both to some of the major socio-political events / themes and to the main literary and aesthetic theories of the era in which they were published
- Present orally and in written form coherent critical evaluations of a variety of literary and other texts
- Understand ideological fiction as both a literary and documentary textual medium, which seeks not only to reflect but to influence the society from which it emerges.

Course summary

A study of the political and ideological aspects of late nineteenth-century literary culture in France contextualized in terms of the major literary, intellectual, artistic and socio-political developments of the era. This course focuses particularly on historically contextualised readings of a range of key fin-de-siècle texts. Issues discussed include the right-wing Catholic reaction against Third Republic democracy, State education, science and religion, depopulation anxieties, degeneration theory, the changing role of women, colonialism, responses to the Dreyfus affair and anarchism.

Methods of Assessment

One 2500-word essay in French (50%) and one two-hour essay in French (50%).



ULC307 - La Prose de la ville

Course value: 15 credits

Course type: Optional

Language of teaching and assessment: French

Semester taught: 1

History module: no

Learning Outcomes

- Demonstrate proficiency in analysing different sorts of prose material, including novels, prose poems and works of documentary nature, and produce critical evaluations to relate them to the history of urban development
- Understand and make judgements about the relations between reality and fiction, and the ends to which authors produce their works of imaginative writing
- Read autonomously and widely, building on previous reading to make appropriate and useful inferences about context and content of new works
- Engage critically with lived environment and transform that engagement into well-constructed written work.

Course summary

This course will focus on different written experimentations that have sought to relay the particular pace and complexity of modern life in the city. Beginning with Baudelaire's prose poems and ending with examples of contemporary French writing, it invites students to examine how writers have crafted prose to convey rhythms and encounters specific to the city of Paris. Questions explored include the disruptive or interruptive nature of urban experience, the stratification of history in the city and the relation between writing and visual material (painting and photography in particular).

Methods of Assessment

One creative writing exercise and commentary (30%) and one 3000-word essay in French (70%).



ULC310 -Le Républicanisme en France: 1789-1914

Course value: 15 credits

Course type: Optional

Language of teaching and assessment: French

Semester taught: 1

History module: yes

Learning Outcomes

- Show enhanced understanding of the French Republican model
- Demonstrate awareness of the on-going debates surrounding the issue of French republicanism and their manifestations, with reference to the period 1789-1914
- Understand the sequence of events that contributed to shaping French Republicanism
- Contextualise key historical events by drawing critically upon the various historical documents and elements of academic literature studied
- Synthesise ideas into a sustained argument both orally and in written form in French to a standard appropriate to Level 6

Course summary

This course aims to capture the legacy of the French Revolution and successive struggles in the period up to 1914, to impose a given interpretation of Republicanism within the broader context of French social and political history. Students will also develop their capacity to undertake critical analysis of the events that shaped the French Republican model, and examine the on-going political and historical struggles to impose a given interpretation of what the "Republican" tradition should stand for (ideological principles, particular relationship between past and present, institutional dimension).

Students will look at the evolution of the Republican model and the continuing political battle to impose a given interpretation of what it stands for, through examination and analysis of successive regimes and specific events of the period 1798-1914.

Methods of Assessment

Two essays in French of 2000 words each (50% each).



ULC312 - Economic issues- Part 2

Course value: 15 credits

Course type: Optional

Language of teaching and assessment: French

Semester taught: 1

History module: no

Learning Outcomes

- Analyse and critically reflect on economics-related data
- Undertake background research, and synthesize and collate large amounts of information
- Present ideas orally and in written form, effectively and professionally in business-related contexts
- Demonstrate familiarity with three key areas of economics
- Show improved lexical competence in French in key areas of economics

Course summary

This course offers a study of discourses of international business theory and practice based on the study of key themes in the field of economics, such as international trade and strategies of multinational companies, political choices (public services, fight against inequalities, tax regimes...) and international issues (environmental questions and financial crisis), and focusing on the analysis and interpretation of economic and financial journalism.

Methods of Assessment

One 2000-word essay in French (50%) and one two-hour written test including a commentary exercise and one essay question in French (50%).



ULC313 - French colonialism in North Africa

Course value: 15 credits

Course type: Optional

Language of teaching and assessment: English

Semester taught: 1

History module: yes

Learning Outcomes

- Demonstrate knowledge of French imperial policy and colonial presence in North Africa, recognising similarities and differences across the territories of the Maghreb
- Understand the relationship between discourses, events and processes of the colonial era and post-independence social and political debates in France and the Maghreb
- Apply historical methodologies to analyse a range of primary source material, including archival documents, newspapers, artworks and literary texts
- Critically engage with relevant scholarship, identifying and evaluating arguments and debates
- Construct an informed historical argument on topics covered in the course material

Course summary

Much of the rich diversity of contemporary French society, and many of the political and cultural debates about how to manage this diversity, have emerged from French colonial presence in the Maghreb. This course will reflect upon the nature of French colonial power in Morocco, Algeria and Tunisia, in order to understand the operation of empire and its legacy in France and the Maghreb today. Covering topics such as imperial science, settlement and urbanisation, gender and sexuality, journalism and colonial resistance, the course offers a thematic approach to the study of the colonial period, and interrogates its links with 'pre' and 'post' colonial eras. Students will consider the ways in which historical relationships influenced the nature of decolonisation and post-independence political and cultural exchange (taught and assessed in English, two written assignments).

Methods of Assessment

One 1500-word source analysis (40%) and one 2500-word essay (60%).



ULC315 - Y2K BD: The fin de millénaire bande dessinée

Course value: 15 credits

Course type: Optional

Language of teaching and assessment: French

Semester taught: 2

History module: no

Learning Outcomes

- Examine the artistic and historical context of the emergence of fin de millénaire "new wave" bande dessinée
- Understand the fundamental artistic and thematic elements of the principal genres of the bande dessinée "new wave"
- Critically read and engage with key bande dessinée examples of this "new wave", engaging understanding of its fundamental artistic and thematic elements
- Engage with various theoretical debates concerning sequential art analysis and interpretation
- "Read" and present an analysis of a bande dessinée sequence using both contextual and theoretical approaches

Course summary

We are all familiar with the BD heavy-hitters: Astérix le Gaulois, Tintin, Lucky Luke. But these best-selling, hero-based series bear little resemblance to the artistic production of the modern, adult-directed bande dessinée. The twenty-year period from 1990-2010 revolutionised the sequential art medium in France and Belgium. This course aims to give students a thorough grounding in the historical and cultural contexts of this 'new wave', before progressing to study in depth two of the major trends of fin de millénaire bande dessinée – 'Life Writing in the Bande Dessinée' and 'Memory, trauma and the 9th art'. It will conclude by considering the vogue for adaptation (both from the novel to the drawn strip, and from the strip to the screen) since the end of the 1990s.

Methods of Assessment

One 2000-word essay in French (40%) and one two-hour exam in French (60%)



ULC320 - Le Républicanisme en France : 1914-présent

Course value: 15 credits

Course type: Optional

Language of teaching and assessment: French

Semester taught: 2

History module: yes

Learning Outcomes

- Show enhanced understanding of the French Republican mode
- Demonstrate awareness of the on-going debates surrounding the issue of French republicanism and their manifestations, with reference to the period 1914-present day
- Understand the sequence of events that contributed to shaping French Republicanism post 1914
- Contextualise key historical events by drawing critically upon the various historical documents and elements of academic literature studied
- Synthesise ideas into a sustained argument both orally and in written form in French to a standard appropriate to Level 6

Course summary

This course aims to capture the legacy of the French Revolution and successive struggles in the period following 1914, to impose a given interpretation of Republicanism within the broader context of French social and political history. Students will look at the evolution of the Republican model and the continuing political battle to impose a given interpretation of what it stands for, through examination and analysis of the following:

- The First World War and its impact on French politics (transformations of the Right and Left) and society during the interwar period;
- The Vichy Regime (collaboration, resistance) and the birth of the Fourth Republic (the impact of the resistance, the legacy of Vichy France, Poujadisme, the influence of the Cold War...)
- The transformations of political life under the Fifth Republic (Gaullism, decolonisation, the Algeria Crisis, May '68, Mitterrand)
- Contemporary debates surrounding the Republican model (through an analysis of the debate on "integration").

Methods of Assessment

One 3000-essay in French (50%) and one two-hour examination in French (50%).



ULC323 - Representations of the Maghreb

Course value: 15 credits

Course type: Optional

Language of teaching and assessment: English

Semester taught: 2

History module: no

Learning Outcomes

- Demonstrate an appreciation of the background and development of literary representations of the Maghreb from the second half of the twentieth century
- Show an extended knowledge of the historical and social context of the primary texts, which highlight key aspects and events of the period
- Analyse and assess key issues, such as colonial domination, national identity, language use, gender identity, collective and individual identity, and hybridity
- Develop critical understanding of aesthetic concerns of representations of the Maghreb, such as the role of memory and writing, the significance of autobiographical writing, and the impact of women's writing
- Acquire enhanced analytical and communication skills through oral and written presentation in English

Course summary

Francophone representations of the Maghreb produced on both sides of the Mediterranean have played a major role in negotiating a shared, complex and violent past that continues to haunt present-day Franco-Maghrebi relations. Students will analyse and assess the evolving nature of French-language literary representations of the Maghreb from the mid-20th century to the present, and examine their treatment of pivotal issues of the period, such as colonial domination, national identity, language use, gender identity, collective and individual identity, and hybridity. Students will develop critical knowledge of Francophone texts within Maghrebi literary and cultural landscape, the role of memory and writing, the significance of autobiographical/autofictional writing, and the impact of women's writing in recent decades.

Methods of Assessment

One 3000-word written assignment in English (40%) and one two-hour examination in English (60%).



ULC326 - Trauma and Transmission: Holocaust afterlives

Course value: 15 credits

Course type: Optional

Language of teaching and assessment: English

Semester taught: 2

History module: no

Learning Outcomes

- Demonstrate proficiency in analysing different sorts of cultural material, including prose, painting and film, of both fictional and documentary nature; able to compare and contextualise these different productions and produce critical evaluations to relate them to the history of the Holocaust and its afterlives
- Understand and make judgements about the relations between reality and fiction, and the ends to which artists produce their works of imaginative and testimonial production.
- Read autonomously and widely, building on their previous reading to make appropriate and useful inferences about context and content of new works.
- Engage critically with the contemporary political and media landscape and transform that engagement into well-constructed written work.

Course summary

This course is divided into two halves. The first half focuses on the artistic and literary production in the wake of the Second World War bearing witness to the realities of the concentration camps, either as they were directly lived or mediated through contact with victims. This material is profoundly marked by the traumatic nature of these years and in many respects it fell on 'deaf ears' when it was first produced, too disturbing, too distressing to reach wide audiences. The second part of the course deals with the time lag in the reception of Holocaust testimony and the questions about transmission that this raises. Focusing on film as a 'popular' medium for transmission of history and culture, the class will consider both the chronology of these works and their different narrative and filmic strategies for conveying what is now "part of human history".

Methods of Assessment

Two written assignments in English totalling 3500 words (60%) and one two-hour exam in English (40%).



ULC327 - Elements of French linguistics

Course value: 15 credits

Course type: Optional

Language of teaching and assessment: French

Semester taught: 1

History module: no

Learning Outcomes

- Interpret personal experience of language within the conceptual frameworks studied
- Apply linguistic analysis to a given text or situation
- Appreciate and contrast different theoretical approaches to and interpretations of a given text or situation
- Understand a broader range of academic texts dealing with linguistic issues
- Master the specialist vocabulary needed to describe and analyse a variety of linguistic concepts and phenomena
- Present, analyse and evaluate linguistic concepts and phenomena in oral presentations and written exercises.

Course summary

Drawing on material covered in year 2, the course will elaborate on linguistic variation in modern French by exploring the argot, the céfran, loanwords, and speech practices associated with gender. Finally students will have the opportunity to reflect on the cognitive processes they go through as learners of French, through the study of Second Language Acquisition

Methods of Assessment

One 2500-word written assignment in French (60%) and one two-hour end-of-term test in French (40%).



ULC328 - Classic French cinema

Course value: 15 credits

Course type: Optional

Language of teaching and assessment: English

Semester taught: 2

History module: no

Learning Outcomes

- Display knowledge of the principal directors, actors and screenwriters in the French cinema of the 1930s
- Offer coherent analysis of selected sequences in the films studied
- Situate and discuss the films studied in their social, economic and political context
- Show a good grasp of the importance of performance and mise-en-scène in the films studied

Course summary

The 1930s – particularly the decade between the advent of sound and the outbreak of the Second War – are a golden age of French cinema, marked by the emergence of key directors (Carné, Renoir), actors (Jean Gabin, Michel Simon, Arletty) and scriptwriters (Jacques Prévert) as well as by the cinema's movement to the position at once of massively popular form of entertainment and of major artistic medium. These factors will all be taken into account in our study of the period.

Films will include:

L'Atalante (Vigo)

Le Crime de Monsieur Lange (Renoir)

Le Quai des brumes (Carné)

La Grande Illusion (Renoir)

Le Jour se lève (Carné)

La Règle du jeu (Renoir)

Les Enfants du paradis (Carné)

Methods of Assessment

One 3000-word written assignment in English (50%) and one two-hour examination in English (50%).



ULC329 - Research dissertation

Course value: 15 credits

Course type: Optional

Language of teaching and assessment: English or French

Semesters taught: both

History module: yes, provided the dissertation is on an agreed historical topic

Learning Outcomes

- Formulate research questions related to their learning acquisitions from second and/or third-year options as the basis for an extended piece of academic writing in English or French
- Identify suitable research resources both inside and outside of ULIP Library holdings and compile an appropriate bibliography with supervision
- Adopt a structured approach to an extended research assignment, meeting interim deadlines throughout the academic year
- Take a proactive approach to independent research activities and attend group and individual supervisory sessions as required

Course summary

This module offers students the opportunity to extend their study of one of the topics they have encountered through the production of a dissertation of 6000-7000 words. As a demonstration of their capacity for individual research and analytical thinking, the dissertation encourages them to bring together the skills they have acquired throughout the BA in preparation for graduate studies or an anticipated career in which research skills will prove valuable. In Term 1, students will be guided in the preparation of their dissertation by a series of seminars, short written assignments and library visits designed to help them formulate their own research questions, develop an understanding of the debates within a chosen field of scholarship, and locate diverse source materials, while starting work on a one-to-one basis with a supervisor, under whose guidance they will complete the written dissertation.

Methods of Assessment

An Annotated bibliography (10%) an oral presentation of research project (10%) and dissertation of 6000-7000 words (80%).

Course information is correct at time of publication.

Options may vary from year to year and are subject to availability.