

GRADUATE STUDIES IN FRENCH

at

THE UNIVERSITY OF VIRGINIA

french.virginia.edu

The Department of French at the University of Virginia is a dynamic and supportive community of scholars, comprised of 13 graduate faculty, a search for a 14th graduate faculty member in the Francophone Global South, 3 affiliated faculty, 22 funded graduate students, and over 100 undergraduate majors. Our fields of research and teaching specialty include all genres and chronological periods, a wide range of Francophone cultures as well as a rich variety of critical and theoretical approaches, and the following interdisciplinary areas:

Cultural History	Film Studies
Text and Image Studies	Queer Studies
Language and Rhetoric	Digital Humanities
Colonial and Post-Colonial Studies	Book Culture

Faculty also actively participate in the Interdisciplinary Program in Linguistics and the Programs in Comparative Literature, Afro-American and African Studies, and Medieval Studies, as well as maintaining strong ties to the UVA Departments of History; English; Drama; Spanish, Italian and Portuguese; and Anthropology; to the UVA Institute for Advanced Technology in the Humanities, and to the École des Hautes Études en Sciences Sociales in Paris. Among the faculty are recipients of honors, grants, and awards such as the Légion d'Honneur, N.E.H., J.S. Guggenheim, Woodrow Wilson, ACLS, and Mellon.

During the course of their studies, students engage with this larger scholarly community, carrying on a tradition that dates back to the French graduate program's establishment in 1824. Our students actively contribute to the intellectual life of the Department, from taking full part in our daily discussions, both in and outside the classroom, to organizing film screenings and festivals and a semi-annual graduate conference. The topics of their research, which they frequently present at conferences in the U.S. and abroad, currently include, but are not limited to: the play between religiosity and secularism in late Medieval literature; Francophone Maghrebi literature; late antique legends in medieval contexts; Mediterranean studies; theater in Quebec and the French Caribbean; the post-nuclear *flâneur* in French post-war film; Marguerite Duras; Perceptions of Assimilation in Early Francophone Literature; Stendhal and Life Narratives; images of Japan in French/Francophone works; Rethinking Francophone sub-Saharan African Filmmaking; Ecofeminism; the influential role of horses in romance and *chanson de geste*; rethinking the scatological in French visions of deportation.

Degrees

We offer the M.A. and Ph.D. in French, as well as a Certificate in Comparative Literature. Students in the M.A. program acquire broad knowledge and understanding of French literature from its origins to the present, tools of intellectual inquiry necessary for further study, and a deeper knowledge of and greater fluency in the French language. Our doctoral students pursue advanced studies on fields focused either chronologically or topically, master the professional modes of the dissemination of research, and engage in complex and extensive original work based on independent research. Students in both programs build effective teaching skills through broad pedagogical training in innovative and traditional approaches to teaching, as well as through experience.

Courses

Every semester, we offer 3-4 courses at the graduate level. Recent courses include:

- Medieval Saints' Lives (A. Ogden)
- Poetry in Motion: Circulation of Medieval Poetry (D. McGrady)
- Sembène Ousmane, Romancier Et Cinéaste (K. Dramé)
- The Smelly Nineteenth Century (C. Krueger)
- Thinking the Visual/Writing the Image in Modern and Contemporary France (Blatt)

Lingua Franca - Language and Nation in Modern France (J. Horne)
Proust (C. Lyu)
Le Corps humain au XVIIIe siècle (J. Tsien)
Topics in Criticism and Theory: All You Always Wanted to Know about Theory and Criticism and Were Too Busy to Ask (P. Roger)
Littérature française du XVIIe siècle : Femmes et culture littéraire (J. Lyons)
Documentary Film - Theory and Practice (A. Levine)
Theories and Methods of Language Teaching (K. James)

Study Abroad

Our students benefit from a range of study abroad opportunities, including teaching exchanges with the universities of Lyon II, Paris 12, and Aix-en-Provence, a research exchange with the École Normale Supérieure in Paris, and summer study abroad programs in Rabat, Morocco, and at the Université Lumière-Lyon II in France.

Resources

The Department welcomes a variety of invited speakers every year, and faculty or graduate students often organize multi-day colloquia. Recent topics include "Reason and Its Rivals in Early Modern France," "Toward a Theory of Creative Collaboration" and "'Stendhal's Many 'Lives': A Colloquium on Stendhal as a Biographer."

The University's extensive library holdings include the Douglas H. Gordon Collection of French Books: over 1,200 sixteenth- through eighteenth-century volumes, with numerous first editions and 300 proof pages of the Encyclopédie, many of which bear corrections in Diderot's hand (<http://www.lib.virginia.edu/small/collections/gordon.html>). The Robertson Media Center is home to an impressive collection, including 20,000 videorecordings on tape and disc, 2,000 spoken-word sound recordings on audio cassette and CD, and several hundred CD-ROMs, with particular strength in the fields of French and Francophone cinema. Our recently constructed Scholar's Lab, in Alderman Library, offers state-of-the-art tools and provides assistance with digital resources and projects.

UVA's founder, Thomas Jefferson, was a well-known Francophile and the region has preserved strong ties to the Francophone world, including a sister-city agreement between our hometown, Charlottesville, and Besançon. Each year, Richmond (an hour east of Charlottesville by car) hosts the largest French film festival in the United States, which includes American and world premieres and presentations by leading French actors and directors (<http://www.frenchfilm.vcu.edu>).

Location

Nestled among vineyards and small farms in the foothills of the Blue Ridge Mountains, Charlottesville is a lively and fiercely independent community that has relegated chain stores and chain restaurants to its peripheries. Local art galleries, coffee houses and a farmers' market contribute to the city's unique character, as does the rich heritage of the area, home to James Madison, James Monroe, and Woodrow Wilson, as well as Thomas Jefferson. The diverse and thriving local music scene ranges from the Dave Matthews Band to bluegrass, jazz and early music ensembles. For those who wish to wander further afield, the city's airport has daily direct flights to many cities, including New York, Philadelphia, Atlanta, and Washington, D.C., which is also only two hours away by car.

Graduates

Recent graduates of the French Ph.D. program have, since 2005, successfully moved on to faculty positions at such institutions as Augustana College, Clemson University, Denison University, Earlham College, James Madison University, Kent State University, Kenyon College, University of Kentucky, King's College London, Knox College, University of Minnesota at Morris, Nebraska Wesleyan, Rhodes College, and the University of Wisconsin at Madison among others. A number of our graduates, both of the M.A. and Ph.D. tracks, hold excellent post-academic positions in secondary education, academic administration, publishing, business, government, international affairs, and law.

Fellowships

The Department of French is committed to providing full funding to all students for the duration of the M.A.-Ph.D. degree. We offer 5-years of guaranteed funding including two years of full fellowship support and three years of graduate teaching assistantships (GTAs). This funding package covers tuition, fees, and comprehensive health insurance. It also includes an annual stipend of \$18,300 for basic living expenses in Charlottesville.

Beginning in their second year of the program, graduate students teach one course per semester in the undergraduate French language program. A limited number of teaching positions are also available during the summer session. Once they have completed all coursework and exams, doctoral students in good standing are eligible for a variety of internal research fellowships and grants, including: GSAS Arts and Humanities Research Council Grants that support work over the summer. The Department also encourages students to participate in study abroad, whether through its established [teaching exchange programs](#) with partner universities in Paris, Lyon, and Aix-en-Provence, or through externally funded fellowships like the Chateaubriand, the Fulbright, and the Marandon.

Application

Applications to the graduate programs must be submitted by December 15th. Please see <http://french.virginia.edu/graduate/prospective> and <http://artsandsciences.virginia.edu/gradschool/index.html> for application forms and full instructions.

Faculty

Ari Blatt, Associate Professor: 20th- and 21st-century French Literature and Film; Word and Image Studies; History and Theory of Photography, and Contemporary Photography from France; Contemporary French Civilization and Culture

Kandioura Dramé, Associate Professor: Francophone African literature (French colonial literature, early Francophone, Negritude, and Post-Negritude writers; essays, fiction, and poetry); African cinema, oral traditions, and contemporary African music and arts.

Gary Ferguson, Douglas Huntly Gordon Distinguished Professor : Sixteenth-century literature and culture; gender and queer studies; women's writing; the history of religion.

Janet Horne, Associate Professor: Social and cultural history of France (19th- and 20th- centuries), cinema and history, literature and history, contemporary France, the French colonial and postcolonial worlds, France in global context.

Cheryl Krueger, Associate Professor: 19th-c. French literature and culture; French cinema; the senses, olfaction, and perfume.

Alison Murray Levine, Associate Professor: civilization and cultural history, film history, documentary film, contemporary cinema, French colonialism, digital humanities, images and texts.

John Lyons, Commonwealth Professor of French & Chair: 16th- and 17th-c. French literature and intellectual history; 17th-c. French theatre, poetry, and non-fiction prose; French cinema.

Claire Lyu, Associate Professor: 19th-c. French literature, modern poetry and poetics, literary theory, cultural studies, literature and science.

Deborah McGrady, Associate Professor: Late medieval literature, poetry and war, book and digital culture, reader reception, material culture, and the Middle Ages and national memory.

Amy Ogden, Associate Professor & Director of Graduate Studies: Medieval studies, hagiography, gender, manuscript culture, digital humanities, rhetoric and poetics.

Philippe Roger, Professor: 18th-c. literature, philosophy and cultural history; French-American mutual perceptions; the politics of poetics in the western tradition; literary theory; film and literature.

Gladys Saunders, Associate Professor: French and Romance linguistics (including phonetics and phonology, history of French, sociolinguistics, dialectology, translation theory and applied linguistics).

Jennifer Tsien, Associate Professor: The Enlightenment, Voltaire and satire, 18th-c aesthetics, Colonial Louisiana.