GRADUATE STUDIES IN FRENCH

at

THE UNIVERSITY OF VIRGINIA

french.virginia.edu

The Department of French at the University of Virginia holds passionately to the conviction that one of the most powerful forms of resistance to the forces of bigotry is to engage in open-minded dialogue with other cultures and to learn and teach other languages. As students, scholars and citizens, we are today more committed than ever to working toward a more just and tolerant world.

Our Department comprises a diverse, dynamic, and supportive community of scholars: 15 graduate faculty and 3 affiliated faculty, 22 funded graduate students, and nearly 100 undergraduate majors. Emphasizing interdisciplinary, global, and transhistorical approaches, our graduate program fosters complex and challenging ways of thinking about French and Francophone literatures and cultures, strongly grounded in poetical, textual, visual, and historical analysis.

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
- Colonial and Post-Colonial Studies
- Gender, Sexuality & Queer Studies
- Text and Image Studies
- Language and Rhetoric
- Film Studies
- Digital Humanities
- Book Culture
- The Global South

Faculty are active in the Institute of the Humanities and Global Cultures and the Institute for Advanced Technology in the Humanities, the departments of Afro-American and African Studies and of Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies, the Interdisciplinary Program in Linguistics, and the Programs in Comparative Literature, Medieval Studies, Middle Eastern Studies, and European Studies. They also collaborate with colleagues across the university, notably in the departments of Anthropology, English, Classics, Art and Architectural History, Religious Studies, Drama, History, and Spanish, Italian and Portuguese, as well as at the École des Hautes Études en Sciences Sociales in Paris and other universities in France and around the world. French faculty are the recipients of honors including the Légion d'honneur, and of fellowships from the NEH, the ACLS, and the J.S. Guggenheim, Woodrow Wilson, and Mellon Foundations.

During the course of their studies, graduate students engage with this larger scholarly community, and contribute to the intellectual life of the Department, from taking part in daily discussions to organizing film screenings and festivals and graduate conferences. Recent and current topics of doctoral research include, but are not limited to: the play between religiosity and secularism in late Medieval literature; late antique legends in medieval contexts; theater in Quebec and the French Caribbean; the post-nuclear flâneur in French post-war film; perceptions of assimilation in early Francophone literature; contemporary French literature and new media; 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; and rethinking the scatological in French visions of deportation. Doctoral students regularly present their work at national and international conferences, for which generous financial support is available.
Degrees
Established in 1824, the UVA graduate program in French now offers the MA and PhD, as well as a Certificate in Comparative Literature; a Certificate in Gender and Sexuality Studies is offered by the Department of Women, Gender and Sexuality.

Through coursework, research, teaching, and other professional activities, students in the PhD program develop broad knowledge of French-language literature and culture across the full chronological spectrum, acquire deep knowledge of a specialized field of study, master the effective and professional communication of ideas in French and English, develop the pedagogical knowledge and skills to design and lead effective teaching programs, and receive extensive professional preparation for the job market within and beyond academia.

Students pursuing the MA also acquire a broad knowledge of French-language literature and culture from their origins to the present, tools of critical analysis and inquiry necessary for advanced study, and fluency in written and oral French. Applicants with prior teaching experience will be considered for admission to the MA-Pedagogy Option, which offers advanced pedagogy training and additional classroom experience. Students in the regular MA are able to finish the requirements in 18 months; those in the pedagogy MA complete the degree in two years.

Fellowships
The Department of French is committed to providing full funding to all PhD students for the duration of their program. We offer five 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, in 2017-18, of $24,000 to cover living expenses in Charlottesville, including five years of summer support.

Beginning in their second year, doctoral students teach one course per semester in the undergraduate French language program. A 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 internal research fellowships and grants. The Department also encourages students to participate in study abroad, whether through its own teaching exchange programs with partner universities in France (see below), or by securing external fellowships such as the Chateaubriand, the Fulbright, and the Marandon. Toward the end of their program, doctoral students apply for the Advanced Teaching Experience; if accepted, they develop and teach a course in their own research field with the guidance and support of faculty mentors.

Students in the pedagogy MA program receive a teaching assistantship and fellowship to support their second year; the funding package covers tuition, fees, comprehensive health insurance and a living stipend. Students in the regular MA program, and pedagogy students in their first year, are responsible for covering their own expenses.

Courses
Every semester, graduate students can choose from three to four courses, such as:

- Thinking the Visual/Writing the Image in Modern and Contemporary France (A. Blatt)
- Évolution et critique de la théorie postcoloniale francophone : pour une approche archipélique (M. Boutaghou)
- Sembène Ousmane, Romancier et Cinéaste (K. Dramé)
- Masculine/Feminine: Writing the Self and the Other in Renaissance France (G. Ferguson)
- Lingua Franca - Language and Nation in Modern France (J. Horne)
- Theories and Methods of Language Teaching (K. James)
- The Smelly Nineteenth Century (C. Krueger)
- Documentary Film - Theory and Practice (A. Levine)
- Littérature française du XVIIe siècle : Femmes et culture littéraire (J. Lyons)
- Proust (C. Lyu)
- Poetry in Motion: Circulation of Medieval Poetry (D. McGrady)
- Medieval Saints’ Lives (A. Ogden)
- Topics in Criticism and Theory: All You Always Wanted to Know about Theory and Criticism and Were Too Busy to Ask (P. Roger)
- Le Corps humain au XVIIIe siècle (J. Tsien)
Study Abroad

UVA French graduate students take advantage of many study abroad opportunities, including teaching exchanges with the universities of Lyon II, Paris-Est Créteil (Paris 12), and Aix-en-Provence, a research exchange with the École Normale Supérieure in Paris, and a summer study abroad program at the Université Lumière-Lyon II.

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

Maya Boutaghou, Assistant Professor: 19th - 21st-century; Mediterranean Studies; North Africa, Egypt, Mauritius, Bengal. Comparative Literature; Identity construction in postcolonial contexts; Aesthetics; Multiculturalism; Gender Studies; Translation studies; World Literature

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 and Department Chair: 16th-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 in global context, the French colonial and postcolonial worlds

Karen James, Associate Professor, General Faculty, and Director of the Language Program: Approaches to teaching language and literature, teacher education, instructional technology

Cheryl Krueger, Associate Professor and Director of Undergraduate Studies: 19th-Century French literature and culture; French cinema; the senses, olfaction, and perfume

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

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

Claire Lyu, Associate Professor: 19th-Century 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 and Director of Graduate Studies: early medieval literature, hagiography, gender, manuscript culture, digital humanities, rhetoric and poetics

Philippe Roger, Professor: 18th-Century 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-Century aesthetics, Colonial Louisiana

Resources

The Department regularly hosts invited speakers each semester, and faculty or graduate students frequently organize multi-day colloquia. Recent topics include “Phenomenology and Poetry,” “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 renowned Douglas H. Gordon Collection, comprising over 1,200 sixteenth- through eighteenth-century rare French books, including numerous first editions and unique...
volumes, such as 300 proof pages of the *Encyclopédie* bearing corrections in the hand of Diderot’s editor, Le Breton ([http://www.lib.virginia.edu/small/collections/gordon.html](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 state-of-the-art Scholar’s Lab, in Alderman Library, offers a wealth of tools and assistance with digital resources and projects.

UVA’s founder, Thomas Jefferson, was an ardent Francophile and the region has preserved strong ties to the Francophone world, including a sister-city agreement between 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](http://www.frenchfilm.vcu.edu)).


**Graduates**

Since 2005, graduates of the French PhD program have obtained faculty positions at institutions such as Augustana College, Clemson University, Denison University, Earlham College, James Madison University, Kent State University, Kenyon College, University of Kentucky, Knox College, University of Minnesota at Morris, Muskingum University, Nebraska, Rhodes College, Wesleyan University, and the University of Wisconsin at Madison. These include several now tenured associate and full professors. UVA graduates are also tenured at the University of South Carolina, the University of North Carolina at Wilmington, the University of Michigan, and Wake Forrest University. A number of our graduates, both of the MA and PhD programs, hold excellent post-academic positions in secondary education, academic administration, publishing, business, government, international affairs, and law.

**Location**

Charlottesville is nestled among vineyards and small farms in the foothills of the Blue Ridge Mountains, a stone’s throw from the famous Shenandoah National Park and the Appalachian Trail – a hiker’s paradise. It is a lively and fiercely independent community that has relegated chain stores and restaurants to its peripheries. Numerous local breweries, a phenominaal array of restaurants ranging from haute cuisine to fried chicken, art galleries, coffee houses, and a farmers’ market contribute to the town’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. Designed by its founder, the University’s central grounds (the Lawn and Rotunda) along with his nearby residence, Monticello, are a designated World Heritage Site. The town’s diverse and thriving local music scene runs the gamut from the Dave Matthews Band, to bluegrass, jazz, and early music ensembles. If you want to venture further afield, the Charlottesville airport has daily direct flights to cities such as Atlanta, New York, Philadelphia, and Washington, D.C., which is only two hours away by car, and the Amtrak train station serves destinations north and south, from Boston to New Orleans, and west to Chicago.

**Application**

Applications to the graduate programs must be submitted by January 15th. For application forms and instructions, visit [http://french.as.virginia.edu/prospective-applicants](http://french.as.virginia.edu/prospective-applicants) and [http://graduate.as.virginia.edu/](http://graduate.as.virginia.edu/).

An application fee waiver is available for applicants from Minority Serving Institutions or who meet other criteria ([http://graddiversity.virginia.edu](http://graddiversity.virginia.edu)).