

French

“Language students are most engaged when their learning is placed into a broader context. We bring that context to the classroom with culturally rich materials such as music, film, art, food, and literature.”

Devan Baty, Professor of French

Cornell College offers a full range of French courses from beginning and intermediate language classes to advanced-level courses on composition and conversation, literature, film, and cultures of France and the Francophone world. Our curriculum emphasizes the deep connection between language and culture; at Cornell, the study of French is framed within cultural, historical, and geographical contexts so that students develop intercultural competence and are prepared to engage directly with Francophone communities around the world.

An official language of the United Nations, UNESCO, NATO, and 29 countries, French is a fast-growing, global language, spoken by more than 220 million people worldwide. The International Organization of Francophonie projects that the number of French speakers will rise to over 700 million by 2050, 80 percent of whom will be in Africa. France and the Francophone world also play an active part in the world economy, accounting for some 20 percent of world trade in goods.

Students of French learn about the English language as well, for as many as half of basic English words come from French. Americans need not travel to another continent to use their French, as French is an official language of Canada, and Francophone culture is alive and well in many regions of the United States.

BENEFITS OF ONE COURSE AT A TIME

Learning is accelerated with One Course At A Time. Depending on placement, students can complete the language requirement in one to three blocks. And because classes meet for four hours every day, One Course At A Time fosters a sense of community within the language classes.

One Course At A Time also makes it easy to schedule block-long journeys to places like Montreal and Morocco. Students can study for a semester in France or other French-speaking countries through relationships with other programs.

CURRICULUM HIGHLIGHTS

Beginner courses French 101-103 are designed to promote student development in linguistic and cultural proficiency. Successful completion of the beginning-level language course sequence prepares students to function in different communicative situations within a French-speaking context and to become lifelong language learners. All French language classes, from the beginning to the advanced level, aim to develop awareness and understanding of cultural phenomena in the Francophone world through intensive work on speaking, listening, reading, and writing in French.

Study abroad Opportunities for study abroad currently include the eight programs in France or Francophone countries run by the School for International Training: there are language and culture semesters in Cameroon, France, Madagascar, and Morocco; there is a language immersion semester in France; a semester with an emphasis on the environment in

Faculty Bios & Courses

DEVAN BATY

Associate Professor of French

Teaches courses of all levels on French language and French and Francophone culture and literature. Baty's current research focuses on print culture and female readership in early modern France, the integration of information and intercultural literacy tasks into language instruction, and Francophone cultural production from the Maghreb. Ph.D., University of Wisconsin; M.A. and B.A., University of Iowa.

REBECCA WINES

Associate Professor of French

Teaches a wide variety of courses in French language as well as French and Francophone literature, film, and cultures. These courses range from Beginning French, to Introduction to French and Francophone Film, to Advanced Topic courses including Sporting Identities in the French-speaking World. Among her academic interests are sports studies, French and Francophone film, and gender studies. Ph.D., University of Michigan; M.A., University of Michigan; B.A., Whitman College.

Madagascar; a semester with an emphasis on international studies in Switzerland; and a semester in international business in France. Students can also participate in the semester-length Paris programs run by Central College and Lake Forest College, or can ask to have a different program preapproved for transfer credit.

Capstone experience French students at Cornell complete their capstone experiences in one of two ways. They may take the discussion-based FRE 411 Junior/Senior Seminar Course, which is offered biannually. The topic varies, but has traditionally focused on the in-depth study of a literary movement, genre, author, or theme. Theoretical discourses in French and Francophone studies or cultural issues are other possible foci for this course. The 2013-14 topic of the seminar was “Unveiling the Past; Cultural Representations of Franco-Algerian History.”

Students may also opt to do an independent study capstone project, supervised by a French professor. Students develop a research plan during their junior year, then complete the project as a one-term independent study course during their senior year, the results of which are presented in a public forum on campus.

AFTER CORNELL

French proficiency can open doors in fields such as journalism and media, translation and interpretation, hotel management, diplomacy, international market analysis, health care, tourism, customer service, and education. France is the second largest investor in the United States and is Europe's second largest market.

There are many job opportunities in international organizations for French speakers, and bilingual candidates have an edge in the job market for U.S. companies who do business on a global scale. Nonprofit companies who work for humanitarian purposes are located throughout the Francophone world. Skills in oral and written communication, analysis, knowledge of different cultures, and the ability to adapt to new cultural environments prepare our graduates for a variety of career paths and further graduate study.

Alumni Careers

Executive director, Access 2 Independence, Iowa City, Iowa (Class of 2011)

Community relations associate, Kohl's Corporation, Menomonee Falls, Wisconsin (Class of 2011)

Search advocate, National Marrow Donor Program, St. Paul, Minnesota (Class of 2011)

French teacher, Aldine Independent School District, Houston (Class of 2007)

Account executive, Corporate Responsibility, Minneapolis (Class of 2006)

Assistant director, The Carter Center, Atlanta, Georgia (Class of 2001)

Freedom of Information Act officer, U. S. Department of State, Washington, D.C. (Class of 2001)

Portfolio management assistant, Wells Fargo, Saint Paul, Minnesota (Class of 2000)

French teacher, Mesa Ridge High School, Colorado Springs, Colorado (Class of 2000)

Associate, Goldberg, Webrip, & UStin LLP, New York City (Class of 1998)

French teacher, Johnston Public Schools, Johnston, Iowa (Class of 1980)

Vice president for consulting, Dean Witter, James S. Kemper Co., Milwaukee, Wisconsin (Class of 1979)