

French and Francophone World Studies, PhD

Learning Outcomes

- Mastery level of competence and proficiency in spoken and written French. Ability to change between languages and registers with ease as well as express sophisticated ideas in both English and French.
- Ability to perform a formal analysis of literary texts from a variety of genres, including narrative, poetry, theater, and those situated at the limits between traditional notions of genre as well as the visual arts.
- Knowledge of the various periods and subfields of French and Francophone literature from the Renaissance to the present, including major literary, cultural, and historical movements, and the relationship between France and its former colonies.
- Understanding of critical theory and its potential use for analyzing objects of study from a variety of media.
- Ability to think critically and make sustained and convincing arguments in relation to scholarship in the field, as well as express original opinions and thinking, as evidenced in a body of scholarship such as final papers or a dissertation.

Requirements

The Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) in French and Francophone world studies requires a minimum of 72 s.h. of graduate credit, including credit earned for the MA degree. Students who have earned the MA degree can apply up to 30 s.h. of credit toward the PhD.

The PhD takes at least three years of graduate study, including at least one year spent in residence at the University of Iowa. Students must pass a comprehensive examination and make a successful oral defense of their dissertation.

The PhD in French and Francophone world studies requires the following coursework.

Core Courses

All core courses must be taken on an A-F graded basis. With the permission of the student's advisor, an alternative critical theory course not listed here may be taken.

Course #	Title	Hours
This course:		
FREN:5001	Introduction to Graduate Study	2
One of these:		
FREN:6130/ GWSS:6130	Francophone Thought	3
ENGL:6000	Introduction to Contemporary Theory	3
ENGL:7010	Seminar: Literary Criticism and Theory	3
TRNS:6459	Issues in Translation	3

French Literature and Culture Courses

Students complete a minimum of 24 s.h. from eight different French literature and culture courses. In consultation with an advisor, students select from French courses (prefix FREN) numbered 4015 or above, excluding the courses in the following list. With the permission of the program, certain courses like FREN:6750 Topics in French Studies may be taken more than once for this requirement if taken with a different topic each time.

Course #	Title	Hours
Not from these:		
FREN:4020	Oral Expression in French II	3
FREN:4070	Introduction to the Study of Meaning	3
FREN:4911	French for Reading/Research	2
FREN:4912	French for Reading/Research	2
FREN:4990	Independent Study	arr.
FREN:4995	Honors Research and Thesis	3
FREN:5000	Teaching and Learning Languages	3
FREN:5001	Introduction to Graduate Study	2
FREN:6005	Colloquium: Teaching French	3
FREN:7000	Thesis	arr.

Thesis

Students complete at least 6 s.h. in FREN:7000 Thesis. They may apply additional enrollments of this course toward electives.

Electives

Elective courses must bring the total credit for the degree to 72 s.h. and are selected in consultation with an advisor. Students select electives from French courses (prefix FREN) numbered 4000 or above, excluding FREN:4020, FREN:4911, FREN:4912, FREN:4990, FREN:4995, FREN:5000, and FREN:5001. Students may count a maximum of 6 s.h. in FREN:6005 Colloquium: Teaching French toward electives.

Students may also count a maximum of 12 s.h. from courses numbered 4000 or above in the following course subjects outside of French.

Course #	Title	Hours
Art history (prefix ARTH)		
Cinema (prefix CINE)		
Education teaching and learning (prefix EDTL)		
Educational policy and leadership studies (prefix EPLS)		
English (prefix ENGL)		
Gender, women's, and sexuality studies (prefix GWSS)		
History (prefix HIST)		
International Writing Program (prefix IWP)		
Liberal arts and sciences non-departmental (prefix CLAS)		
Linguistics (prefix LING)		
Museum studies (prefix MUSM)		
Papermaking (prefix BKAT)		

Philosophy (prefix PHIL)

Psychological and quantitative foundations
(prefix PSQF)

Rhetoric (prefix RHET)

Translation (prefix TRNS)

World languages, literatures, and cultures (prefix
WLLC), excluding WLLC:5000

Additional Requirements

Students are required to spend at least one year teaching as graduate assistants in the department. Students must possess fifth-semester or equivalent proficiency in an additional language other than French.

Graduate Education

Graduate education prepares students with advanced knowledge and skills in specialized fields. At the University of Iowa, the Graduate College advocates for student-centered graduate education and supports equitable application of rules and policies across graduate programs.

Academics

University of Iowa graduate credentials are regulated by policies and requirements found in the Graduate College Manual of Rules and Regulations. This includes minimum grade-point average (GPA) requirements for academic standing and degree conferral. The Graduate College sets the minimum requirement. Individual graduate programs may establish higher GPA requirements.

Admissions

Graduate student applicants must meet admission requirements for both the Graduate College and the program to which they have applied. University of Iowa graduate admission requirements are published by the Graduate College and on the Graduate Admissions website.

Financial Support

Graduate students might be eligible for financial support. Several contingencies apply, including degree program and award type, satisfactory progress toward degree, satisfactory completion of all duties related to an appointment, and availability of funding. Graduate students should inquire directly with their program for more information about funding availability. The Graduate Student Employment Standards govern the employment relationship between the University of Iowa and all graduate teaching and research assistants in all matters except wages, which are covered by an existing collective bargaining agreement or the conditions of an applicable federal grant.

Admission

An MA in French is prerequisite to admission to the PhD program in French and Francophone world studies. However, successful completion of an MA in French does not necessarily qualify a student for doctoral study.

Applicants must meet the admission requirements of the Graduate College; see the Manual of Rules and Regulations on the Graduate College website.

Applicants for the fall semester whose application materials are received in the department by Jan. 15 have the best

chance to be admitted and receive financial aid. They must submit academic transcripts, letters of recommendation from three persons familiar with their past academic work, a statement of purpose in taking graduate work, and one or more samples of original writing, one of which should be in French, that show their ability to pursue graduate work in French (a term paper, seminar paper, or other course papers).

Career Advancement

The PhD program is designed to prepare students for research, teaching, and professional service normally required of college and university faculty members.

Academic Plans

Sample Plan of Study

Sample plans represent one way to complete a program of study. Actual course selection and sequence will vary and should be discussed with an academic advisor. For additional sample plans, see MyUI.

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This sample plan is currently being reviewed and will be added at a later date.