This course explores the legend of King Arthur and his significance in medieval literature, focusing on the ways that this iconic figure provided opportunities for social critique.
French 111-3 is the last course of a three-course Elementary French sequence. The aim of the course is to acquire and develop skills in speaking, understanding, reading, writing and cultural competence.

Classes meet four times a week (MTWTh) and will include a variety of activities designed to help students develop their knowledge of basic French vocabulary and structures along with the ability to use what they have learned in communicative activities.
French 121-3 is the last quarter of a three-quarter course for students who have completed French 121-2 or have been placed in that course by the French department. The aim of the course is to develop students’ communicative skills and cultural knowledge. Class meets four times a week.
French 125-1 is the first quarter of a three-quarter course for students who have completed French 115-2 or been placed in the course upon taking the French Placement Test.

The primary goal of this course is to strengthen oral and written communication skills by immersing students in authentic cultural contexts and language. A review of essential grammar will reinforce linguistic foundations. Class meets three times a week and will be conducted in French.
This course is designed to develop and improve writing skills through a variety of classroom activities: discussion, writing, editing. Students will learn how to write a college-level analytical paper. Selected grammar points will be discussed in class, and course content will be provided by a novel and two films. Homework will include short writing exercises and compositions as well as the preparation of grammar exercises related to the writing objectives.

This course serves as prerequisite for most other 200 and 300-level French classes.
This course is designed to build fluency in speaking and understanding French. Classes will concentrate on increasing listening comprehension through viewing of videos and films, building vocabulary and idiom use, and enhancing oral communication skills. One group project based on a play.
French 204: Acting French, brings French language and culture to life through performance. Through the use of dramatic scenes, dialogues, and performance students will improve their language skills and develop their interpretive, interpersonal, and intercultural competences at the Intermediate Mid/High level.
This course will explore French culture by engaging with worlds beyond Paris and metropolitan France and focusing on writings, films, and comics set in the cities of Marseille and Algiers. The Mediterranean is traversed by different cultures; it is the world of seafarers, travelers, and migrants. Marseille, France’s second city, is one of the major ports of the Mediterranean. In contrast to the South of France of Nice or Cannes, the “wicked city” has been a melting pot of cultures in the global south, attracting workers from throughout France’s former colonies, notably Algeria. Covering the period from the Second World War to the beginning of the twenty-first century, we will address issues of justice and social upheavals in relation to France’s colonial past and the “banlieue”, migration from the perspective of the francophone black diaspora, and forms of belonging beyond the nation-state.
INTRODUCING THE NOVEL

YING CHEN
Les Lettres chinoises
roman

This introduction to the French novel from the 18th to the 20th century aims to familiarize students with key periods in the history of the French novel as well as help them develop skills in literary reading, analysis and interpretation. While introducing students to various genres and periods (the philosophical and epistolary novel, Romanticism, Realism, the Fantastic, the roman beur and migrant Québécois literature), we will focus on the question of identity and the roles of the “other” (race, gender, class, colonial, im/migrant) in the narrative in order to reflect on the relationships between the novel, culture, politics and history. In this course, we will further develop the techniques of close reading and detailed critical analysis through class discussion and presentations, the creative/reflective assignment, the analytical essay, and the exploration of pedagogical editions.
This course is designed to help you improve the pronunciation, intonation, and fluency of your spoken French, as well as to give you an overall understanding of the phonetic system of the contemporary French language. Oral practice is given within a communicative and cultural context, with attention to features of current usage referring to standard French. The course will also address issues in theoretical phonetics, particularly articulatory description and phonetic transcriptions using the International Phonetic Alphabet.
The goal of this course is the development of oral proficiency through speech functions, conversational routines and patterns, so as to build confidence in the practice of the French language. In order to achieve this goal, emphasis will be put on extensive examination of French press and French television news, French movies, the reading of a book related to the author studied this quarter, and spontaneous expression through dialogues and discussion, and even debates. Special emphasis will be placed on group work and culturally appropriate usage. The students will participate actively in the choice of the materials.
This course examines changing attitudes toward nature, religion, cultural difference and the role of the individual in society through narrative accounts of travel, pilgrimage, quest, and colonization from the Middle Ages to the modern period.
How did France become a secular republic whereas it began as a divine-right monarchy? What did it take to uproot centuries of tradition, social hierarchy, and the established political order France shared with the rest of Europe? In this course, we examine the role of culture and discourse in the revolutionary process by exploring the symbols, cultural practices, and forms of speech that shaped the most radical socio-political transformation in the history of the Francophone world. The French Revolution drew on a powerful new understanding of “man” in order to reinvent or throw out entirely age-old notions of sovereignty, the law, God, religion, the calendar, the nation, and the family. Crucial to the Revolution’s contagious force were the texts, iconography, songs, and spectacles that made it the first mass cultural phenomenon in French history. Beginning with the philosophical challenge to absolute monarchy, we will survey the revolution’s most significant cultural achievements, including the emergence of a free press, the birth of human rights, secularism and the reinvention of religion, the reconstitution of time, the rise of new forms of theatricality and ritual, and the creation of new symbols. We conclude with a consideration of antislavery revolution in colonial Haiti, which in many ways exceeded the radicalism of the French Revolution. Works by Rousseau, Sieyès, Marat, De Lisle, Robespierre, Maurin De Pompigny, Dessalines, and others. Taught in French, but readings include essays in English.
The genre of autofiction has profoundly renewed the writing of the self in contemporary French literature. Mixing autobiography with fiction, autofiction makes possible the writing of a postmodern self—a self that is both fluid and transformative, and whose meaning is open. This is especially true as regards gender: it remains a significant component of the self along with sexuality, class, and race, but has become more fluid in the postmodern era. The course will explore this revolution of gender through the reading of autofictions written by queer (gay, lesbian, and trans) authors in the last three decades.
The course is an introduction to 17th century French literature. We will read mostly primary texts—written by Cyrano, Corneille, Racine, Corneille, Molière, La Fayette, Pascal, La Rochefoucauld, La Fontaine—so as to highlight the richness and the diversity of the literary production of the classical age as well as the profound transformation brought about by the consolidation of the absolute monarchy at the time, which includes the definition of the public and the private, the domestication of nobility, the institution and the intensification of the intellectual life, the renewal of the mechanisms of domination, the transformation of gender identities, and the growing interest in psychology.
In the era of #MeToo and #TimesUp, what is left of seduction? As its etymological derivation from the Latin seducere makes evident, seduction signifies the threat of being led astray, suggesting a problematic reorganization of boundaries, activity and passivity, power, and vulnerability. How have literature, psychoanalysis and philosophy responded to the drama of dissymmetry and otherness? To what extent does seduction affirm an inequitable logic when it comes to age, gender, and race? Does seduction always imply violence? How can we define the notion of consent, and can it offer not only legal redress but ethical care? To what extent can justice regulate sex, fantasies, and desires? To what extent has psychoanalysis problematically altered our notions of guilt and innocence when it comes to seduction? Throughout this seminar, we aim to confront these questions by revisiting primal scenes of seduction and consent in a broad range of literary, psychoanalytical, legal, and philosophical texts from Europe and the USA. Works covered will include Srinivasan, Hartman, Butler, Nussbaum, Alcoff, Kukla, and Dougherty.