

Department of French Studies

UPPER-LEVEL FRENCH COURSES: FALL 2020

216: LITERATURE & CULTURE: “ÉCRIRE LE PAYSAGE”

TR 11-12:15 / Prof. Vincent / *Prerequisite: FRH 212, 213, or 214*

Paysage, the French word for landscape, implicitly refers to what is seen or perceived from a particular point. In this course, we will examine landscapes that are defined by physical boundaries, like the horizon or the atmosphere, but also by frames imposed by artistic tradition, social conventions, and the state of scientific knowledge. We will examine how literary landscapes contribute to texts’ emotional and intellectual impact on the reader, changing readers’ perceptions of the world around them. Your homework assignments and in-class activities will focus on understanding, analyzing, and responding to examples of literary landscapes. You will hone skills in reading comprehension, literary analysis, and oral and written expression. The course includes readings from the Enlightenment era to the present, including works by Jean-Jacques Rousseau, Georges Sand, Marcel Proust, and Maylis de Kerangal.

***DID YOU KNOW?: YOU CAN REPEAT FRH 216 ONCE FOR CREDIT WHEN TOPICS VARY.**

315: INTRO TO FRENCH & FRANCOPHONE STUDIES

WF 2-3:15 / Prof. McNelly / *Prerequisite: Any FRH 200-level course*

This course will orient you to the culture and society of France and the French-speaking world through the study of moments, people, monuments, and movements from the Gallo-Roman era to the turn of the twentieth century. You will gain an understanding of how France’s identity as a nation and a culture has come to be constructed through political, social, and cultural values attributed to historical events and embodied by remarkable people. You will analyze how monuments commemorate the nation’s past and how artistic and cultural movements shape collective tastes. This course will improve your capacity to interpret primary source texts; develop your ability to place key events, people, and ideas in their larger historical context; and augment your intercultural competence.

***DID YOU KNOW?: FRH 315 IS NOT RECOMMENDED FOR STUDENTS WHO PLAN TO PARTICIPATE IN THE WFU DIJON SEMESTER PROGRAM. WFU DIJON STUDENTS RECEIVE CREDIT FOR THIS COURSE.**

****PLEASE NOTE: FRH 315 IS OFFERED ONLY ONCE EACH ACADEMIC YEAR, IN THE FALL SEMESTER.**

320: FRENCH CONVERSATION

MWF 11:00-11:50 / Prof. Tarte / *Prerequisite: Any FRH 200-level course*

This course aims to help you express yourself in French more easily and spontaneously, as if you were on a French café terrace, for example. You’ll work towards developing specific strategies for conversation on everyday topics, and you’ll practice presenting and defending a point of view. The French like to ‘debate’ a question, and tend to evaluate others on their ability to engage in such vigorous discussion. To participate fully in conversations means that you should be able to discuss a range of issues, including social, political, cultural, and economic. By reading about and discussing such topics, you will also expand your knowledge of contemporary issues and cultures of French-speaking countries. This is an ideal course for students who have just completed the WFU basic requirement and intend to study abroad in a French-speaking country later in their college career. **POI ONLY: See the note below and contact Dr. Tarte for more information.**

***DID YOU KNOW?: FRH 320 is designed exclusively for second-language learners. French native and heritage speakers may not take this course. If you have spent extended time in a French-speaking country (during study abroad, for example), please contact Professor Tarte to determine if the course is suitable for you.**

363: FRENCH & FRANCOPHONE POETRY

WF 11-12:15 / Prof. Murphy / *Prerequisite: FRH 216 or 315 or POI*

We will explore in depth the poetry of men and women writing in different historical periods, poetic forms, and voices. Poets studied will include Pierre de Ronsard (16th century), universal poet of the French Renaissance; Jean de La Fontaine (17th century), writer of beast fables in the age of absolutism; Charles Baudelaire (19th century), poet of sin and redemption in the modern City; and, in the 20th century, Guillaume Apollinaire (love poet and prophet of modernism) and Aimé Césaire (a great African-Caribbean voice). Two areas that we will pay particular attention to are poetic rhythm and the difference between lyric and narrative poetry. Students will learn not to be afraid of poetry (in case they are now)! They will develop their reading, speaking, and writing skills through close attention to poems as language, through expressing insights and problems in class, and through research projects that will take the form of both written papers and presentations in class.